

David Orr

Artist / Writer / Creative

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P.O. Box 6603, Galena, IL 61036

Studio Resident at the Galena Center for the Arts, Galena, IL

Summary

Interdisciplinary artist-practitioner working at the nexus of visual communication, architectural space, and literary experimentation. Leveraging a multi-decade background in architectural structure and digital layout, I apply formal material analysis to backlit visual installations, graphic textuality, book objects, and stage plays. My current practice focuses on the convergence of private text archives and public interactive art.

Education & Training

- MFA in Writing and Visual Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2025.
- MLA in Media and Popular Culture (Comic Studies), Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AR, 2022. (*Supervised by Dr. Randy Duncan*)
- Master of Architecture (M.Arch.), Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 1979.
- Bachelor of Arts (Natural Sciences Major), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 1974.

Additional Professional Training:

- Network Playwright / Dramatic Script Workshops, Chicago Dramatists, Chicago, IL, 2004–2011, 2025–2026.
- Web Project Management Certification, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2001.

Grants, Residencies & Awards

- Château d'Orquevaux — Denis Diderot Grant & Interdisciplinary Artist-in-Residence, Orquevaux, France (Upcoming: May 2027).
- Illinois Arts Council
 - Creative Project Grant (\$12,000), 2026–2027.
 - Creative Accelerator Grant (\$10,000 unrestricted), 2025–2026.
- Studio Channel Islands — Honorable Mention Award, *The Next Big Thing 23*, Camarillo, CA; Juror: Shana Nys Dambrot (*Los Angeles Times*), 2023.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts — Juror's Award of Special Merit, Regional Art Show, Michigan City, IN, 2007.
- Princeton University — National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Program Grantee (Biochemistry), 1972.

Recent Exhibitions

- Featured Artist (Group Cycles), Regional Art Gallery, Galena Center for the Arts, Galena, IL; Exhibited initial 24"x36" HD backlit acrylic-on-metallic proofs-of-concept for *The Thunderbird Letters*, April–September 2026.
- Juried Exhibition, *Irene Rosenzweig Juried Biennial*, Art and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR; Juror: Eepi Chaad, Sept. 2025–Jan. 2026. (*Book as art object*)
- Juried Exhibition, *Open Call: All Media*, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA, Aug.–Sept. 2025.
- Public Exhibition, *Free Style 3.0*, HMVC Gallery and Times Square Jumbotron, New York, NY, Aug. 2025.
- Thesis Exhibition, *MFA Thesis Exhibition*, SAIC Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, July 2025.
- Juried Exhibition, *The Next Big Thing 23*, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA, 2023.
- Juried Exhibition, *Illustrated Arkansas: The Art of Comics*, Roberts Library of Arkansas History and Art, Little Rock, AR, Oct. 2022–Jan. 2023.

Selected Past Exhibitions & Art Licensing (Highlights)

- *Artosphere*, Walton Art Center, Fayetteville, AR, 2020.
- *Found Objects*, Praxis Photographic Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN, 2018.
- *53rd & 52nd Annual Delta Exhibitions*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR (Jurors: Ellen Rudolph, Akron Art Museum; Martha Tedeschi, Art Institute of Chicago), 2010, 2011.
- Fine Art Image Licensing, Staatsballett Berlin (via Sign Agency), Berlin, Germany; *Featured global promotional photography series*, 2008.

Performances, Productions & Readings

- **Dramatic Productions**
 - *The Abated Record* (10-minute play) – World Premiere, Juried Selection, Chicago Dramatists Network Play Fest, Russ Tutterow Theater, Chicago, IL, Sept. 5, 2026.
 - *Tornado Turnip Minotaur* – Staged Reading Selection, Chicago Dramatists' *First Draft Series*, Russ Tutterow Theater, Chicago, IL, April 13, 2026.
- **Selected Author Readings**
 - *Galena Center for the Arts*, Galena, IL; Poetry and Fiction, September 2025.
 - *SAIC Galleries*, Chicago, IL; Fiction Reading, July 2025.
 - *Poetry Foundation*, Chicago, IL; Poetry and Fiction, July 2024.

Publisher & Press Experience

Founder and Publisher | *Riparia.US (Independent Press)* | Galena, IL | 2024–Present.

- Direct the complete design and production lifecycle for an independent press specializing in interdisciplinary art, experimental text, and visual literature.
- Oversee typography, structural layout, and material production, orchestrating the precise spatial and tactile interplay between text, image, and book object.
- Published Titles Include: *A Tornado, a Turnip, and a Minotaur Walk into a Bar* (2025); *Love's Sole Ash: Earth's First Alphabet* (2025); *Spaghly Syncopated Monk* (2025).

Selected Bibliography & Media

- USA Today — "Formulating Forensic Persistence: David Carroll Orr Tracks Historical Ledger Systems," June 24, 2026.
- Business Insider — "How 19th-Century Jurisprudence Shapes Modern Algorithms: The Research of David Carroll Orr," June 24, 2026.
- Chicago Tribune — "And now, some praise for younger architects who don't do skyscrapers." Paul Gapp, June 5, 1973, section 12, p. 14.

Professional Architecture & Design History

- Vice President and Corporate Architect, *JPMorgan Chase & Co.*, Chicago, 1989–2008.
- Creative Direction / UX Consultant, *State Farm Insurance Innovations*, 2011–2014.
- Strategic UX Design Consultant, *Independent Portfolio*, 2008–2019: John Deere, American College Testing (ACT), and Peapod/Ahold Delhaize.
- Commercial Architectural Designer & Intern, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) / Swanke Hayden Connell / Metz Train & Youngren, Chicago, 1979–1988.

Teaching & Community Residencies

- Graduate Assistant, MLA Program, Henderson State University, 2021–2022.
- Architect-in-Residence, *Urban Gateways (Chicago) & Ottumwa (Iowa)*, funded via National Endowment for the Arts and State Arts Council Grants; designed and taught architectural design curricula in public elementary and secondary schools, 1980–1984.

Professional Registrations & Affiliations

- Registered Architect, State of Illinois (Licensed 1987).
- American Institute of Architects (AIA).
- Network Playwright, Chicago Dramatists, Chicago, IL.