

Artist Statement

My worldview was formed in the San Francisco Bay Area during the 1950s and sixties, when the language and symbols of existing power structures (politics, religion, gender identity, economics and marketing) were being questioned and destabilized. I grew up in a bilingual family with parents who spoke Spanish/and English, which meant a lot of word play, double entendres and humor. My multilingual father was involved in cryptography during the Cold War, which added another layer of disruption and subterfuge to my interpretation skills. I was nurtured to subvert meaning. We have always lived in an environment of hidden agendas, misleading and false information. The Internet and digital media have sped up the dissemination of misinformation, but it has not altered human nature.

History plays a central role in my work. As I have gotten older, I'm more able to understand that the culture and zeitgeist of a period are shaped by larger forces. I can see my own life trajectory within the span of history. My work consists of choosing cultural and technological artifacts, icons and power objects from disparate places and periods and re-creating "fusion" artifacts from them. My sculptures reframe and compress history in an effort to reveal underlying human motivations and biological imperatives. I often employ cultural signifiers or words that are in emotional or ideological conflict with each other. The collision of ideas I present is usually humorous and unsettling at the same time.

I moved to Lamy, New Mexico in 2014. Since moving here I have focused my attention more on local issues of land use and exploited resources, and the effects of colonialism and Manifest Destiny. The influence of land and regional history has led me to hand-fabricating components from local materials like turned wood, sewn leather and stone, along with found and repurposed artifacts.

Walter Robinson Biography

Working in a range of media—wood, epoxy, metal, leather, and found materials—Walter Robinson hand-fabricates and assembles objects, signage and tableaux. Through his work, Robinson investigates the mechanics of cultural and social anthropology. Using text and the strategies of appropriation, conflation, and dislocation, he uncovers the subconscious and biological human imperatives hidden beneath social, political, religious, and capitalist packaging.

Robinson's work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the San Jose Museum of Art, CA and the Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA, and in numerous group exhibitions across the United States and abroad. His work is in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA; the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno; the San Jose Museum of Art, CA; the di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, CA; the Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE; and the Djerassi Foundation, Woodside, CA. Recently, Walter's works have been exhibited at the New Mexico Museum of Art and the Center for Contemporary Art in Santa Fe. His work has received critical attention from a number of print and online publications, including Artforum, ArtReview, Vanity Fair, Juxtapoz, the San Francisco Chronicle, THE Magazine and artpractical.com. An alumnus of the M.F.A. program at Lone Mountain College in San Francisco, CA, he also studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and the California College of the Arts. In 2014, Robinson moved from San Francisco to Lamy, New Mexico. His artwork is represented by Turner Carroll Gallery in Santa Fe, NM, Robischon Gallery in Denver CO and by Zidoun-Bossuyt Gallery in Luxembourg.

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#walterrobinsonart

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Still Life*, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO
2018 *Coded Language*, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
21st Century Cyphers, 516 Arts, Albuquerque, NM
Magical Thinking, Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO
2017 *Discorporate*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2016 *Alcove Show*, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
Placebo, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2015 *Home Grown*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
2014 *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2012 *Placebo*, Galerie Zidoun, Luxemborg, Luxemborg
2011 Catharine Clark Gallery, New York, NY
A Thousand Words, University of San Francisco-Koret School of Law,
San Francisco, CA
2009 *sic*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Transport, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2007 *Represent*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2006 *Greenhouse*, Oakland Museum Sculpture Court, Oakland, CA
2004 *Pathetic Fallacy*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Random Encounters, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artists Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2002 *Animalism*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1999 *sculpture*, Villa Montalvo Gallery, Saratoga, CA
1998 *Un/Becoming*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1997 *Dystopia*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1995 *Quarantined Toys*, Morphos Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *The Land Mark Show*, Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
2014 *Late Harvest*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
The Third Dimension: Four Sculptors, Sonoma State University Gallery,
Sonoma, CA
2012 *Renegade Humor*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
Myths of Progress, Kala Institute, Berkeley, CA
All You Need Is Love, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, CA
2011 *Cashing Out*, Kala Institute, Berkeley, CA
A Thousand Words, Koret Law Center, San Francisco, CA
WESTEND, Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel
Messaging, Text and Visual Art, Sheldon Museum, Lincoln, NE

- 2011 *Shadowshop*, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *That's all folks*, Aeroplastics Contemporary, Bruges, Belgium
Txt, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA
A Child's World, Triton Museum, Santa Clara, CA
Secret Drawings, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
Variations on a theme, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
- 2009 *Pandemic*, Overtones Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Tales from an Imaginary Menagerie, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
- 2008 *Reality Check*, Overtones Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
World's Smallest Art Fair, Anna Kustera Gallery, New York City, NY
Audacity of Hope, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Grown Breaking Ground*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *Unnatural*, Lyons/Wier Gallery, New York City, NY
SFMOMA event, Chanel Boutique, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 *Playful Poetics*, Oakland Art Gallery, Oakland, CA
Social Insecurity, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
David Lusk Gallery, Memphis, TN
Animal Magnetism, Pajaro Arts Council, Watsonville, CA
Greenwood / Chebithes Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA
- 2004 *Sprout*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Wood: 6 Artists, One Medium, Sonoma State University, Sonoma, CA
Comic Release, Carnegie-Mellon Institute, Pittsburg, PA
- 2002 *Wild Frontier*, Spruce Street Project, San Diego, CA
Ball Point, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- 2001 *Pierogi Flatfiles*, (Traveling Exhibition): Post Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Yerba Buena Center, San Francisco, CA; Art Forum, Berlin, Germany
10x10, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 *Making Change*, Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 1997 *Tweakville*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Toy Show, d. p. Fong Gallery, San Jose, CA
Grins: Humor and Whimsy in Contemporary Art, Millard Sheets Gallery, Pomona, CA (catalogue)
- 1996 *Consumption*, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1994 *Something for Everyone*, Morphos Gallery, San Francisco, CA
B-1 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Michael Knowlton, Evri Kwong and Walter Robinson, Morphos Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Publications

- 2014 *Late Harvest*, Nevada Museum of Art
- 2011 *Art and Agenda*, Gestalten Books, Berlin, Germany
WESTEND, (Catalogue), Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel
The New Collector's Book, Basak Malone lic, USA

Education

- 1977 MFA, Lone Mountain College, San Francisco, CA

1975 BFA, San Francisco Academy of Art, San Francisco, CA
1968-70 California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA , undergraduate studies

Awards

2011 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
2001 Public Glass Residency Program, San Francisco, CA
1998 Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Woodside, CA
1993 Gold Discovery, Art of California Magazine
1992 Gold Discovery, Art of California Magazine

Selected Bibliography

Baker, Kenneth. "Giants are brought low...", San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 15, 2005, (illustration, pg. E10)
Baker, Kenneth. "Hosfelt Gallery", San Francisco Chronicle, July 10, 2004, (illustration, pg. E10)
Bing, Alison. "Finesse.", SFGate, July 16, 2004, (illustration)
Brunson, Jamie. "Walter Robinson.", stretcher.org, November 2004, (illustrated)
Cheng, Dewitt. "Walter Robinson, Represent", Art, Ltd., November 2007, (illustration, pg. 19)
Cotter, Holland. "Brooklyn: The Left Bank", New York Times, Dec. 15, 2001
Eastman, Dale. "Collectors", San Francisco Magazine, Jan. 2008, (illustration, pgs. 103, 105)
Feinstein, Lea. "Grand Opening.", SF Weekly, Vol. 25, Number 20, June 13-19, 2007
Graves, Jen. "Found in Translation thestranger.com, July 22, 2010
Hunt, David. Sculpture Magazine, (Reviews), April, 1998, (illustration, pgs. 67-68)
Huston, Johnny Ray. "Night & Day: Killer Playthings.", SF Weekly, Oct. 18, 1995 (illustration, pg. 20)
Koppman, Debra. "The Shoe Show at Bedford Gallery.", Artweek, Nov., 1997 (illustration, pg. 21)
Nunez-Fernandez, Lupe. "Stitches in Time." Art Review UK, May/June, 2006, (illustration, pg.15)
Paglia, Michael. "Review (Crazytown)", Westword, October 3, 2018
Porges, Maria. "Walter Robinson, Catharine Clark Gallery", Artforum, October 2007, (illustration, pg. 379)
Porges, Maria. "Walter Robinson: Sic Transit Gloria Mundi", Shotgun Review, March 15, 2014
Roberts, Kathleen. "516 Arts – 21st Century Language", Albuquerque Journal, May 13, 2018
Stecyk III, CR. "Sign of the Cross", Juxtapoz, Winter Issue, (illustration, pg. 48)
Tannenbaum, Henry. "Barbie and Beyond.", Morphos Gallery, 6 pm News, KRON, Telecast, July 18, 1994
Tobin, Richard. "Walter Robinson:Placebo", THE Magazine, June 2016
Weigand, David. "Datebook: Coming Up.", San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 7, 1997
Wider, Susan. "The Land Mark Show", THE Magazine, November, 2015
Wolgammott, Kent, "Sheldon's Veneciano. Journal Star, August 22, 2009, (illustration)
"Art of Chanel", Vanity Fair Magazine, April, 2006, (illustration, pg. 78)

"Exhibition West End", Associated Press (International publications), August 11, 2011
(illustration)

"San Francisco in Napa", Artweek, July, 2003 (illustration, pg.13)

"Tales from the Wood", Juxtapoz, Winter Issue 1996, (illustrations, pgs. 24 – 27)

Gallery Representation

Turner Carroll Gallery
725 Canyon Rd.
Santa Fe NM
(505) 986-9800
www.turnercarrollgallery.com

Robischon Gallery
1740 Wazee Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-298-7788
www.robischongallery.com