



ROBERT NAVA

Robert Nava was born in 1985 in East Chicago, IN. He received his BA in Fine Art from Indiana University Northwest in 2008, and his MFA in Painting from Yale University School of Art in 2011.

Known for his vibrant and mischievous approach to figuration, Nava's creatures pulsate in electric colors within the frames of his large-scale paintings. Deceptively spontaneous, these images – heroes in battle brandishing their swords, beasts breathing fire, chariots roaring toward lightness or darkness – are developed in a rigorous process of sketching, then painstakingly committed to canvas through a variety of layered techniques calculated to subvert any sense of planning and structure. Nava's 'carefully done wrong' works, executed in acrylic, grease pencil, and spray paint, are gleeful celebrations of color, line, and pop medieval references; they are likewise meticulous exercises in balance and opposition. Within the boundaries of a single painting or between multiple works spread across his studio floor, forces of rivalry and conflict erupt and dissolve not only among the depicted figures, but the modes of depiction themselves.

Nava's distinctive visual language is highly personal. It is culled from a myriad of sources that range from ancient Sumerian, Egyptian, and Mayan art, and prehistoric cave paintings, to the powerfully symbolic mandala and such tropes of popular culture as gaming imagery and fantasy genre movies.

Solo exhibitions of Nava's work have been presented at Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York; Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium; Pace Gallery, Palm Beach, FL; and V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark. Nava's work has been included in group exhibitions at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Carl Kostyal, Malmö, Sweden; and Safe Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, among others. Nava's work is included in the permanent collections of The Art Institute of Chicago, IL, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C., The Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, FL, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, and the Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL.

Nava lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

ROBERT NAVA

B. 1985, EAST CHICAGO, IN
LIVES AND WORKS IN BROOKLYN, NY
2011 MFA, YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ART, NEW HAVEN, CT
2008 BFA, INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST, GARY, IN

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Robert Nava: After Hours, Pace Gallery, New York, NY

2024

Robert Nava, Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum, Madrid, Spain

2023

Robert Nava: Mirror Quest, Hall Art Foundation, Derneburg, Germany

Robert Nava, Fondazione Iris, Bassano in Teverina, Italy

Robert Nava: Tornado Rose, Pace Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2022

Robert Nava: STAND, Watermill Center, Water Mill, NY

Robert Nava: Thunderbolt Disco, Pace Gallery, London, UK

Robert Nava: Bloodsport, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021

Robert Nava, Pace Gallery, East Hampton, NY

Robert Nava: Angels, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

Robert Nava, Pace Gallery, Palm Beach, FL

2020

Robert Nava, Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium

2019

Robert Nava: Mythologies, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

Robert Nava: VS, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2018

Robert Nava, Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium

2015

Robert Nava: I'm Rubber, You're Glue, ThreeFourThreeFour Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

The Neverending Story: Part II, curated by Bob Colacello, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

2024

The Neverending Story: The Dream, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

Social Practice, Amanita, New York, NY

Animal Watch, Gallery 125 Newbury, New York, NY

2023

Boil, Toil & Trouble, Art in Common, Los Angeles, CA

ROBERT NAVA

Boil, Toil & Trouble, Art in Common, Chicago, IL
Works on Paper: 100 Years, Amanita, New York, NY
These Days, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY
The Big Picture, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
PRESENT '23: Building the Scantland Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

2022

Boil, Toil & Trouble, Art in Common, Miami, FL
Multiple Sights: The Tenth Anniversary of the Long Museum, Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai, China
Come As You Are, Anthony Gallery, Chicago, IL

2021

The Loneliest Sport, Spazio Amanita, New York, NY
WoP, Woaw Gallery & Avant Arte, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong
Sunburst, Various Small Fires x Night Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2020

A Good Show For Strange Times, Curated by Vito Schnabel, Phillips, Southampton, NY
Majeure Force, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Nine to Know, Ruttkowski 68, Paris, France

2019

Superzoom, Superzoomsmart, Paris, France
Punch, Curated by Nina Chanel Abney, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA
Malmö Sessions, Carl Kostyal, Malmö, Sweden

2018

MINE2, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Person, Place, or Thing, Safe Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
NY Now, Allouche Benias Gallery, Athens, Greece
Paper Trails, Allouche Gallery, New York, NY
Paradise, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Like No Other, Annarumma Gallery, Naples, Italy
Age Less World, Deli Grocery Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Mutants, 132 Perry Street, New York, NY
Guardians of the Secret, Ober Gallery, Kent, CT

2017

We Are the Ones, CGK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Shindig, YUI Gallery, New York, NY
Say Yes, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Forces of Nature, Ober Gallery, Kent, CT

2016

The Aging Coconut, Robert Paradise Gallery, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Plus One, Trestle Projects, Brooklyn, NY

2015

Instant Vacation, Trestle Projects, Brooklyn, NY
Mixtape 2, M. David Studio, Brooklyn, NY
Art Shop 2, 99 Cent Plus Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2014

Dead Ends, Heliopolis, Brooklyn, NY



ROBERT NAVA

Broke Baroque, Sanctuary Projects, Pittsburgh, PA

2013

Transitions Vol. 1 (Like an Indefinite State), Associated Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Ex-ile, El Rincon Social, Houston, TX

2012

Pushing Painting Paradigms, Mason Gross Galleries, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2011

MFA Thesis Exhibition, Yale University, New Haven, CT

2009

A Proposito: Pan Latino Dialogues, John Slade Ely House, New Haven, CT

2008

Senior Thesis Exhibition, Indiana University Northwest Gallery for Contemporary Art, Gary, IN

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

The Art Institute of Chicago, IL

Los Angeles County Muesum of Art, Los Angeles CA

Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.

Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, FL

Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL

Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL