

# DAVID BEGBIE



**David Begbie** BA (hons), HDFA Slade, MRBS.

1955 Born Edinburgh, Scotland.  
 1975 Winchester School of Art, England  
 1977 Gloucestershire,  
 College of Art and Design  
 (BA Hons), Cheltenham, England  
 1980 The Slade School of Sculpture.  
 Post Graduate (H.D.F.A.),  
 University College, London  
 1993 Associate of the   
 Royal Society of Sculptors  
 Awards Game Travel Scholarship  
 Elizabeth Greenshields

Internationally renowned sculptor David Begbie has worked almost exclusively with the human form throughout his career. Since his first pioneering solo show in London 1984 a whole new genre of steelmesh art has evolved and continues to grow. He is the master of wire mesh art and his work speaks for itself.

The mesh is transparent – 90% thin air, yet it has a much greater physical presence than any conventional solid form. Begbie's skill, perception, understanding and imagination are succinctly and economically contained within the confines of the simple shell that constitutes his sculpture.

Look again closely and you see that there is not even a skin, only a graphic delineation of one. In relation to the space it occupies, the catalytic effect a Begbie sculpture has, in any setting, given that it has no palpable substance or surface, is phenomenal.

*"Each work is an entity which has a far greater physical presence than any solid object could possibly have because it has the power to suggest that it doesn't exist."*

The introduction of strategic lighting as an integral part of a particular composition has the most remarkable result where the combination of two and three dimensions, with the use of projected shadows, produces an optical fusion of image and object.

The preoccupation with the human form as his subject stems from an early age, the fascination for reproducing figurative bodies in steelmesh has developed extensively. David Begbie achieves fine sculpting detail of musculature and an aesthetic completeness of human form which has even been compared to Michelangelo and in particular Rodin, even though his subject is often that of the partial or truncated figure.

David Begbie's latest sculpture is figurative in a completely different sense. His flag sculptures such as 'MBLEM' and 'UNTIED KINGDOM' venture towards abstraction but remain recognisable as a subject.

His most recent sculptures however such as 'CIRRUS', 'CUMULUS' and 'ARIOS DIPTYCH' have reference to cloud forms and air but appear purely abstract in their rendition.

These sculptures focus on the dynamic optical qualities of the material itself and its interaction with specific or ambient light in suspended space. For the viewer the bronzemesh material has intrigue yet is somehow familiar.

On looking further you discover the properties of the medium – the white-painted mesh creates a liveliness and sense of movement that is further enhanced by the use of shadow play created with strategic lighting.

You have to touch a Begbie to make sure what is real and what is a shadow (*see image above*).

## SELECTIVE RECENT EXHIBITIONS

### 2018

30 Nov - 16 Dec 'Veghel 2018', The Netherlands  
 16 - 19 Nov Arte Padova Italy with Vecchiato Arte  
 12 - 15 Oct Art Verona, Italy with Contini Contemporary  
*From June onwards:*  
 BelAirFineArt Galleries, France and Switzerland  
 07 - 24 Jun 'Beautiful People', Vught, Netherlands  
 May- Oct 'Summer Show' Rarity Gallery, Mykonos  
 18 - 20 May 'Lucca Art Fair', Italy  
 17 May - 7 Jul 'The Unattended Moment', Hampshire  
*From May onwards:* Rarity Gallery, Mykonos  
*From April* 'Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden', UK  
 19 - 21 Apr 'ART BREDa', The Netherlands  
 Feb - Mar Maddox Gallery, Gstaad, Switzerland  
 02 - 05 Feb 'Arte Fiera Bologna'  
 02 Feb – 07 Apr 'Contempo' Hegemann, Munich  
 17 - 21 Jan 'First Art Fair Amsterdam'  
 25 Jan – 10 Mar 'Burns Unbroke', Scotland  
 13 Jan - 15 Jan 'Arte Fiera Bergamo'  
 03 Dec – 04 Feb 'In The Heat of the Night', Bonn

### 2017

09-26 Nov 'Biennale Brabant', The Netherlands  
 05 Oct - 05 Nov 'Shadows and Light', Cambridge  
 21 - 24 Sep 'Beirut Art Fair', Lebanon

30 Jun - 14 Jul 'Shadows of The Past',  
 London Art Week, with Bazaart Art, UK  
 13 May - 8 Jul 'Making a Mark', Hampshire, UK  
 07 - 14 May 'Art Breda', The Netherlands  
 05 - 08 May 'Lucca Art Fair', Italy  
*From April* 'Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden'  
 27 Feb 'Project Polunin' - Donation 'Czin', London  
 27 - 30 Jan 'ARTEFIERA', Bologna, Italy  
 20 Nov - 26 Feb 'In the Heat of the Night', Bonn  
**2016**  
 02 - 18 Dec 'Biennale Veghel', The Netherlands  
 09 - 23 Nov 'Arte Padova', Italy  
 27 - 30 Oct 'Art.Fair' Cologne, Germany  
 02 Oct 'Art&Music' Peille near Monaco, France  
 02 Oct 'CAB' Baden Baden, Germany  
 01 Oct 'Luxury Yacht Experience', Monaco  
 02 - 04 Sep 'WOP ART' Lugano, Switzerland  
 9 Jul - 27 Aug 'Shilouette' Solo Show, Munich  
 Jun - Aug Pietrasanta, Italy  
 26 May - 12 Jun 'Bienale Vught', The Netherlands  
 10 - 17 Apr 'Art Breda', The Netherlands  
 16 Jan - 6 Mar 'Solo Show', Vught, The Netherlands  
 25 - 28 Feb 'Art Up' Artfair, Lille, France  
 20 - 24 Jan 'Art Palm Beach', USA

### Current exhibitions with

UK	ContiniArtUK and BelAir, London Garden Gallery, Hampshire Hannah Peschar Garden, Surrey Lilford Gallery, Canterbury Studio 56, Plymouth Tanner & Lawson, Norfolk
Australia	Denise Salvestro Fine Art
Austria	Hotel Linde, Mariawörth
France	BelAirFineArt Galleries Marshall-Murray, France
Germany	Continuum Gallery, Bonn Hegemann Gallerie, Munich
Greece	Rarity Gallery, Mykonos
Italy	ContiniArtUK and BelAirFineArt Vecchiato Arte
Netherlands	Van Loon Galleries
Portugal	ArtCatto, Algarve
Singapore	Ode To Art Contemporary
Switzerland	BelAir FineArt Galleries

For a complete exhibition list visit: [davidbegbie.com](http://davidbegbie.com)

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## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

(For a complete exhibition history including group exhibitions since 1984 please visit [www.davidbegbie.com](http://www.davidbegbie.com))

- 2017** 24 Apr – 31 May 'Cutting Edge' ContiniArt UK, New Bond Street, London ≡ 28 Apr – 30 Apr 'Transform' Chateaux La Chèvre d'Or, Èze, France
- 2016** 16 Jan - 06 Mar 'David Begbie & Marco de Kok', The Netherlands ≡ 9 Jul - 27 Aug Silhouette Solo Exhibition, Galerie Hegemann, Munich.
- 2015** 16 Oct - 16 Nov 'Solid Air' Vecchiato Arte, Padova, Italy ≡ June/July Plateaux Gallery in Italy/Spain ≡ Jan Juliane Hundermark Galerie, Berlin
- 2013** 'Solo Salon Sculpture Exhibition' Spitalfields, London, Gallery Tanner and Lawson
- 2012** ≡ Gallery David Begbie, Percy Street, London
- 2011** 'Archetypes', Moorhouse, London ≡ 'Skindeep', Ode to Art, Singapore ≡ Van Loon Galleries, Netherlands ≡ 'GENUS', Australian Galleries, Sydney ≡ 'GENUS', Australian Galleries, Melbourne ≡ 'Soft Opening', Different, London ≡ 'David Begbie', Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2010** Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ 'Thin Air' Air Gallery, London ≡ 'Aria Sottile', Vecchiato Arte, Padua ≡ 'Unud', AM Gallery, Roquetas Del Mar, Almeria, Spain ≡ 'Iconii' Chapter House, Canterbury Cathedral ≡ 'Archetypes' Moorhouse, London ≡ 'Skindeep', Ode to Art, Singapore
- 2009** Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ 'Nudus', Number Nine, Birmingham UK ≡ Biennale, Galerie Van Loon Galleries, Holland including 'Rhythmic Ties' violine concert ≡ 'Unud' Somerville Gallery, Plymouth ≡ Gallery David Begbie at Queens Elm Gallery, Chelsea, London including 'Rhythmic Ties' Concert
- 2008** 'Genii' Albemarle Gallery, London ≡ Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ 'Grandslam 2008 maquette', (A.L.T.E.C. Wimbledon) exhibition, Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2007** Gallerie Il Ponte Contemporanea, Rome ≡ Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ Van Loon Galleries, Netherlands ≡ Form 2007 Olympia; London ≡ 'Antebodies' Buschlen Mowatt Galleries, Vancouver, Canada
- 2006** Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ Number Nine, Birmingham
- 2005** 'Nuduu', Gallery David Begbie ≡ The Catto Gallery, London ≡ Etienne & Van Loon, Netherlands
- 2004** Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ Hotel Linde, Mariawörth, Austria ≡ Herman Miller Event, International Art Consultants, London
- 2003** Gallery David Begbie, London ≡ Camino Real Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida ≡ Magidson Fine Art, Aspen, Colorado International Art Consultants, Spectrum, London ≡ Plus One Plus Two Galleries, London ≡ Number Nine, Birmingham ≡ Spectrum, International Art Consultants London ≡ Festival Gallery, Henley Festival, England
- 2002** ≡ **2001** ≡ **2000** Gallery Differentiate, London
- 1999** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ Inauguration of Stirling Square, St James, London – Sir James Stirlings final building
- 1998** 'Begbie Selected Retrospective', early Work 1983-1991 and recent work 1998, Gallery Differentiate, London
- 1997** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ The Festival of Erotica, Olympia, London
- 1996** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ Artopia, New York, USA ≡ Hannah Peschar Gallery & Sculpture Garden, Surrey
- 1995** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ Magidson Fine Art, Aspen, Colorado, USA ≡ Posner Fine Art, Santa Monica, California, USA
- 1994** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ Fire Station Gallery, Sydney, Australia (Opened by Terence Meecham - Director of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney) ≡ Emporio Armani, Brompton Road, London. Special Collaboration ≡ Joel Kessler Gallery, Miami, Florida, USA
- 1992-93** Gallery Differentiate, London ≡ Catto Gallery, London
- 1991** Salama-Caro Gallery, Cork Street, London
- 1990** Wates City Tower, London ≡ Salama-Caro Gallery, Cork Street, London
- 1989** Salama-Caro Gallery, Cork Street, London
- 1988** 'Crucifix', Installation at Winchester Cathedral, England ≡ Henley 88 Festival, Henley On Thames, England (OMS)
- 1987** Salama-Caro Gallery, Cork Street, London ≡ I.C.A.F, Olympia, London (OMS)
- 1986** Galleria Il Ponte, Rome (Margarita Failoni) ≡ Forum, Zurich, Switzerland, (OMS) ≡ Navy Pier, Chicago, USA – (Galleria Il Ponte) ≡ 'Mandelzoom' Canino, Italy, curated by Antonio d'Avossa ≡ Savacou Fine Art, Toronto, Canada ≡ 'Tristan' MOMA, Palma de Mallorca curated by Achille Bonito Oliva ≡ Simpsons of Piccadilly of London - Special Collaborative One Man Exhibition ≡ Brompton Gallery, Knightsbridge, London
- 1984 / 1985** Brompton Gallery, Knightsbridge, London

## MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND PERMANENT PUBLIC/CORPORATE INSTALLATIONS - SELECTION

Galleria Nazionale de Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy ≡ National Gallery Canberra, Australia ≡ Museum Beelden aan Zee, Holland ≡ National Gallery of Canada ≡ Citibank, London ≡ Southwark Bridge, London 'Figure & Fountain' 1989 ≡ City Place House, London 'Back to Front' Diptych and 'Venus' 1991 ≡ The Hyatt Carlton, London, 'The Peak Health Series' 1993 ≡ Natural History Museum, Primates Gallery, permanent site 'Origins' Triptych 1993 ≡ Cannons City Gym, London 'Archetypes' 1994 ≡ Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines 'Fineform' and 'Firmform' 1996 ≡ The Hyatt Carlton, London 'Swimmingtrunks' 1997 ≡ The Park Hyatt, Hamburg, 'Composure I and II' 1998 ≡ Ladbroke Sporting Casino, London, 'Chance' 1999 ≡ The Jam House, Birmingham 'Anangel' and 'Manangel' 1999 ≡ 60 Queen Victoria Street, 'Humantouch' Diptych 1999 ≡ Faith Zone, Millennium Dome, Greenwich, London, Millennium Sculpture 'Faith' 1999 ≡ St Mary the Less, Chilbolton, Winchester 'Cruciform' 1999 ≡ Fleet Place House, Holborn Viaduct 'Fishnet' 2000 ≡ Bedes World Museum, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear 'Worldsapart' 2000 ≡ Ten Covent Garden, Connaught Rooms, London 'Heavenlybodies' 2001 ≡ The Lowry Hotel, Manchester 'Suspense' 2001 ≡ The Milan Bar, Grants of Croydon, London 'Anangel' 2002 ≡ Hotel Linde, Mariawörth, Austria 'Nuda' 2004 ≡ Radisson SAS Hotel, Stansted 'Standover' 2004 ≡ Shrine of Walsingham, Norfolk 'Crucifix' 2005 ≡ The Jam House, Edinburgh 'Aangel' 2005 ≡ San Domenico House 'Nuuda', 'Nuudu', 'Tunuud' 2006 ≡ International Slavery Museum Liverpool Donation 'Nslave' 2007 ≡ Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Providence Wharf, Genus Series 'Venus', 'Venii' 2007 ≡ 62 Threadneedle Street 'Totu' 2006 ≡ Way of Therapy, London 'Otuu' 2007 ≡ The All England Lawn Tennis And Croquet Club, Centre Court Wimbledon 'Grandslam' 2008 ≡ Coloplast Limited, Peterborough, 'Olo' 2008 ≡ Hanover Grange, Montego Bay, Jamaica 'Statu I' and 'Statu II' 2010 and 'Nuwdstill' 2008 ≡ 'Transcend' and 'Transpose' 2012, Buddha-Bar, Knightsbridge, London 2012 ≡ 'Iconis', Timothy James & Partners, London 2013 ≡ CSINU and IKONIS, Dr. Walid Juffali Art Collection ≡ 'Mblem', British Consulate-General Shanghai 2014 ≡ 'Arios' Diptych, Conning Asset M. Ltd. 2014 ≡ 8 Northumberland, London 'Cirrus I, II, III', 'Cumulus', 'Cirrostratus I, II' 2014 ≡ 8 Northumberland, London 'Cirrii Series' 2014-2015 ≡ Le Royal Méridien Beach Resort & Spa, Dubai, UAE 'AIRWAVE' 2017.

## RECENT CORPORATE ACQUISITIONS - SELECTION

'AIRWAVE' Le Royal Méridien Hotel, Dubai February 2017, 'CIRRII' Series, 8 Northumberland, Trafalgar Square, London June 2015 ≡ 'ARIOS' DIPTYCH, Conning Asset Management Ltd., Monument, London 2014 ≡ 'CIRRUS', 8 Northumberland, London 2014 ≡ 'MBLEM', British Consulate-General Shanghai 2014 ≡ 'TRANSCOPE' and 'TRANSCEND', Buddha-Bar, Knightsbridge, London.