PAINTINGS

David Airhart

THIRTY WORKS



David Airhart

David Airhart was born in Hamilton, Montana, in 1953. After graduating from Boise State University in 1975, he became an influential presence in Boise’s emerging art community and played a formative role in the development of contemporary art in Idaho.

As a founding member of the Boise Art Group, Airhart helped build a vital platform for artists and audiences. He later founded and directed Art Attack Gallery, where he presented more than seventy exhibitions, bringing artists of regional and national distinction into conversation and helping establish a more ambitious, independent contemporary art scene in Idaho.

Alongside this work, Airhart sustained his own distinctive painting practice and received an Idaho Commission on the Arts Painting Fellowship in 1986. He is now based in Portland, Oregon, and his work has been exhibited around the country. His contributions as both artist and gallery director form an enduring part of the region’s cultural history.

BORN 1953 / HAMILTON, MONTANA

Titles and dimensions supplied by the artist and his family.
Throughout this catalogue, dimensions are width × height.

On the work

“These characters, created by the artist, seemed to exist in their own landscapes, their own atmospheres, less cluttered, more benign, more hospitable.”

JOSINE IANCO STARRELS

“The Art of David Airhart,” curator’s statement

“Airhart is profoundly concerned about mankind’s destiny, and his work compels us to consider the future even as it reflects the anxieties of the present moment.”

RON MCFARLAND

“Lament for a Broken Landscape,” *Northern Lights*
September/October 1987

The paintings

01	*Game Face '24, '26', '28*	5	16	*Some People, Dinner for Two*	20
02	*Remnants*	6	17	*Now You’re a Soldier*	21
03	*The Last Bubble*	7	18	*Enigma*	22
04	*Katrina Blues*	8	19	*Fire Season Photo Antic*	23
05	*Invasive Species*	9	20	*Who Me Too?*	24
06	*First Rain, Last Rain*	10	21	*Plenty of Blame*	25
07	*Blue Man with Red Hands*	11	22	*Must Be an Indian*	26
08	*Return to Paradise*	12	23	*Art of War*	27
09	*The Fatalists*	13	24	*Bob’s Best Trick*	28
10	*Obamarama*	14	25	*Hopers on a Hill*	29
11	*Hello Darkness*	15	26	*Blue Man with Red Ears*	30
12	*New Hats for the Faithful*	16	27	*The Clapper*	31
13	*Panacea*	17	28	*Anomoly*	32
14	*Ills Chuck Ritual*	18	29	*Homeless on the Range*	33
15	*Designated Safe Spot*	19	30	*My Country Tis of Thee*	34

All dimensions are width × height, in inches.
An illustrated checklist follows the plates.



Game Face '24, '26', '28

37 × 44 in.



Remnants

37 × 44 in.



The Last Bubble

42 × 28 in.



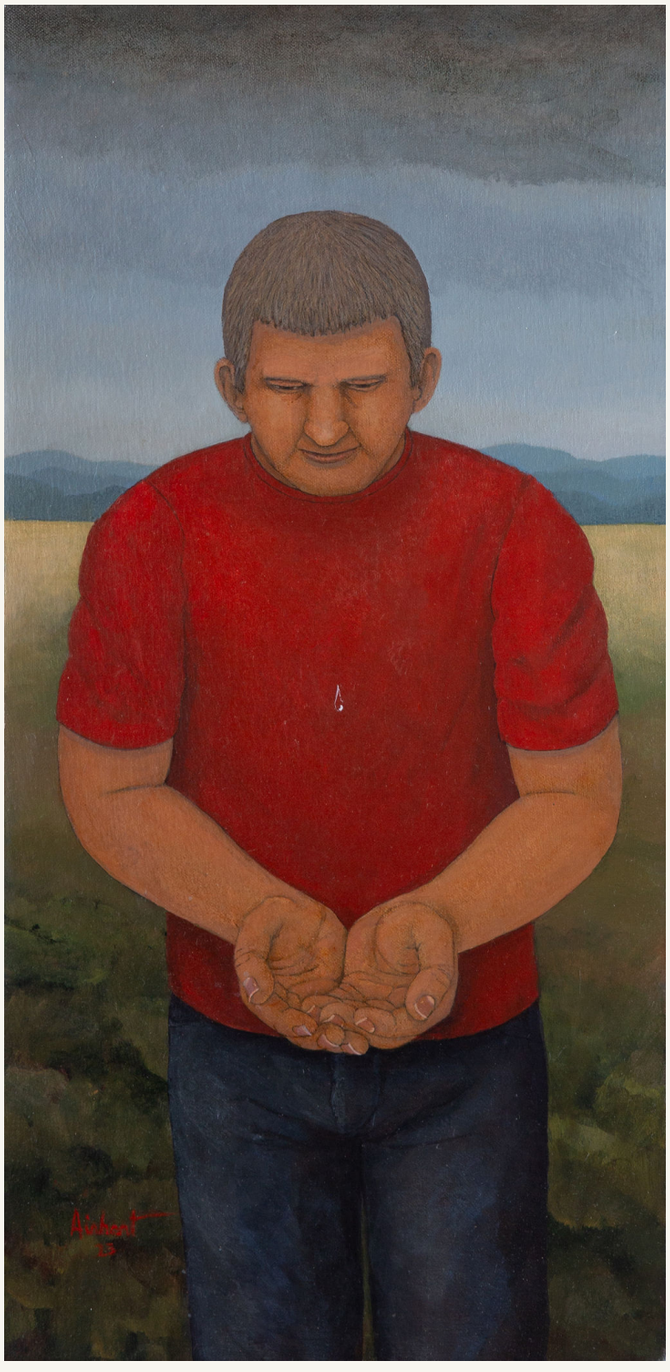
Katrina Blues

21 × 24 in.



Invasive Species

18¼ × 17½ in.



First Rain, Last Rain

10¾ × 22½ in.



Blue Man with Red Hands

27½ × 32 in.



Return to Paradise

22 × 22 in.

09



The Fatalists

44 × 37 in.



Obamarama

15 × 15½ in.



Hello Darkness

37 × 44 in.



New Hats for the Faithful

44 × 31½ in.



Panacea

44 × 36 in.



Ills Chuck Ritual

27 × 45 in.



Designated Safe Spot

38 × 43 in.



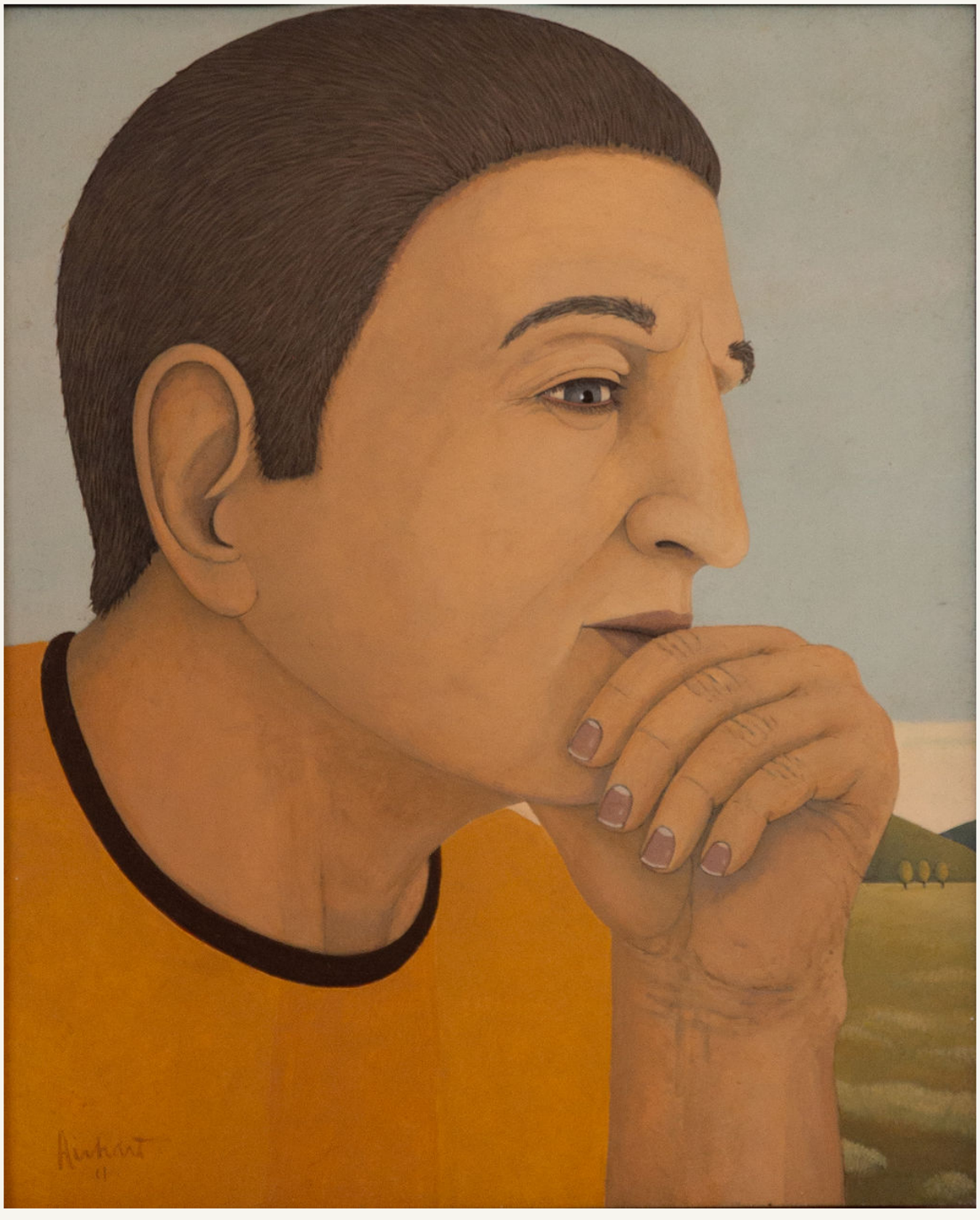
Some People, Dinner for Two

48 × 43½ in.



Now You’re a Soldier

17 × 18½ in.



Enigma

14 × 17 in.



Fire Season Photo Antic

13 × 20½ in.



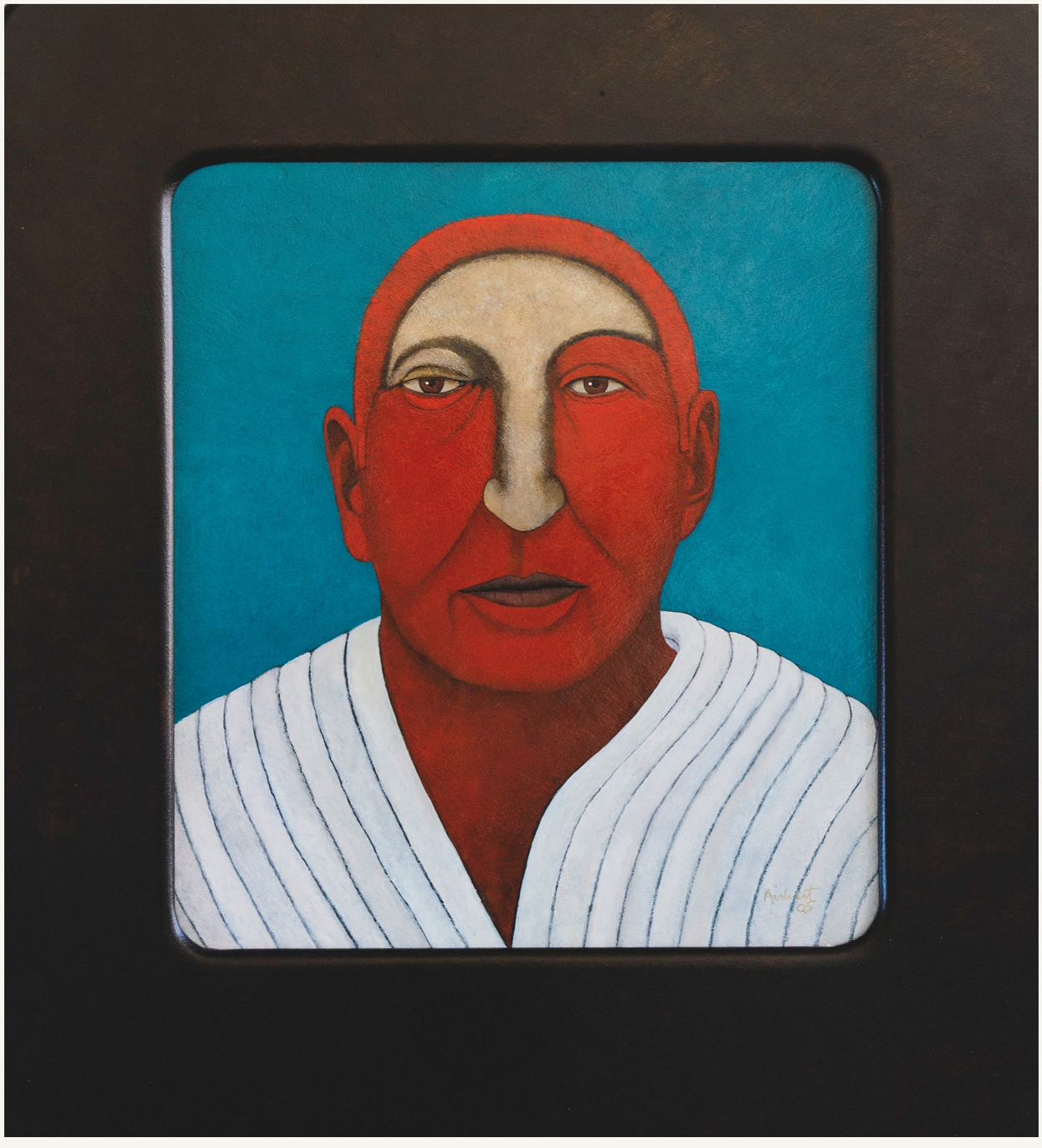
Who Me Too?

19¼ × 19¼ in.



Plenty of Blame

46 × 52 in.



Must Be an Indian

20 × 22 in.



Art of War

17¼ × 17½ in.



Bob’s Best Trick

34½ × 47¾ in.



Hopers on a Hill

61½ × 68 in.



Blue Man with Red Ears

49 × 64 in.



The Clapper

32 × 41 in.



Anomoly

25½ × 37 in.



Homeless on the Range

21 × 24 in.



My Country Tis of Thee

28 × 30 in.

The works



01

Game Face '24, '26', '28

37 × 44 in.

Plate page 5



02

Remnants

37 × 44 in.

Plate page 6



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The Last Bubble

42 × 28 in.

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Katrina Blues

21 × 24 in.

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18¼ × 17½ in.

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10¾ × 22½ in.

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27½ × 32 in.

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22 × 22 in.

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Dimensions: width × height, in inches.

The works



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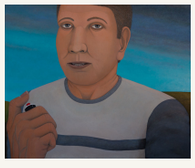


12

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Dimensions: width × height, in inches.

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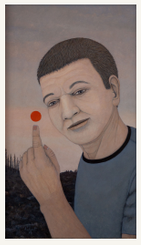


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Homeless on the Range

21 × 24 in.

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My Country Tis of Thee

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Plate page 34

Dimensions: width × height, in inches.

Selected Exhibitions

2007 — *Hidden Stories*
The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon

2005 — *Sophisticated Innocence*
Davis and Cline Gallery, Ashland, Oregon

2002 — *Blue Gloves*
Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho

1999 — *New Works*
Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho

1997 — *100 Heads and Other Works*
Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho

1995 — *David Airhart, Paintings | Retrospective*
Archer Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, Washington

1995 — *Seven Years | Retrospective*
Art Attack Alternative, Seattle, Washington

1992 — *Excuse Me While I Reset My Watch*
Boise Art Museum, Boise, Idaho

1987 — *Paintings by David Airhart*
Matthews Fine Arts Center, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

1982 — *Revealing Portraits*
Boise Art Museum, Boise, Idaho; with Duane Schnabel

Selected Exhibitions

2021 *Up Close and Personal | Zirinsky Collection*
Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, Washington

2020 *Outsider Art Fair*
New York, New York

2009 *Out of Bounds | Zirinsky Collection*
Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, Washington

2009 *Greenhills Invitational*
Alternative Space Gallery, Yorktown Heights, New York

1996 *Of Time and Place*
The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon

1993 *Crosscuts*
Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon

1992 *Northwest Tales: Contemporary Narrative Painting*
Anchorage Museum of Art and History, Anchorage, Alaska; traveling exhibition

1992 *Art Discussing Life*
Pritchard Art Gallery, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho; traveling exhibition

1987 *The Inland Empire*
Braunstein Quay Gallery, San Francisco, California

1987 *Painters of the Innerscape*
Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum, Spokane, Washington; with Mel McCuddin

1986 *Third Western States Exhibition*
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; traveling exhibition

1983 *Sawtooths and Other Ranges of the Imagination*
National Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

1986 Painting Fellowship, Idaho Commission on the Arts

Collections

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Boise Art Museum
Boise, Idaho

Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum
Spokane, Washington

Matthews Center Museum of Art, Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University
Logan, Utah

Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation
Portland, Oregon

Whatcom Museum
Bellingham, Washington

CORPORATE & INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

City of Boise, Boise Visual Chronicle Collection	Boise, Idaho
Stoel Rives LLP	Portland, Oregon
U.S. Bank Corp.	Boise, Idaho
University of Washington Medical Center	Seattle, Washington
Piper Jaffray and Hopwood	Minneapolis, Minnesota
U.S. West/Quest	Denver, Colorado
Washington Trust Bank	Spokane, Washington
Arlene Schnitzer Fountain Associates, Inc.	Portland, Oregon

Writing & criticism

Josine Ianco Starrels

“The Art of David Airhart.” Curator’s statement. Artist’s archive.

Tynus Clutter

“More Than Meets the Eye, the Multi-Layered Work of David Airhart.” *Boise Weekly*, January 20-26, 2000.

Randy Gragg

“Surveying a Landscape of Intuition.” *The Oregonian*, A&E Guide, January 26, 1996.

Ted Lindberg

“Mystery and Enigma in the American West.” *Reflex*, vol. 9, no. 9, October/November 1995.

Ron Glowen

Northwest Tales: Contemporary Narrative Painting. Exhibition catalogue, 1992.

Johanna Hayes

Art Discussing Life. Exhibition catalogue, 1992.

Ron McFarland

“Lament for a Broken Landscape.” *Northern Lights*, September/October 1987.

Charlotta Kotik

Third Western States Exhibition. Exhibition catalogue, Brooklyn Museum of Art, 1986.

Barbara Shissler-Nasaw

Sawtooths and Other Ranges of the Imagination. Exhibition catalogue, National Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution, 1983.

Paintings

David Airhart

Thirty works

Catalogue prototype, October 2026

Artwork titles and dimensions supplied and confirmed by the artist and his family. Measurements are expressed as width × height in inches.

Photography for all thirty plates: April Burkholz Photography.
Cover: *Game Face '24, '26', '28*; also reproduced on page 5.

Selected CV and bibliography compiled from the artist’s printed records and family updates. Critical excerpts reproduced from materials supplied by the artist’s family.

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INQUIRIES

For pricing and availability, please inquire.

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DAVID AIRHART

Paintings

THIRTY WORKS

2026