

# ROBB PUTNAM

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## ABOUT

Robb Putnam is a sculptor working primarily with textiles, fiber, and mixed media. His work explores vulnerability, protection, and the shifting boundary between interior and exterior states. Earlier projects drew on animal-like forms—hybrid, fragile figures suggesting both exposure and resilience. More recent work, including the *Exiles* series, moves toward abstraction while maintaining a material language rooted in fabric, 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

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, 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

## 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 — Bird in the Hand, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA  
2014 — Reigning Cats and Dogs, Rena Bransten Projects, San Francisco, 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 Ass Sculpture Show, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
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 — 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

## **PUBLICATIONS, REVIEWS, AND INTERVIEWS**

2018 — Carolina A. Miranda, “Date Book: Art about memory, sculptural bears and a show devoted to art crime,” Los Angeles Times, January 5  
2015 — George Melrod, “Artist Profile: Robb Putnam,” art ltd., September–October  
2014 — Jesse Hamlin, “Bay Area arts news,” SF Gate / San Francisco Chronicle, September 10  
2010 — Kenneth Baker, “Sorell’s prints enhance the mysteries of poems, Putnam’s Orphans,” SF Gate / San Francisco Chronicle, August 14  
2010 — Hayley Barker, “1–2 Punch! Robb Putnam’s ‘Orphans’ at Rena Bransten Gallery,” hayleybarker.wordpress.com, July 30  
2010 — Michael Leaverton, “Diamond Dogs, review of ‘Orphans’ at Rena Bransten Gallery,” SF Weekly, July 14  
2009 — Alison Gibson, “Laugh It Off at Walter Maciel Gallery,” DailyServing.com, July 31  
2009 — “Oakland artist receives Joan Mitchell grant,” Artweek, April 2009, Volume 40, Issue 3

2009 — Stephanie Cash, "Awards & Grants: Joan Mitchell Foundation," Art in America, February issue, p. 152

2009 — Cameron Woo, "Lost and Found," The BARK, Jan/Feb 2009, Issue 52 (three-page artist interview with photos)

2008 — Reyhan Harmanci, "Bay Area Currents 2008: 12 emerging artists," San Francisco Chronicle, October 16

2008 — Mills College MFA Exhibition Catalogue, foreword by Jessica Hough, with essay by Glen Helfand

## **AWARDS**

2008 — Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant

2008 — Headlands Center for the Arts Graduate Fellowship Finalist

2008 — Herring Prize for Excellence in Studio Art

2007–2008 — Graduate Art Trefethen Award

## **COLLECTIONS**

Oakland Museum of California

Palm Springs Art Museum

Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation