

ROBYN THOMAS

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PROFILE

My creative practice is driven by exploring notions of identity and how it is constructed and perceived. I employ my interdisciplinary painting practice to research and advocate for understanding how the artist and viewers discern identity's many layers and its mutability through painting processes and the resulting objects. Presently my painting studio is based in Providence, Rhode Island/USA, while my full practice is conducted globally, physically and virtually, independently and collaboratively. Most recently, as part of my post-graduate studies in Artistic Research, my focus was on a project titled '*Painting, Playing, Personas: Inserting Change in an Established Painting Practice*'. I seek opportunities to follow this topic and others derived from it in my studio practice, residencies, exhibitions and pedagogical settings. In addition, I continue to pursue opportunities to curate exhibitions and collaborate with others in a wide range of media and creative practices, publicly and privately, digital as well as analogue.

EDUCATION

- 2016 Master of Fine Arts Creative Practice, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, England, UK.
- 1991 Bachelor of Fine Arts Studio Art (Painting), Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, USA.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

- 2022 Doctor of Philosophy Artistic Research —submitted, pending examination —, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, England, UK.
- 1997 University of Karlsruhe [KIT], Karlsruhe, Germany. Intermediate Exams (Zwischenprüfung) for MA degree in Art History, Philosophy, and Pedagogy.
- 1994 Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design [HfG], Karlsruhe, Germany. Guest student/auditor (Gasthörer), Institute for Art and Media Theory.
- 1994 University of Karlsruhe [KIT], Karlsruhe, Germany. University admissions exam of German Language Proficiency (PnDS), Studienkolleg.

VISITING ARTIST, TEACHING & PRESENTATIONS/ARTIST TALKS/PERFORMANCES (selection)

- 2018 Performance; reading of 'Invocation' written by my persona, Melusine Van der Weyden, as part of the performance of George Angelovski during LEGS NINE at grüntaler9 Saturday, 11 August 2018, Berlin, Germany.

Research Presentation; Title: *Playing Infinitely* July 2018. Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.

- Performance; performer in *Pe(n)sare — Weighing & Thinking* 17 March 2018, a performative piece by Paolo Piscitelli, Cathouse Proper, Brooklyn, NY.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Raw Reflections and Playing Elegy* January 2018. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Soma, Mexico D.F., Mexico.
- 2017 Adjunct faculty, drawing instructor CAPS, University of Massachusetts, Boston. Fall 2017.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Playing Painting Personas* July 2017. Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Painting with Personas: a Self-Reflective Methodology*; January 2017. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York, NY.
- 2016 Visiting Artist; Lecture title: *Collage as a Method: From Appropriation to Originality*; ART 393 Photography Workshop: Collage. Fall 2016. University of Massachusetts, Boston.
- Performance, *Playing Painting*; SPACEBODIES II, a group performance curated by Andrea Spaziani, July 2016 Transart Triennale, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
- Research Presentation; Title: *MPhil Introductory Presentation*; July 2016. Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
- Performance and Artist Talk; Title: *RAW/PORTRAYAL/MATERIAL/SELF/PORTRAYAL/...*; July 2016. Transart Institute Dialogue with performance artist Claire Elizabeth Barratt, moderated by Dr. Laura Gonzalez. Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
- Performance, *Drawing*; SPACEBODIES I, a group performance curated by Andrea Spaziani, January 2016 Transart Triennale, The Gym at Judson Church.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Between the Easel and the Wall*; January 2016. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York, NY.
- 2015 Artist Talk; Title: *Dumb As A Painter- The Artist as Researcher*; October 2015. The Guild, Beneficent Church, Providence, Rhode Island.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Self Portrait to Self Portrayal*; August 2015. Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
- Research Presentation; Title: *Through the Look-In Glass-Just Between Me and You*; January 2015. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York, NY.

EXHIBITIONS (selection, group and solo)

- 2020 March exhibition. URI Feinstein Providence Campus, RI.
- 2019 “Telling Herstory Creating the Future” URI Feinstein Providence Campus, RI.
- 2017 “Art & Healing/Art & Health” URI Feinstein Providence Campus, RI.
 “Open Frame Film Night” Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
 Solo exhibition, Adjacent to Life Pop-Up, New York, NY.

- 2016 Group exhibition, International Experimental Art Space, Berlin, Germany.
 “Women Artists Having Their Say” URI Feinstein Providence Campus, RI.
 “Face It” DeBlois Gallery, Middletown, RI.
- 2015 Solo exhibition, Main Gallery AS220 Providence, RI.
 Group exhibition, SOMOS Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014 Small Group Show Candita Clayton Gallery, Pawtucket, RI.
 “Postcards Exhibition” SPACE WOMb Gallery, New York, NY.
 Group exhibition, SOMOS Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
- 2013 Solo exhibition, Angelina’s, Bristol, RI.
 Solo exhibition, Studio 101 Revolving Gallery, Providence, RI.
 “Alta Luna Gallery @ Stella Blues”, Warren, RI.
 Group exhibition, Alta Luna Gallery, Bristol, RI.
 “Beneath the Surface” Gallery X, New Bedford, MA.
 Solo exhibition, The Gallery@Powers, Pawtucket Village, Cranston, RI.
 “Affordable Art” SPACE WOMb Gallery, New York, NY.
 “New Works” Gallery X, New Bedford, RI.
 “Square” SPACE WOMb Gallery, New York, NY.
 “Creative Feminisms: Art, Activism & Everyday Action” URI Feinstein Providence Campus, RI.
- 2012 Solo exhibition, East Side/Mt. Hope YMCA Providence, RI.
 Durlacher Vernissage, Galerie im Schlachthaus, Karlsruhe, Germany.
 Group exhibition, Galeria United, Pawtucket, RI.
 “Blue” Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, MA.
 “Knowledge Is Power” URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Providence, RI.
 “I am curious red” Gallery X, New Bedford, MA.
 “Public Hanging 23” Gallery X, New Bedford, RI.
 The Hive Archive@The Rhode Island Foundation Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence, Perishable Theater, Providence, RI.
- 2009 “MAMA*” Mathewson Street UMC Chapel Gallery, Providence, RI.
 Group exhibition (competition)The Art Complex Center, Tokyo, Japan.
 “Painted Chair” ArtsReach Benefit, HeadsUp, Inc., Providence, RI.
- 2006 “It’s Not So Big, It’s Not So Pricey 4” The Space@Alice Providence, RI.
 “Night of 1,000 Drawings” Artists Space, New York, NY.
- 2005 Solo exhibition, Duffy & Shanley, Inc. Providence, RI.
 Solo exhibition, Chapel Gallery, Mathewson Street UMC Providence, RI.
 “National Juried Exhibition” Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, MA.
 “First Annual Juried Exhibition” Blackstone River Gallery, Woonsocket, RI.
- 2004 “Blue” Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, MA.
 “It’s Not So Big, It’s Not So Pricey 2”, The Space at Alice, Providence, RI.
 “Paperworks”, The Providence Art Club, Providence, RI.
- 2002 Solo exhibition, Galant Gallery, Salem, MA.

- 1999 “Das Weibliche” Galerie La Pastourelle, Kuhardt/Pfalz, Germany.
 “UNTERWEGS” BBK-Baden-Württemberg, Landesvertretung
 Baden-Württemberg, Bonn, Germany.
 “Druckgrafik aus Karlsruhe” Staatstheater, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 1998 Solo exhibition, Galerie im Schlachthaus, Karlsruhe, Germany.
 Solo exhibition, Café Palaver, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- 1997 ”Gegenstandslosigkeit heute?” Sparkasse Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- 1995 “Weihnachtsverkaufsausstellung” Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe,
 Germany.
- 1994 “Areas of Concern” Fort Hayes Shot Tower Gallery, Columbus, OH.
- 1993 “Finding A Voice” Fort Hayes Shot Tower Gallery, Columbus, OH.

CONFERENCES, RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS, & COLLABORATIONS

- 2020 — *Café Decameron*, a weekly, virtual international artists Zoom-café for the
 COVID-era, participants from locations (and lockdowns) around the globe.
- 2019 — *Recultivating Compassion*, collaboration with performance artist CillaVee
 [aka Claire Elizabeth Barratt]; a virtual and analog creative project for
 cultivating compassion through creative practices.
- 2018 *Berlin Summer Residency*, Transart Institute, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
Mexico City Residency, Transart Institute, Soma, Mexico D.F., Mexico.
SYMPOSIUM: ON LIMITS, BORDERS, EDGES AND BOUNDARIES, Casa
 Maaud and Seminario12, Mexico D.F., Mexico.
- 2017 *Berlin Summer Residency*, Transart Institute, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
105th Annual Conference College Art Association, New York NY.
New York Winter Residency, Transart Institute, Elizabeth Foundation for the
 Arts, New York, NY.
- 2016 *Berlin Summer Residency*, Transart Institute, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
104th Annual Conference College Art Association, Washington DC.
New York Winter Residency, Transart Institute, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts,
 New York, NY.
- 2015 *Berlin Summer Residency*, Transart Institute, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
New York Winter Residency, Transart Institute, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts,
 New York, NY.
- 2014 *Berlin Summer Residency*, Transart Institute, Ufer Studios, Berlin, Germany.
Silkscreen Workshop, AS220 Print Lab, Providence, RI.
Artrepreneur Bootcamp, New York Foundation for the Arts, co-sponsored by Rhode
 Island School of Design and the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts, Rhode
 Island School of Design, Providence, RI.
- 2013 *Un-Conference*, The Hive Archive, University of Rhode Island, Providence,
 RI Continuing Education Courses in Textile Design, Rhode Island School of Design,
 Providence, RI.

- 2001-2000 Courses, Mudflat Ceramic Studio & School, Somerville, MA.
- 1999 *International Peace Conference*, The Hague, Netherlands.
- 1993 Printmaking Courses [intaglio], Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, OH.
- 1992 Traditional casein painting techniques course, Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Germany.
- 1987-1988 Life Drawing Courses, Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, OH.
- 1988-1985 Printmaking Courses, College of Wooster, Wooster, OH.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH FUNDING(recent)

- 2014-2018 Research Scholarship/Funding, Transart Institute for Creative Research.
- 2014-2018 Research Scholarship/Funding, Beneficent Congregational Church.
- 2016 Research Scholarship/Funding, Epilepsy Foundation of New England.
- 2004 Award, The Providence Art Club, Paperworks exhibition.