

JohnLigda

#### Education

2011–13 Advanced Figure Drawing 23rd St Studio – San Francisco, CA  
1996–99 Bachelor of Science Digital Media California State University  
1992–94 Goldsmith Apprentice – Jackson, WY  
1990–91 Chinese Seal Carving and Traditional Brushwork, Liang Dan Fong – Taipei, Taiwan

#### Note

1999–2012 Professionally self-supported as an Information Architect – San Francisco

#### Exhibitions

2017 Team SikoraLigda – Performance Exhibition – SFMAF, San Francisco California  
2016 Group – Craneway Arts Festival, Richmond, California  
2015 Group – Palo Alto Arts Festival – Palo Alto, California  
2015 Solo – A Mark for Peace – Lviv, Ukraine  
2014 Solo – A Mark for Peace – London, UK  
2014 Group Live Mark-Making Performance – A Mark for Peace – London, UK  
2014 Group – Invisible Gallery, London, UK  
2014 Group – Exhibition Heath of the Moment, London, UK  
2013 Group – Que Tal – San Francisco, CA  
2013 Solo – Live Oak Festival – Berkeley, CA  
2013 Solo – Art in the Park – Fairfield, CA  
2013 Solo – Art on the Main – Walnut Creek, CA  
2013 Group – Pop up Gallery – San Francisco, CA  
1992 Group – Charlie's Gallery Unique – Jackson, WY  
1990 Solo Mandarin Center – Taipei, Taiwan

#### Installations

1997 Stained Glass – San Francisco, CA  
1995 Interior Mural – Los Angeles, CA  
1993 Interior - The Decoupage Room – Jackson, WY  
1991 Exterior Mural – Jackson, WY

#### Curatorial Projects

2014 A Mark for Peace – London, UK  
1990–92 Charlie's Gallery Unique, Jackson Wyoming

#### Residencies

2014 Zor Foundation Nałęczów, Poland  
2014 Moldova Academy of Fine Arts, Romania

#### Juried Awards

2013 Walnut Creek California

#### Private Collections

Oslo, Norway | San Francisco, California | Madrid, Spain | Calgary, Canada | Maizuru, Japan | Canberra, Australia | London, UK | Honolulu, HI | Warsaw, Poland | Taipei, Taiwan | Ithaca, NY | San Francisco, CA | Prague, Czech Republic | Mexico City, Mexico | Santa Clarita,

Brazil | Brussels, Belgium | Salt Lake City, Utah | Seattle Washington | Hong Kong | Taipei, Taiwan | Viena Austria | Dubai UAE

"The dynamic and gestural marks that define my visual art arise from a desire to understand, and give form to, human connection. These images are collaborations with life models, artists, and other subjects, and their palpable energy has much to do with their sources of inspiration. In my work, I have pictured a range of unique individuals—including Ukrainian freedom fighters, an award-winning filmmaker, and the first-ever professional male Palestinian ballet dancer. I seek energy and immediacy in my work, and to that end I often draw in front of a live audience, in the highly expressive medium of charcoal. My work as an artist co-exists with my career in information technology, which continues to sustain my art-making. It was in 2011 that I left a job in IT and began to pursue art with a new energy and commitment, though the seed had been planted twenty years earlier.



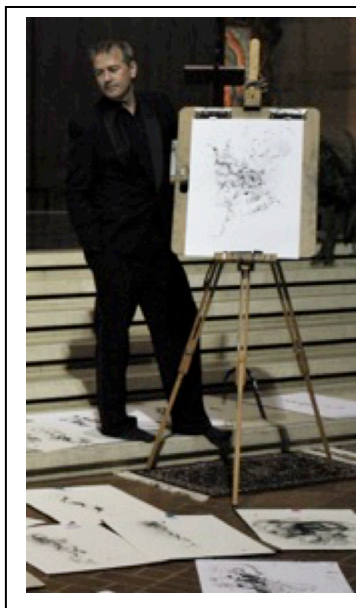
A course in Chinese art and art history that I completed in Taiwan during 1991 and '92 provided my entry to the art world. While there, I had the opportunity to learn techniques from the daughter of the court artist to Chiang Kai Shek, Liang Dan Fong, who became my mentor. A circle of established painters accepted me among them and gave me a Chinese name—Li Da—that remains my artist signature. Eastern philosophy has always been an important influence on my work, and when my practice moved into 'mark-making-figure' drawing in 2011, it inevitably honored traditional Chinese brushwork.

The years 2011 to 2014 saw numerous highlights for my art career. In 2011, I took a hiatus from technology work, rented out my San Francisco apartment, and took an extended trip to central Europe, where I devoted myself to art. In 2013 I funded and pursued a conceptual project that took me to the Middle East, where I aimed to educate myself, to collaborate with, and empower other artists. In 2014, I performed A Mark for Peace, an exploration of art amid politics, on stage in London, afterwards exhibiting the pieces I produced during the performance. The ideology of A Mark for Peace continues to drive my thinking about art, and my successes in this field go to support other artists working

toward the same purpose.

Conceptually, my art plays with the subjectivity of seeing. I find it fascinating that even western science cannot establish one definitive, shared way that we perceive the world. My work embraces multiplicities of viewpoints, and while it is experimental in form, I consider it a kind of realism.

I rely heavily on social media to connect with other artists and data scientists all over the world. I am always learning from these connections and frequently sell work upon inquiry. I study inferential statistics and history, and I find other people, as well as music, essential in creating new works." John Ligda



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