

# Seattle artist David Kane has worked as a handyman for the Girl Scout Council, a cab driver, a janitor at a synagogue, and — during...

By [Sheila Farr](#)

Seattle artist David Kane has worked as a handyman for the Girl Scout Council, a cab driver, a janitor at a synagogue, and — during a period he calls “Christmas in hell” — for a firm that did holiday decorations for shopping malls.

Kane, 56, also did a stint in database management for “a white-collar sweatshop” (some would call it a law firm) back in the pre-personal-computer days of the 1980s. And, later, in a more typical career move, he taught for a few years at Cornish College of the Arts. For the past 20 years Kane’s own artwork has remained something of an underground phenomenon, appreciated by critics, other artists and some devoted collectors, but far from well-known. Curator Robin Held hopes that will begin to change Saturday, when the Frye Art Museum opens Kane’s retrospective “Fiat Mambo.”


*Sheila Farr is a Seattle author and arts writer. She served as the visual arts critic for The Seattle Times from 2000-09 and contributes to the University of Washington magazine and Historylink.org, among others. See more at [Sheilafarr.com](#).*



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