



# David Bromstad

HGTV, Design Star  
Design Star 6, Contestant Mentor  
Color Splash, Host

Artist and all-around  
"HOT SOUP" types of guy

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EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 18

## Exclusive Interview - David Bromstad

David Bromstad takes a different approach to art. He doesn't worry too much about trying to impress you or to shock you. In fact, he says his art and approach hasn't changed much since his stellar rise to stardom on HGTV and in the design world. A small town boy from Minnesota, he always had a passion for art: trading coloring books for cars of paint as the years progressed.

Most artists work in one of two mediums, becoming slaves to the canvas or prisoners to the sculpture, but Bromstad has a unique style which evolved over the course of his career: his ability to create fantastic and wonderful designs for his clients, whether it's a child's playroom, an adult bedroom or a massive commercial project. "The biggest compliment I can get is when someone walks into a room and says, 'This is not my home. I want to create an escape,'" said Bromstad.

EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 18

This affinity for escapism isn't a new sentiment for Bromstad. He's always loved the fantastic and borderline magical. Despite claiming he knew "nothing about interior design" in the beginning, he declared that he likes **being exciting, playful and humorous with his work**. Whether this is a remnant from his past — college days at Disney or a residue from his childhood obsession with coloring books and crayons is anybody's guess. But his veins and enthusiasm comes through in all of his designs and works. Irrespective, he thanks Mickey Mouse for tangling him into the art world by neglecting the wonder of color and creation.

**Bromstad doesn't work with just paints, rooms and wall coverings — he is an accomplished carpenter and artist, commanding several different mediums.** However, working as a contract artist for Disney, he was drilled with an absolute sense of perfection. Every color had to be spot on, every corner just right, but after a while he became bored with the tediousness of sanding and prepping Disney sculptures.

By a series of serendipitous events (and partially out of necessity to make ends meet) Bromstad found himself working for Disney's Paris and Resorts Visual Team, learning the craft of wood making. From there, the glue for his love affair with sculpture and carpentry was set. "Go buy yourself a glue, some glue and some screws," his father, a woodworker himself, advised his son.

"As I did the carpentry, I learned and absorbed the power of creating something out of nothing — 3 dimensionally — and was like

**"Wow...this is really something that is going to stay with me the rest of my life,"** reflected Bromstad. Now, a new notch in his artistic gun belt was cut and a new style under his trigger finger.

EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 20

Regarding his paintings and which style he has more of a fondness for, realist or the abstract — Bromstad said, "I love the realistic look, because it adds something more interesting, but I love the feel of the abstract." His approach to art may be a self-prescribed remedy for A.D.D., as Bromstad notes:

"Every artist has A.D.D. and dyslexia somewhere," he mused with a giggle. "When I'm creating I just want more... just, just, just! [Every single painting] I do, I think is going to be a complete failure. Then, at the last minute, I put the finishing touches on it, and it comes to life. And I'm like 'Whoa!'"

(Bromsco notes no amount of dykeshed foot could repay the hilarity and passion of Bromsco)

EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 20

"I paint more because that's the easiest and quickest. But I love building sculptures. **I love working with woods and light and shiny, gilly-gilly, gassy things.**" said Bromstad, commenting on which medium he likes to use most.

However, he confessed he still yearns to work with one more medium: glass blowing. Fascinated with the partnership and tradition of the art form, **"there is something really special and beautiful about it,"** stated Bromstad. "You have to be even more intimate with the liquid (blowing) medium and technique. You can do almost anything with it, and **the only limits are your creativity and the limitations of the glass itself.**" he added.

To his delight, he now works on a project where he can carry out his dream of creating wondrous escapes within peoples' homes. In regards to his latest HGTV project, Color Splash, he said, "It's a blessing. We get to go in and change people's lives with color."

His talent as an artist shines through in the show. He often includes vibrant artwork in some of his designs. Most of the time, he creates the art piece for an extravagant and playfully designed room first. Sometimes his clients tell them what they want and other times he has to use the room itself as a muse to invent the creation, in both chromatic and tonal composition.

Fortunately for the masses, Bromstad has a new partnership with Penny Lane Publishing, which will make his art available to a larger market. This partnership will greatly increase Bromstad's reach by exposing his art to a much wider base.

David Bromstad, as a person, is very humble and passionate with a playful streak surging through his persona. His favorite quote is "Hot Soup" a phrase that is as versatile as his art.

**His favorite artist:** Lady Gaga — "She encompasses more than just music and is so relevant."

**His favorite movie?** Kick Ass. Like the whimsical nature of his art and creations, "I love fantasy and sci-fi movies...anything that has to do with escapism I love," he declared.

EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 22

On a heavier note, Bromstad doesn't agree with the standard art school outlook of working with just one medium and not branching off into other mediums. "Many art schools, even my art school, they tell you that you need to have one specific style so you go to apply for grad and they can look and say I know who David Bromstad is as an artist!" he commented. "The irony of it, he explained is the people that get grad school offers used several different mediums. Versatility is the key, and if you can be great at sculpting, painting, blowing glass or laying concrete floor — sell it!" Bromstad elaborated.

For the artists out there trying to pursue their dreams of creating vibrant and touching pieces of artwork for the rest of their lives, Bromstad had this to say: **the most important thing if you decide you're going to be an artist, is to be an artist! Suffer and become that artist. Feel it, live it and if you are truly talented and have the drive, that will bring you success.**

Whether you are creating dynamic spaces for people to live in, working on wondrous commercial projects, painting on a wall or canvas, David Bromstad is proud to share that with enough passion, drive and will — like wonder, you will create something new, about and amazing.

Bromstad believes art is an everyday life — "I don't think people realize that everything they do, everything they see, has art behind it."

**Behind everything is an artist.  
We're the power behind creation.**  
-David Bromstad

EVERYTHING IS ART  
Page 28

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