

# Block Party

**Daryl Gannon**

**Van G. Garrett**

**Abstract**

This exhibition includes the visual art of Daryl Gannon (UK) and the literary work of Van G. Garrett (US). It is a part of a larger project that will appear in a forthcoming book.

### **Author's Note**

A lot of my work is rooted in my own middle school years. I was an awkward, hopeful, mischievous youngster trying to make sense of the world. Through words and art, I connect with those times—clipped language, bug-eyed.

Now, a middle school teacher of 15 years, I empathize with some of the students. Through my work for teenagers, I try to make my words embrace the awkward moments, neither slipping nor dodging those punches to the head.

[BLOCK] PARTY allowed me to experiment with words and literally build upon the block metaphor. I reached out to friend and fellow educator Daryl Gannon. We produced a project that we thought our students would appreciate, one that would be a departure from more serious work.

The response has been favorable.

—Van G. Garrett

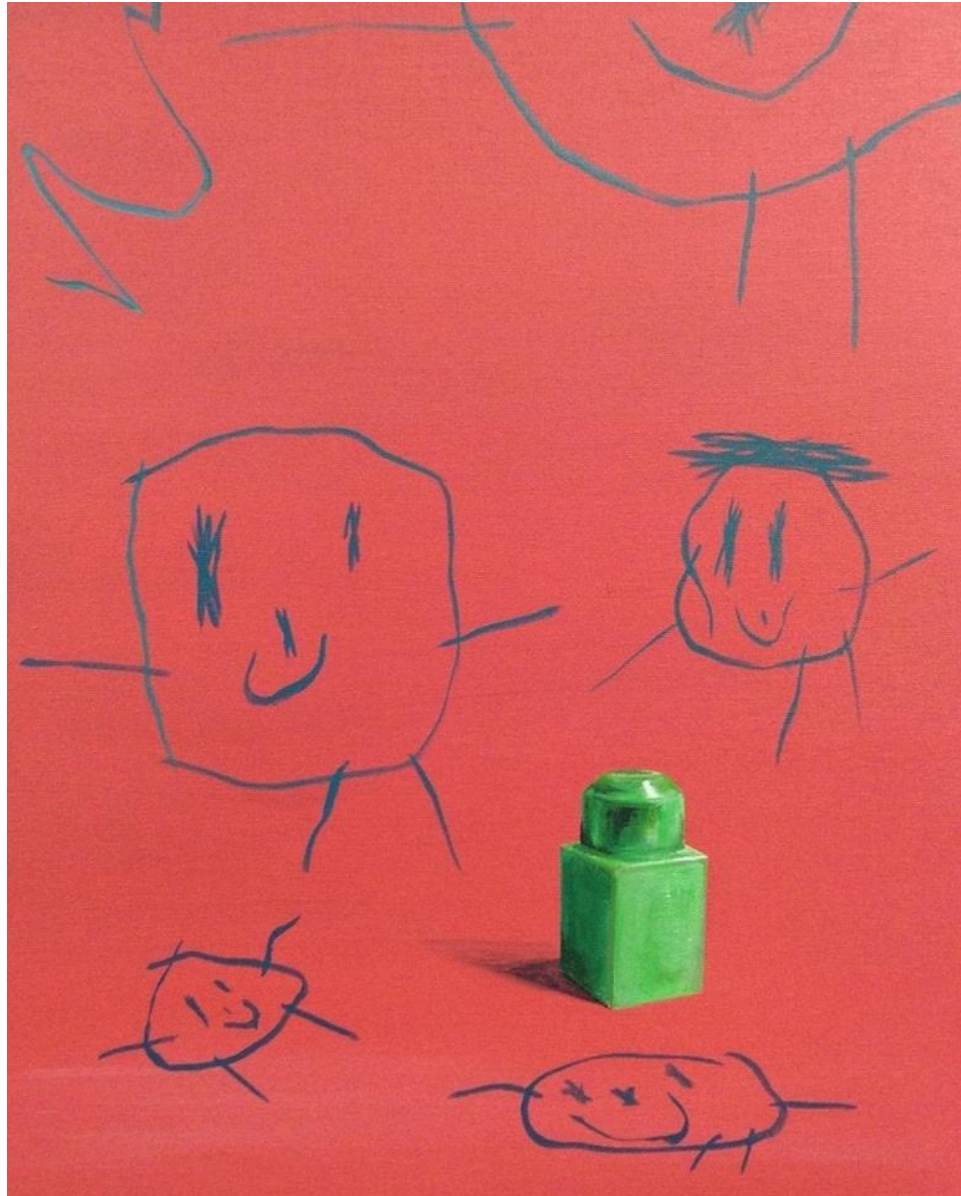
Daryl Gannon and Van G. Garrett were both nominated for teacher of the year last year by Houston's premiere IB middle school, Lanier. Daryl received the honor.



Lowercase F

## Love

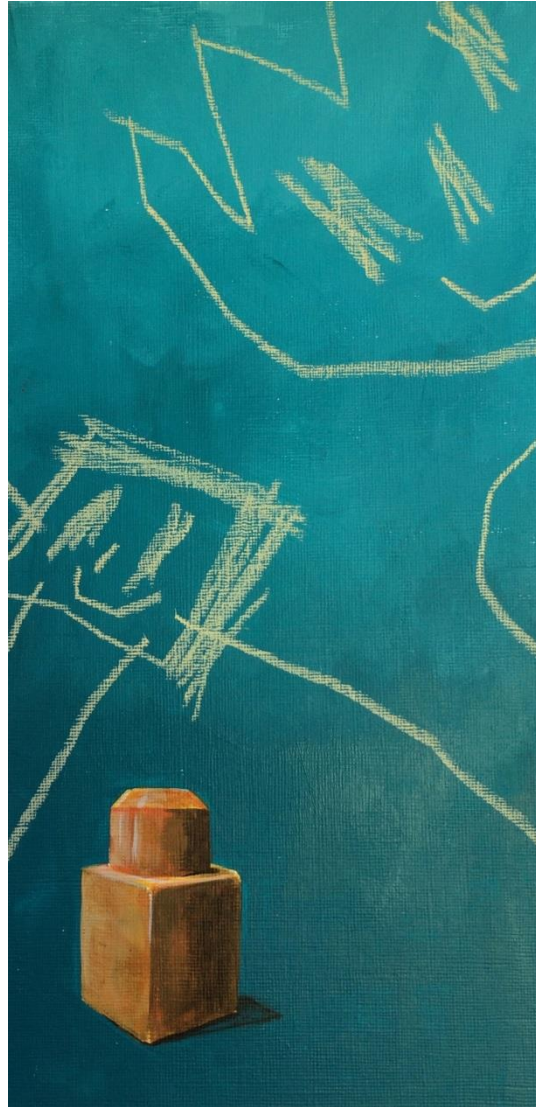
We held hands.  
Cars zipped.  
I thought of a chainsaw  
Carving your likeness into a **block** of wood.



Green on Pink

## Chi

We walked for **blocks**.  
Smelling pizza.  
Layered.  
The river was green.  
Being lost made sense.



Orange on Blue

### Beautiful

I saw her.  
Lips orange slices  
Blood pumped faster.  
Air to my brain was **blocked**.

### **About the contributors**

Daryl Gannon is a London born artist who now lives and works in Houston Texas. More of his work can be found at: [www.darylgannon.com](http://www.darylgannon.com)

Van G. Garrett appreciates boxing, photographing hummingbirds in Tuscany, and the trumpeted sounds of Miles Davis. A watch aficionado, Van is the author of *Songs in Blue* (poetry), *ZURI: Selected Love Songs* (poetry), and *The Iron Legs in the Trees* (fiction). His updates and appearances can be found at: [www.vanggarrettpoet.com](http://www.vanggarrettpoet.com).