

David B. Dahlquist

BIO:



David Dahlquist is a nationally–recognized public artist and teacher. His commissions for private, public, and institutional clients range from tilework and sculpture to major architectural installations. Since 1988, he has completed more than 30 large–scale public commissions across the country.



He received a Bachelor’s degree in Art with honors from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred, New York. In 1983 he became the Artist–in–Residence at the Des Moines Art Center. David also served as an Assistant Professor in the Art and Design Department at ISU from 1987 to 1993. During that time, he developed a program in ceramics and sculpture, including a “hands–on” studio for architecture students. In 1994, David established Dahlquist Clayworks, Inc., which became a part of RDG Planning & Design in 2004. He now leads the RDG Dahlquist Art Studio, a comprehensive design and fabrication studio with a staff of eight professional artists.



David also works collaboratively with many different artists and has been a consultant on numerous multi–disciplinary design teams. As a result, his work has evolved from an individual “object maker” to the integration of tilework and art into architecture and the landscape. His contributions have influenced the site selection, planning, programming, and content of many projects. These projects are fabricated by RDG Dahlquist Art Studio and an extensive network of other skilled subcontractors.

Recently, David Dahlquist and the RDG Dahlquist Art Studio have completed installations which were integrated into architectural construction at the Iowa Department of Public Safety in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, and the Motor Vehicle Division for the Iowa Department of Transportation facility in Ankeny, Iowa. A notable private commission completed in 2007, the Paragon Prairie Tower in Urbandale, Iowa, received the 2008 International Spectrum Award of Merit. The tower is clad in the largest Italian glass mosaic tile mural in the United States and pays homage to the history of the native Iowa prairie landscape. The major destination icon has become a new cultural landmark for the region.

David is a storyteller whose work is about creating meaningful experiences for the public. Dahlquist’s work depends upon many different elements, “orchestrated” in a way that the public is welcomed into and moved by the experience. Recently, David received the 2009 University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Education Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an alumnus. It recognizes an exemplary record of professional leadership and a career of extraordinary accomplishment. This award equally recognized David for his career–long support of developing artists, university and community initiatives, and art education.

CONTACT:

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