

ROBB PUTNAM

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ABOUT

Robb Putnam is a sculptor working primarily with textiles and mixed media. His work explores vulnerability and protection through forms that blur the boundary between interior and exterior states. Earlier work drew on hybrid, animal-like figures, while recent work—including the Exiles series—moves toward abstraction, grounded in accumulation and surface transformation. Across these works, Putnam investigates the tension between structure and softness, containment and release.

EDUCATION

Mills College, Oakland, CA — Master of Fine Arts, Art, 2008

Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD — Bachelor of Fine Arts, Summa Cum Laude, 1993

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 — *Exiles*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2024 — *Robb Putnam*, Gail Severn Gallery, Ketchum, ID

2023 — *Visitors: A Mid-Career Survey Exhibition*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2020 — *Unattended Creatures*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2019 — *Robb Putnam – Part II*, Gail Severn Gallery, Ketchum, ID

2017 — *Interlopers*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2015 — *Robb Putnam*, Gail Severn Gallery, Ketchum, ID

2015 — *Loiterers*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2014 — *Foundlings*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2012 — *Castoffs*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010 — *Orphans*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2009 — *Strays*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2000 — *Recent Mixed Media Work*, Gallery Ginza Ichome, Tokyo, Japan

1995 — *Angel, Sentinel, Ghost*, Collusion Gallery, Seattle, WA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 — *And the Beat Goes On... 20 Years / 26 Artists*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2025 — *Red, White and Blue*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 — *Faces / Places / Traces*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 — *Textile Tango*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 — *History / Tragedy / Imagination*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 — *Future Patchwork*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 — *Paper Cuts*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 — *In the Groove: Persistence and Endurance*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 — *Encounters: Honoring the Animal in Ourselves*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
- 2019 — *Peace on Earth*, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA
- 2018 — *Go Figure*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 — *New Threads: Perspectives in Contemporary Fiber Art*, Laband Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 — *Sew What?*, Children's Museum of the Arts, New York, NY
- 2015 — *Smashbox Studios*, Culver City, CA
- 2015 — *Bird in the Hand*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
- 2014 — *Reigning Cats and Dogs*, Rena Bransten Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 — *Larger than Life: Exploring Scale in Contemporary Art*, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
- 2012 — *Threading the Needle*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011-2012 — *Travelers: Objects of Dream and Revelation*, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
- 2011 — *BIG A%# SCULPTURE*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 — *Elements of Nature: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation*, Brevard Art Museum, Melbourne, FL
- 2010 — *Elements of Nature*, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA
- 2010 — *Identity Based Vertigo*, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, CA
- 2010 — *Inspiration Unlimited*, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, CA
- 2009-2010 — *Andaz Hotel*, West Hollywood, CA

- 2009 — *Improvised Branches*, Art@TheOakBook Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2009 — *Laugh It Off*, Walter Maciel Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 — *Narrative Thread*, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 — *Bay Area Currents*, Oakland Art Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2008 — *Creature Feature*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 — *Mills College MFA Exhibition*, Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA
- 2007 — *Buy Me While I'm Cheap*, Blankspace, Oakland, CA
- 2006 — *Art Melbourne 2006*, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Australia
- 2005 — *Recent Works in Sculpture and Sound*, Tashiro-Kaplan Building, Seattle, WA
- 2004 — *Fields/Currents*, Tashiro-Kaplan Building, Seattle, WA
- 2000 — *Printmaking 2000 Exhibition*, Gallery Ginza Ichome, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996 — *Northwest Annual Exhibition*, Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA

PUBLICATIONS, REVIEWS, AND INTERVIEWS

- 2018 — “*Date Book: Art about memory, sculptural bears and a show devoted to art crime*”, Carolina A. Miranda, Los Angeles Times, January 5
- 2015 — “*Artist Profile: Robb Putnam*”, George Melrod, art ltd., September–October
- 2014 — “*Bay Area arts news*”, Jesse Hamlin, SF Gate / San Francisco Chronicle
- 2010 — “*Sorell’s prints enhance the mysteries of poems, Putnam’s Orphans*”, Kenneth Baker, SF Gate / San Francisco Chronicle
- 2010 — “*1-2 Punch! Robb Putnam’s Orphans at Rena Bransten Gallery*”, Hayley Barker, hayleybarker.wordpress.com
- 2010 — “*Diamond Dogs, review of Orphans at Rena Bransten Gallery*”, Michael Leaverton, SF Weekly
- 2009 — “*Laugh It Off at Walter Maciel Gallery*”, Alison Gibson, DailyServing.com
- 2009 — “*Oakland artist receives Joan Mitchell grant*”, Artweek
- 2009 — “*Awards & Grants: Joan Mitchell Foundation*”, Stephanie Cash, Art in America
- 2009 — “*Lost and Found*”, Cameron Woo, The BARK
- 2008 — “*Bay Area Currents 2008: 12 emerging artists*”, Reyhan Harmanci, San Francisco Chronicle
- 2008 — “*Mills College MFA Exhibition Catalogue*”, foreword by Jessica Hough, essay by Glen Helfand

AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS / ILLUSTRATIONS

2001 — *“Did You Ever Hear of a Thing Like That?”* 50 Cent Off Press, created images and photo-illustrations for a book of poetry written by poet Chris Putnam in conjunction with a collaborative multi-media installation exhibited at Jettset Gallery, Chicago, IL.

SELECTED AWARDS

2008 — Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant

2008 — Headlands Center for the Arts Graduate Fellowship Finalist

2008 — Herringer Prize for Excellence in Studio Art

2007–2008 — Graduate Art Trefethen Award

COLLECTIONS

21C Hotels and Museum, Louisville, KY

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA

Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA