

HEAD OF  
GOLIATH  
BY  
NICOLAS  
HOLIBER





**nicolas holiber** is a Brooklyn based artist who paints, sculpts, and creates public artwork. Combining found and reclaimed objects with artistic materials, Holiber's work incorporates a diverse range of elements and techniques. His art is characterized by its vivid use of color, composition, and line to produce multidimensional works that merge aspects of painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Upon graduating from the New York Academy of Art in 2012, Holiber received a postgraduate fellowship for the following school year. The highest honor the Academy can bestow on its students, a postgraduate fellowship allows each fellow to deepen their studio practice while serving as mentors and ambassadors for the school. Only three graduating students each year are given this award.

Since his time at the Academy, Holiber has exhibited across the United States and Internationally in Germany. He recently completed public commissions for the New York Health & Racquet Club, LoMan Arts Festival, and the NYC Parks Department. His work was highlighted in Hyperallergic's coverage of Fountain Art Fair 2014, as well as Artnet News, Gothamist, Beautiful/Decay, and Rizzoli's book *The Figure: Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture*

Holiber's work can be seen online at [www.nicolasholiber.com](http://www.nicolasholiber.com) and Instagram [@nicolasholiber](https://www.instagram.com/nicolasholiber).

# head of goliath



height: 4.5 feet

width: 11 feet

depth: 7 feet

weight: 1,000lbs

made of reclaimed  
wood and found  
objects

Inspiring artwork by the likes of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Titian, this story is not restricted to antiquity. The massive head is Holiber's modern take on the biblical tale of the young shepherd David slaying the giant Goliath with only a slingshot and stones. "People come to New York to be the underdog and beat whatever obstacle is in front of them," says Holiber. "The head of Goliath was David's trophy and I hope viewers will find inspiration in this piece and think about what Head of Goliath, as a symbol, means to them. For myself and many friends of mine, New York is the Goliath," says the artist.

“ This sculpture presents a unique opportunity to observe how the outdoor environment will affect the work. I'm looking forward to seeing how the piece will weather and change over time, thereby using the surroundings as a catalyst to transform Head of Goliath into a modern ruin. ”



THAT'S RATHER ARTISTIC

# The 22 Best New Public Art Pieces to See in NYC This Summer

Tuesday, May 19, 2015, by Curbed Staff



## ↑ Head of Goliath by Nicolas Holiber, in Tribeca Park

Brooklyn-based Nicolas Holiber built a giant, fetchingly-colorful severed wooden head from, among other things, the wreckage of his buddy Hanksy's Best of the Worst show in that abandoned Chase bank on Delancey. He then placed it on its side, tongue lolling out (Goliath DID just have it chopped off, after all), in the [middle of tiny Tribeca Park](#), where almost literally everyone who walks by takes its picture. *Through September 20.*

# New Sculpture In Tribeca Park Is Made From NYC's Debris

BY **JEN CARLSON** IN **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT** ON MAY 7, 2015 2:53 PM



Courtesy Nicolas Holiber

The latest piece of public art to go up in NYC is a real piece of garbage—beautiful, weird garbage. [Nicolas Holiber](#) created a giant Head of Goliath out of New York City's debris, specifically reclaimed wood from shipping pallets and other found materials. A lot of the wood actually came from the destruction of Hanksy's Best of the Worst show.

According to an announcement sent out about the sculpture, which will be in Tribeca Park through September this year, "The mixed media sculpture is Holiber's interpretation of the biblical story and long-standing art historical theme of David and Goliath." Holiber says:

"People come to New York to be the underdog and beat whatever obstacle is in front of them. The head of Goliath was David's trophy and I hope viewers will find inspiration in this piece and think about what Head of Goliath, as a symbol, means to them. For myself and many friends of mine, New York is the Goliath."

He added that the elements could take Goliath down—"Exhibiting in the park presents a unique opportunity to observe how the outdoor environment and NYC in particular will affect the sculpture. I'm looking forward to seeing how the piece will weather and change over time, thereby using the park as a catalyst to transform Head of Goliath into a modern ruin."

The 4-foot-tall sculpture will get its own reception in the park on Saturday May 16th, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Contact the [author](#) of this article or email [tips@gothamist.com](mailto:tips@gothamist.com) with further questions, comments or tips.

HEAD OF GOLIATH | NICOLAS HOLIBER | PUBLIC ART | TRIBECA PARK

**DUE UP NEXT AT YANKEE STADIUM**

Tue, Aug 4 7:05PM	vs. BOS	Tickets Promotions
Wed, Aug 5 7:05PM	vs. BOS	Tickets Promotions
Thu, Aug 6 7:05PM	vs. BOS	Tickets Promotions

**VIEW FULL SCHEDULE >>** [yankees.com](http://yankees.com)

THE LATEST FROM



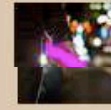
'Godzilla Ei Niã±o' Now Being Called 'Strongest In Recorded History'



Startup Showers Dolores Park With Confetti To Celebrate Acquisition [Updated]



'Kid Charlemagne': A Close Reading Of Steely Dan's Ode To Haight Street's LSD King



SF Woman And Boyfriend Assaulted By Passenger



Marvel At The Athletics Running In The SF Marathon, But Don't Expect To Drive Anywhere

TIP US | LIKE US | TWEET US

Additional Stories



*G Train Rider Asks Fellow Commuters To Stop Cursing, Gets Beaten: Gothamist*

## IN BRIEF

## Nicolas Holiber's Colossal *Head of Goliath* Unveiled in Tribeca Park

Sarah Cascone, Wednesday, May 6, 2015

SHARE ▾



Nicolas Holiber, *Head of Goliath* (2015), in Tribeca Park, New York.  
Photo: Nicolas Holiber.

Yet another of the season's highly-anticipated public artworks (see [New York's 10 Most Beautiful Public Art Shows for Spring](#)) has finally been unveiled: [Nicolas Holiber's](#) colossal [Head of Goliath](#) is now on view in Tribeca Park (see [Nicolas Holiber's Head of Goliath Kicks Off New York's Spring Public Art Season](#)).

The piece was commissioned by the [Parks Department](#) as part of the [Art in the Parks](#) program, and succeeds Korean sculptor Gimhongsok's [Bearlike Construction](#), a bronze teddy bear cast from the humble garbage bag, which artnet News featured in its list of [Our 6 Favorite Public Art Shows](#) this past July.

Holiber, a Brooklyn artist, created the four-foot-tall, ten-foot-long, mixed media sculpture using reclaimed materials such as shipping pallets gathered from across the city. The statue lies on its side, a grotesque yet mythic figure who has been defeated.

Drawing on the art historical tradition of such Old Masters as Michelangelo, Caravaggio, and Titian, Holiber presents a modern interpretation of the Biblical tale, in which the future King David, then just a young shepherd boy, armed only with a slingshot, is able to kill the giant Goliath. The artist sees parallels between this timeless tale and the experience of living in modern-day New York.

"People come to New York to be the underdog and beat whatever obstacle is in front of them," Holiber explained in a statement. "For myself and many friends of mine, New York is the Goliath. . . . *Head of Goliath* will be a connection to the past and serve as a symbol of the classic underdog tale that is shared by so many in this amazing city."

"Exhibiting in the park presents a unique opportunity to observe how the outdoor environment and NYC in particular will affect the sculpture. I'm looking forward to seeing how the piece will weather and change over time, thereby using the park as a catalyst to transform *Head of Goliath* into a modern ruin," added Holiber.