



from the studio of **John Tomlinson**  
**Artist's professional practice history**  
1969 to present

John Tomlinson's professional art practice, which spans four decades, embraces drawing as major work. Making art since 1969, his work maps the historic transition that artists made from an analog time to a digital one.

From the 1969 drawings displayed in the book *Nine Drawings: Skeleton Series* to 1999, he drew expressively from observation in wax-oil crayon, paint stick, pencil and graphite. During the early 2000s he combined his drawings with digital video animation to create narrative motion drawings with sound on the theme of the passing of time, small tribulations of life and other human interactions.

In author and critic Douglas Davis' reflection on Tomlinson's solo exhibition at 55 Mercer Gallery in New York, 1991+/-, Davis writes:

"...In harmony with all these tendencies, Tomlinson is expansive, personal, open-ended. He reminds me most of all of the lines in the magnificent Russian novel, *The Master and Margarita*, in which the circumscribed heroine, Margarita, takes off from the ground and flies, nude but unnoticed, over Moscow: Invisible and free! Invisible and free! In any sense his decision in 1991 to give up compression, perfection, and the idea of "singularity" for a work that knows no end (only a beginning) is as liberating as Margarita's flight or the Information Highway, whose lust for infinitude he plainly shares." (from *1000 Miles More, the voices of John Tomlinson*, Douglas Davis 1992)

Tomlinson's 1999 drawing series, *Modes of Escape*, reflecting on the many ways we use escape in our daily lives, was shown in his solo exhibition at The Painting Center, New York in 1999.

In 2010, he began using a translucent polyester substrate in a series of large graphite drawings titled *Dark Storms*. These works led to a drawing series of self-reflections on the experience of being male entitled *Rage: The Misery of Men*.

*Rage: The Misery Of Men*, is an ongoing drawing project that includes a collaboration with poet/psychologist Karen Morris which culminated in a 2015 book of her poetry written to his digital and graphite drawings entitled *Rage: The Misery of Men :: The Hope of Men Dawning*, available at Amazon Books.

In his current drawing series *Night Watch*, Tomlinson pursues metaphors of the self-protective, anxious watchfulness experienced in our present time, exploring the ideas of wakeful sleep and triggered alertness as a recurring theme in large figurative graphite drawings.

John Tomlinson's studio art practice has extended to professional, community and collaborative projects in the Upper Delaware River Valley of New York and Pennsylvania.

He creates his art work in the 20th Century Artists Studios of Daria Dorosh and John Tomlinson, located in Sullivan County in the Town of Lumberland, NY.

With over 25 years of teaching in four art schools and directing an undergraduate studio residency program in New York for 43 North American art schools, he has lent his experience to lecturing in the community on drawing, the dynamics of pictorial composition, teaching art, contemporary art, the meaning and importance of art and the relationship between art and the viewing public.

Tomlinson's community and art professional projects to date have included being an advisor and lecturer at Mildred's Lane in Narrowsburg, NY and Beach Lake, PA; and the visual arts coordinator for the NAACL Theatre in Highland Lake, New York.

He is one of four founders in 2001 of the Barryville Area Arts Association, created to foster the fine arts and hand-made crafts in a 10-town area of New York and Pennsylvania, comprising more than 165 members in all the fine arts and artisan practices, and centered on Barryville, NY, on the Upper Delaware River.

In 2015 Tomlinson ventured into curating with the exhibition *drawing BIG : the immediacy of touch* with artists Judy Glantzman, Liza Philips, Esther Podemski and himself with an essay by art writer Dominique Nahas which took place at the Delaware Valley Arts Center in Narrowsburg, NY.

In 2016 Tomlinson co-published with poet Karen Morris a book of tour de force poems she composed to his drawings, entitled *Rage: The Misery of Men :: Hope: The Dawning of Men*. It is available at Amazon Books and at Three Stones Press.

Tomlinson is in the process of collaborating with Kari Margolis, director-master performer of the Margolis Brown Adaptors theater company for a theatrical adaptation of his *Misery of Men* drawing series.