

# ROBYN THOMAS

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## PROFILE

Through my artistic practice, I aim to discern identity's multifacetedness and mutability via paintings, the processes by which they are made, and the experiences of artist and viewer relative to each. My studio is located in Providence, Rhode Island/USA, while my practice is conducted globally, both physically and virtually, independently and collaboratively. Most recently, my focus was a practice-led research project titled '*Painting, Playing, Personas*' studying how to insert change into an established painting practice via the painter's assumption of alternative identities while painting. I seek opportunities to follow this topic and others from it in my studio practice, residencies, exhibitions and pedagogical settings. Each of the following sections of my curriculum vitae contains a partial selection of relevant activities, and more information is available upon request.

## EDUCATION

- 2022        *Doctor of Philosophy*,  
University of Plymouth; Plymouth, England/UK.
- 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

- 2016 - 2022    *Postgraduate research in Artistic Research*, School of Society and Culture,  
University of Plymouth; Plymouth, England/UK.
- 1994 - 1997    *Graduate studies and Intermediate Exams (Zwischenprüfung) in Art History,*  
*Philosophy, and Pedagogy*; University of Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe/Germany.
- 1994        *Guest student*, Institute for Art and Media Theory, Karlsruhe University of  
Arts and Design [HfG], Karlsruhe/Germany.  
*Exam of German Language Proficiency (PnDS)*, Studienkolleg,  
University of Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe/Germany.

## AWARDS AND FUNDING

- 2014-2018    *Research Scholarship/Funding US\$1,000 per annum (\$4,00 total)* for  
graduate and post-graduate research at University of Plymouth awarded by  
Transart Institute for Creative Research, Dallas, Texas/USA.  
*Research Scholarship/Funding US\$4,5000 per annum (\$18,000 total)* for  
graduate and post-graduate research at University of Plymouth awarded by  
the Scholarship Committee of Beneficent Congregational Church,  
Providence, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2016        *Book Award US\$250* , Epilepsy Foundation New England/USA.
- 2004        *Juror Award US\$500* , 'Paperworks' juried exhibition.  
The Providence Art Club, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.

## VISITING ARTIST, TEACHING, PRESENTATIONS, ARTIST TALKS & PERFORMANCES

- 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: *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, New York/USA  
Research Presentation: *Raw Reflections and Playing Elegy* January 2018. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Soma, Mexico D.F./ Mexico.
- 2017 Adjunct faculty: Drawing I, CAPS Fall 2017, University of Massachusetts, Boston/USA.  
Research Presentation: *Painting with Personas: a Self-Reflective Methodology*; January 2017. Transart Institute Winter Residency. Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, New York City/USA.
- 2016 Visiting Artist Lecture: *Collage as a Method: From Appropriation to Originality*; ART 393 Photography Workshop: Collage Fall 2016. University of Massachusetts, Boston/USA.  
Performance: 'Playing Painting', SPACEBODIES II, a group performance curated by Andrea Spaziani, July 2016 Transart Triennale, Ufer Studios, Berlin/ Germany.  
Performance and Artist Talk: *RAW/PORTRAYAL/MATERIAL/SELF/PORTRAYAL*, July 2016. Transart Institute Masters 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, New York City/USA.
- 2015 Artist Talk: *Dumb As A Painter or The Artist as Researcher*, October 2015. The Guild, Beneficent Church, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
Research Presentation: *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 City/USA.  
Performance: *Naked Chess Birthday Party for Marcel Duchamp*, 28 July 2015, Transart Institute Summer Residency. Ufer Studios, Berlin/Germany.

## EXHIBITIONS (solo and group)

- 2020 'March exhibition', URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2019 *Telling Herstory Creating the Future*, URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2017 *Art & Healing/Art & Health*, URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Rhode Island/USA.  
*Open Frame Film Night*, curated by George Angelovski and JoMichelle Piper, Ufer Studios, Berlin/Germany.  
*Robyn Thomas*, Adjacent to Life Pop-Up Gallery, January 2017, East Village, New York City/USA.
- 2016 'Group exhibition', International Experimental Art Space, July/August, Berlin/Germany.  
*Face It*, DeBlois Gallery, Middletown, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2015 *Robyn Thomas: Fractal Edge*, Main Gallery AS220 Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
'Group exhibition', SOMOS Gallery, July 2015 Berlin/Germany.

- 2014 'Small Group Show', Candita Clayton Gallery, Pawtucket, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2013 *Postcards*, SPACE WOMb Gallery, LES New York City/USA  
*Robyn Thomas*, Angelina's, Bristol, Rhode Island/USA.  
*Alta Luna Gallery @ Stella Blues*, Warren, Rhode Island/USA.  
*Beneath the Surface*, Gallery X, New Bedford, Massachusetts/USA.  
*Square*, SPACE WOMb Gallery, LIC, Queens, New York City/USA.  
*Creative Feminisms: Art, Activism & Everyday Action*, URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2012 *Durlacher Vernissage*, Galerie im Schlachthaus, Karlsruhe/Germany.  
*Blue*, Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, Massachusetts/USA.  
*Knowledge Is Power*, URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
*I am curious red*, Gallery X, New Bedford, Massachusetts/USA.  
*The Hive Archive@The Rhode Island Foundation Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence*, Perishable Theater, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2009 *MAMA\**, Mathewson Street UMC Chapel Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2006 'Group exhibition', The Art Complex Center, Tokyo/Japan.  
*It's Not So Big, It's Not So Pricey 4*, The Space@Alice Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
*Night of 1,000 Drawings*, Artists Space, New York City/USA.
- 2005 *Robyn Thomas*, Duffy & Shanley, Inc. Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
*Robyn Thomas*, Chapel Gallery, Mathewson Street UMC Providence, Rhode Island/USA.  
*National Juried Exhibition*, Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, Massachusetts/USA.
- 2004 *Paperworks*, The Providence Art Club, Providence, Rhode Island/USA.
- 2002 *Robyn Thomas*, Galant Gallery, Salem, Massachusetts/USA.
- 1999 *Das Weibliche*, Galerie La Pastourelle, Kuhardt im Pfalz/Germany.  
*UNTERWEGS*, BBK-Baden-Württemberg, Landesvertretung Baden-Württemberg, Bonn/Germany.  
*Druckgrafik aus Karlsruhe*, Staatstheater, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 1998 *Robyn Thomas*, Galerie im Schlachthaus, Karlsruhe/Germany.
- 1997 *Gegenstandslosigkeit heute?*, Sparkasse Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe/Germany.
- 1995 *Weihnachtsverkaufsausstellung*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe/Germany.

#### CONFERENCES, RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS, & COLLABORATIONS

- Ongoing *Café Decameron*, a weekly, collaborative, virtual international artists Zoom-café for the COVID-era, participants from locations (and lockdowns) around the globe.  
*Recultivating Compassion*, collaboration with performance artist CillaVee aka Claire Elizabeth Barratt, Asheville, North Carolina/USA.
- 2018 *SYMPOSIUM: ON LIMITS, BORDERS, EDGES AND BOUNDARIES*, Casa Maud and Seminario12, Mexico D.F./Mexico.
- 2017 *105th Annual Conference* College Art Association, New York City/USA.
- 2016 *104th Annual Conference* College Art Association, Washington D.C./USA.
- 2014 *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, URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Rhode Island/USA.