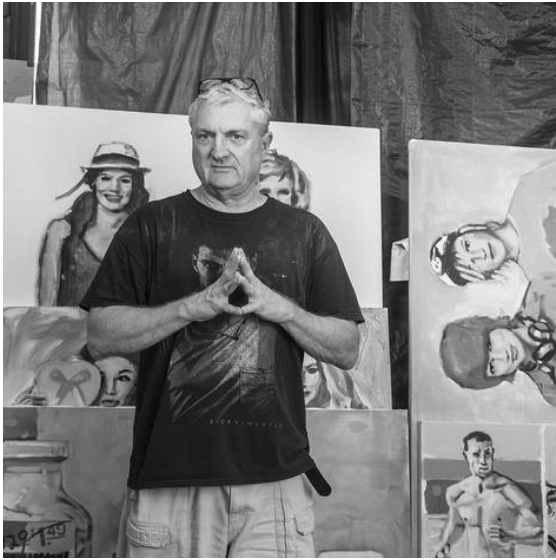


# Walter Robinson

## Biography



### #WalterRobinson

Born in 1950 in Wilmington, Delaware.  
Lives and works in New York, USA.

Walter Robinson began painting in New York during the late 70's, where he was associated with the Picture Generation and soon became a key figure on the local scene. He is also highly popular for his work as an editor and critic: he was the publisher of Art-Rite and then co-founded the Artnet magazine. As a critic, he originated in 2014 the term "*zombie formalism*" that fuelled many debates.

A pioneer of the Picture Generation, Robinson painted nurses before Richard Prince and spin paintings before Damien Hirst.

His work is almost exclusively figurative and consisting of appropriation of commercial images. One finds advertisements for Target, Land's End, and other cheap fashion catalogues (*the Normcore series*), images of romance novel covers (*Romance series*), and also pictures of food and pharmaceutical products (*Still Lives*).

Most of the images he diverts are ranging from materialistic desires represented by common consumer items (such as clothes, food, pharmaceutical products, banknotes), to very idealistic and paradigmatic desires found in advertising clichés displaying the playful happiness of the multicultural Western ideal.

Robinson's tone, for instance when he speaks of consumerism as a perfect world, always seems ironic but never cynical..

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### Education

- 1973 Whitney Independent Study Program, New York, NY  
1972 BA Art History and Psychology, Columbia University, New York, NY

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *Escape to Adventure*, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2021 *C'est le destin bébé*, Air de Paris, Paris, FR  
2020 *Modern Times*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2019 *Romance, Cigarettes and More*, Pure Joy, El Paso St. Marfa, TX  
*Walter Robinson: Shirt Paintings*, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
2018 *Romance*, Artissima Art Fair, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Turin, IT  
*Walter Robinson, Salad, Candles & Money*, Johannes Vogt Gallery, New York, NY  
2017 *Walter Robinson*, Inna Art Space, Huangzhou, CN  
*The Americans*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, CH  
*Romance*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2016 *Biology*, Stems Gallery, Brussels, BE  
Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic, CT  
*Walter Robinson: A Retrospective*, Jeffrey Deitch, New York, NY  
Jeff Bailey Gallery, Hudson, NY  
2014-16 *Walter Robinson: Paintings and Other Indulgences*, a retrospective at the University Galleries, Normal, IL; traveling in January 2016 to Moore College Galleries, Philadelphia, PA  
2014 *Figure Studies*, Lynch Tham, New York, NY  
*Painkillers*, Tops, Memphis, TN  
2013 *Indulgences*, Dorian Grey Gallery, New York, NY  
2012 *Hello From New York*, Firecat Projects, Chicago, IL  
2008 Metro Pictures, New York, NY  
1998 Cabinet Gallery, London, UK  
1995 Tricia Collins Grand Salon, New York, NY  
1986 Metro Pictures, New York, NY  
Semaphore Gallery, New York, NY  
Wessel O'Connor, Rome, IT  
Zero One, Los Angeles, CA

- 1985 Metro Pictures, New York, NY (with Thomas Lawson)  
Piezo Electric, New York, NY  
Zero One, Los Angeles, CA
- 1984 Piezo Electric, New York, NY  
Semaphore Gallery, New York, NY (with Duncan Hannah)  
Metro Pictures, New York, NY
- 1982 Metro Pictures, New York, NY

## Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Double Feature* with Richard Kern, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Portraiture: An Ongoing Story*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH
- 2021 *Indoor Dining*, Marinaro Gallery, New York, NY  
*Luncheon on the Grass*, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020 *Portraits & Some Standing Figures*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH
- 2019 *Still Life: An Ongoing Story*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Glenn O'Brien: Center Stage*, Off Paradise, New York, NY  
*Pretty Woman*, Galerie Derouillon, Paris, FR  
*Make Believe* Curated by Bruce W. Ferguson, Magenta Plains, New York, NY
- 2018 *Brand New: Art and Commodity in the 1980's*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.  
*Summer of Love, Freight + Volume*, New York, NY
- 2017 *Street Hassle*, Marlborough Contemporary, London, UK  
*DOGS*, Curated by Austin Lee and Oliver Clegg, 173 Green Street, Brooklyn, NY  
*Zeitgeist*, MAMCO, Geneva, CH  
*Fast Forward: Painting from the 1980s*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
*Still (ed) Life; Part 2*, Texas Gallery, Houston, TX  
*Abandoned Luncheonette*, Jeff Bailey Gallery, Hudson, TX
- 2016 *Desire*, curated by Diana Widmaier Picasso, Moore Building, Miami, FL  
*Zombie Formalism*, Mitchell Albus, New York, NY  
*Infotainment*, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, NY  
*Summer Show*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Charles Bukowski & Walter Robinson: There's a Bluebird in My Heart*, Owen James, New York, NY  
*Copy Paste*, curated by Chris Bors, "SPRING/BREAK Art Show," New York, NY  
*Don't Make a Scene*, Kai Matsushima, New York, NY  
*Hard Love*, curated by Barry Blinderman, Jose Martos, New York, NY
- 2015 *Unrealism*, curated by Jeffrey Deitch, Moore Building, Miami, FL  
*Only 2.5 Hrs from GWB*, curated by Pia Dehne, Hamden, New York and Roxbury, New York, NY  
*Sweet Smell of Success*, curated by James and Enzo Shalom, Hilton Hotel, New York, NY  
*Viewer Discretion... Children of Bataille*, curated by Kathleen Cullen, Stux + Haller, New York, NY  
*La Femme de trente ans*, curated by Caroline Soyez-Petithomme, art: concept, Paris, FR

- To Your Health! The Science, Culture & Art of the Cocktail*, Everhart Museum, Scranton, PA  
*Twenty by Sixteen*, curated by Geoffrey Young, Morgan Lehman, New York, NY  
 un(Scene) art fair, New York, NY
- 2014 *SPRING/BREAK Art Show*, Skylight at Moynihan Station, New York, NY  
*SPRING/BREAK*, March 2014, New York, NY
- 2013 *Bad Conscience*, Metro Pictures, Jan 16th – Feb 22nd, curated by John Miller  
*Social Photography III*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY  
*Peter Angemann, Walter Robinson: Plein Air – Hot Romance*, Sept. 22nd – Nov 4th, 2013, Kunstmuehle, Muersbach, Germany, Curated by Thomas Eller  
*404 E 14*, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, June 20th – Aug 2nd, 2013  
*All F\*#king Summer*, Gavlak Gallery, Palm Beach, FL
- 2012 *Found and Lost*, curated by Hope Sandrow, ArtSites Riverhead, June 8th – Aug 18th  
*Bad for You*, curated by Beth Rudin deWoody, Shirazu Gallery, London, UK  
*White Male Complex*, curated by Thomas Eller, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, DE  
*Times Square Show Revisited*, Hunter College Art Galleries, New York, NY  
*Claxon*, curated by Walter Robinson, Haunch of Venison, New York, NY  
*Ping-Pong Basel Miami*, Projektraum M54, Basel, CH  
*Data Trash*, curated by Chris Dorland, I-20, New York, NY  
*Desperately Seeking Susan: Art from the 1980s*, Kathleen Cullen Fine Art, New York, NY  
*Loughelton Revisited*, Winkelman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *Social Photography*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY  
*Wit*, curated by Glenn O'Brien, Paddle8, New York, NY  
*Art, Access & Decay: New York 1975-1985*, curated by Peter Frank & Lisa Kahane, Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- 2009 *Nincompatibles*, Bowman Bloom, New York, NY  
*Naked*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Looking at Music: Side Two*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*Regift*, Swiss Institute, New York, NY  
*Images & (Re)presentations*, Le Magasin, Grenoble, FR
- 2008 *Market Forces*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY (and traveling)
- 2004 *East Village USA*, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY  
*Stencil & Spray, ca. 1984*, The Proposition, New York, NY
- 2003 *OnLine*, Feigen Contemporary, New York, NY  
*First Person*, Gallery Schlesinger, New York, NY  
*The Summer of Lust*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
*Nip and Tuck*, Artek Contemporaries, New York, NY  
*After Matisse Picasso*, P.S. 1, New York, NY
- 2002 *Something, Anything*, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York, NY  
*Transcendent and Unrepentant*, Rosenwald Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2000-01 *Post-Hypnotic*, Touring show, Illinois State Galleries, Normal, IL
- 2000 *Certain Things: Unlikely Treasures*, Elsa Mott Ives Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 *Mod!* Tricia Collins Contemporary Art, New York, NY  
*Village Disco*, Cabinet, London, UK

sébastien bertrand

- 1998 *Pets*, Bronwyn Keenan, New York, NY
- 1997 *Consumption*, Printed Matter, New York, NY
- 1994 *Red*, Barney's for Little Red Schoolhouse, New York, NY  
*American Fine Arts Benefit*, New York, NY
- 1993 *Arachmosphere*, Ramnarine Gallery, New York, NY  
*Return of the Cadavre Exquis*, Drawing Center, New York, NY  
*Dolls in Contemporary Art*, Haggerty Museum, Milwaukee, WI
- 1992 *Works on Paper*, Momentary Modern, Amsterdam, NL  
*Tabloid*, Sally Hawkins Gallery, New York, NY
- 1991 *The Tree*, Elysium Gallery, New York, NY
- 1989 *Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos*, New Museum, New York, NY
- 1986 *Signs of Painting*, Metro Pictures, New York, NY; Donald Young, Chicago, IL  
*Paravision*, Margo Leavin, Los Angeles, CA  
*Tableaux Abstraites*, Villa Arson, Nice, FR  
*Greenberg's Dilemma*, Loughelton, New York, NY  
*Physics*, Piezo Electric, New York, NY
- 1985 *Auto/Genetic/Photopsia*, Christminster, New York, NY
- 1984 *Drawings: After Photography*, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, OH (travelled to four other venues)  
*Artists Weapons*, Ted Greenwald Gallery
- 1983 *Art on Paper*, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC  
*Terminal New York*, Brooklyn Army Terminal, New York, NY  
*Sex*, Sharpe Gallery, New York, NY  
*Artist/Critic*, White Columns, New York, NY
- 1982 *Beast*, P.S.1, New York, NY  
*Image Scavengers*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 1981 *Episodes*, Grace Borgenicht Gallery, New York, NY  
*Real Life Magazine Presents*, Nigel Greenwood, London, UK  
*Island Show*, ABC No Rio, New York, NY
- 1980 *Times Square Show*, New York, NY  
*Collaborative Projects Benefit Exhibition*, Brooke Alexander Gallery, New York, NY  
*A.More Store*, 529 Broome Street, New York, NY  
*Figuring*, Hallwalls, Buffalo, NY  
*Real Estate Show*, 123 Delancey, New York, NY
- 1979 *Batman Show*, 591 Broadway, New York, NY

## Public Collection

MoMA, New York, NY  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
MAMCO, Geneva, CH  
FMAC, Geneva, CH  
Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC  
Hall Family Foundation  
DiRosa Preserve, Napa, CA  
Djerassi Foundation, Woodside, CA  
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA  
Sheldon Museum, Lincoln, NE  
Musée des Beaux Arts de La Chaux-de-fonds, CH

## Bibliography

- Milazzo, Richard. *A Kiss Before Dying: Walter Robinson – a Painter of Pictures and Arbiter of Critical Pleasures, with New Works by the Artist*. Galleria Mazzoli Editore, Modena, 2021, 630 pp.
- Blinderman, Barry (ed). *Walter Robinson, Painting and Other Indulgences*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, 2015, 144 pp.
- Sundt, Collin. "Wanting to Be Art." *Artcritical*, March 2nd, 2016.
- Boucher, Brian. "Walter Robinson at the Galleries at Moore." *Artnet Magazine*, January 25th, 2016.
- Grabner, Michelle. "Walter Robinson." University Galleries, Illinois State University, *Artforum*, March 2015.
- Schmerler, Sarah. "Walter Robinson." *Art in America*, October 2014.
- Bodick, Noelle. "Artist Walter Robinson on Painting Desire." *Artspace Magazine*, June 26th, 2014.
- Strasnick, Stephanie. "Walter Robinson." *Artnews*, September 14th, 2014.
- Bui, Phong. "Walter Robinson with Phong Bui." *Brooklyn Rail*, November 2014.
- Kuspit, Donald. "Walter Robinson." *Artforum*, Summer 2013.
- Russeth, Andrew. "Art Net: The Life and Times of Walter Robinson." *New York Observer*, January 2012.
- Finch, Charlie. "The Unforbidden." *Artnet Magazine*, November 10th, 2009.
- Finch, Charlie. "The Threat of Love." *Artnet Magazine*, April 8th, 2008.
- Siegel, Jeanne (ed.). *Artwords 2: Discourse on the Early 80's*, 1988.
- Jones, Ronald. "Walter Robinson." *C Magazine*, Toronto, December 1987.
- McCormick, Carlo. "pOPTOMETRY." *Artforum*, November 1985, pp. 87-91.
- Silverthorne, Jeanne. "Walter Robinson, Metro Pictures." *Artforum*, Summer 1985, pp. 112.
- Upshaw, Reagan. "Walter Robinson at Semaphore." *Art in America*, February 1985.

Masheck, Joseph. *Point 1*, 1984, pp. 124-127.  
Adams, Brooks. "Walter Robinson at Metro Pictures." *Art in America*, May 1982.  
Lawson, Thomas. "Last Exit: Painting." *Artforum*, October 1981.  
Deitch, Jeffrey. "Report from Times Square." *Art in America*, June 1980.

### Editorial Positions

Columnist, Artspace.com  
Editor-in-chief and founder, Artnet Magazine, 1996-2012  
Contributing editor and news editor, *Art in America*, 1978-2009  
Columnist ("*It's a Dad's Life*"), *Paper Magazine*, 1992-1995  
Art editor, *East Village Eye*, 1982-1985  
Editor, *The Art Letter*, 1978-1982  
Publisher and editor, *Art-Rite Magazine*, 1973-1978

### Other Positions

Contributor, *Bald Ego #1*, Max Blagg & Glenn O'Brien, eds.  
Correspondent and on-screen commentator, *Art TV Gallery Beat*, 1994-2004  
Author, *Instant Art History*, Ballantine Books, 1994  
Jury Chair, Pernod Liquid Art competition, 1993-1999  
Executive director, Collaborative Projects (COLAB), 1980