

CAL-STATE-FULLERTON

# David Tibet exhibit at CSUF's Begovich Gallery showcases artist's apocalyptic vision



Artist David Tibet for a portrait in front of one of his installations at the Nicholas & Lee Begovich Gallery during the opening reception of the Invocation of Almost: The Art of David Tibet show at California State University, Fullerton on Saturday, March 9, 2019. (Photo by Frank D'Amato, Contributing Photographer)

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“Invocation of Almost: The Art of David Tibet,” an exhibit of artwork and music that channels the obsessions and daydreams — many of them apocalyptic — of the [British artist](#) opened Saturday at Cal State Fullerton’s [Begovich Gallery](#).

A 2 1/2-year labor of love for curator Jacqueline Bunge and her co-curator and partner Shaun Richards, the exhibit features new sculptures, installation pieces, paintings and drawings. Also featured are a selection of handwritten lyrics and a new 59-minute soundtrack, “Invocation of Almost,” created for the event.

“What is David like?” Bunge said to a crowd of about 120 people at a curator’s talk before the opening. “He is the most polite, generous person I think I’ve ever met. And I’m also standing in front of one of the great geniuses of all time. I think his fans that are here tonight would agree with me.”

Some of his artworks include, or have been inspired by, Coptic and Akkadian texts, languages that Tibet has studied for many years. His work has been called ghostly, cartoonish, hallucinatory, whimsical and haunting — and he prefers to let the viewer decide what he is trying to convey, Bunge said.

Tibet, who was born in Malaysia in 1960 and founded the prolific paramusical group Current 93, was on hand and spoke briefly before the opening.

He thanked Bunge and Richards for the passion they put into the exhibit.

“I was surprised how long it took,” he told the audience. “They carried on working and putting up with me. They did so much. It’s really humbling.”

Bunge and Richards are still at work on an extensive, full-color hardback book of the exhibit with text and essays by Thomas Ligotti, Nick Cave, Anohni, Shirley Collins, Nick Blinko, Henry Boxer, Norbert Kox, Michel Faber and Daniel Wojcik.

Bunge read from the forward by Kox, a longtime friend of Tibet's, who died late last year.

"He brings us to the uttermost mysterious confrontations with his eternal creations and leaves us there to wrestle with them," Kox wrote. "David Tibet's poetry and song are deeply apocalyptic in every sense, as are his visual images. All of his creations are unique, slightly haunting and somewhat disturbing — always saying something but not immediately willing to be understood."

The exhibit is open through May 25 at the Begovich Gallery. Admission is free.

"Children look at art with no preconceived notion or judgment," Bunge said to finish off her talk. "David looks at the world in a magical way and if any of us could take a piece of that, that is what I would hope for this exhibit."