

Paul Robinson

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Online Portfolio

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Born in Grimsby, England

Date of Birth

25.09.1982

Education

2002 - 2005

BA (Hons) Fine Art,
University College for the Creative
Arts, Canterbury

2001 - 2002

BTEC Art & Design Foundation,
Grimsby College of Art & Design

1999 - 2001

Cleethorpes Sixth Form,
Cleethorpes

1994 - 1999

Secondary Education
Matthew Humberstone,
Cleethorpes

I am an 80's Bear in 2010

Robinson has a vivid memory of the framed family portrait which remained for years in his mothers lower bedroom draw, which previously had sat on her bedside table before his parents divorce. He was able to recall details from the photo which he had not seen for over 10 years, yet he has no recollection of the day the photo was taken.

His now divorced parents are together in the photo, his brother stands next to his mum, the artist next to his dad, and in the middle stands the bright pink 80's plush Love-A-Lot Care Bear. The two brothers both look worried, whilst the proud parents both wear huge smiles on their faces. Robinson's mother recently commented when I spoke to her about the photo, how well Paul was dressed in his matching green-stripped clothes, down to green-stripped socks.

Robinson's 2010 series 'The Pink Bear' has transformed a distant memory by removing the bear from the context of a family portrait, and placing it into surroundings similar to that of a real bear. In the forest Robinson's bear is no longer a mascot for a theme park or TV show but has become a mystical figure of a fantasy make believe world in his mind. The Pink Bear is not a man in a costume, it is an alter ego. The partially costume dressed figure is the transformation between reality and make believe, innocence and corruption. The pink bear has a whimsical sense of playfulness through it's association with childhood memories, yet remains firmly attached to adult hood through the tainted surfaces that surround the character in the abstract spaces of his paintings.

Robinson believes an old photo or memory can allow one to essentially 'time travel', helping one-shift places for a moment. At the opening of 'Page 2' Robinson captured portraits of the guests on the opening night with the pink bear, hoping that he would create memories that the guests can keep.

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Selected Solo Exhibitions

2010 **Vulnerable** - HOK International - Fitzrovia - London

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2010 **Page 2** - Brompton Road - London
For The Love Of - Orbital Comics - London
Spring Exhibition - Mint Shop - Knightsbridge - London
Page 1 - Knightsbridge - London
- 2009 **Cluster** - Mas Civiles galleries - London
Art in the Garden - Seven Dials, London
Westminster Open Exhibition 2009 - SW1 Gallery, London, England
E17 Art Trail - The Ancient House, Walthamstow, London
Presenting The Top 100 - Final round - Jealous Gallery, Crouch End, London, England
Exquisite Decay 2 - Chateau d'Alba, France
Out On The Inside - Dubai, UAE
Drawing with Dolphins - Stoke Newington, London, England
- 2008 **Presenting The Top 100** - MCPS-PRS, London, England
Autum Exhibition - Penny Fielding's Beautiful Interiors - Walthamstow - London
E17 Art Trail - Billet Road Studio - Walthamstow - London
Beautiful Interiors Art Trail - Penny Fielding's Beautiful Interiors - Walthamstow - London
Exquisite Decay - White Cross Gallery - Whitecross Street - London
- 2007 **Over Subscribed** - Lorum Ipsum Gallery - Vyner Street - London
Nude - Neals Yard - Covent Garden - London
- 2005 **KIAD Degree Show** - KIAD - Canterbury
- 2004 **Eye Opener** - IOTA Gallery - Ramsgate
Flash Machine - IOTA Gallery - Ramsgate
- 2002 **The Interconnectedness of Everything** - Grimsby College - Grimsby
- 2001 **End of Year Show** - Matthew Humberstone Exhibition Suite - Grimsby
- 2000 **tMetamorphism** - Grimsby Town Central Library - Grimsby

Currations

- 2004 **Through The City**
The Nunnery Gallery - London
With artwork chosen by Lloyd Grossman
- 2004 **Flash Machine**
IOTA Gallery - Ramsgate
An Exhibition of KIAD Students work
- 2000 **Metamorphism**
Grimsby Town Central Library - Grimsby
A two-man exhibition opened
by Local MP Austin Mitchell

Commissions

- 2004 **Six Bells Mural Project** - IOTA Gallery - Ramsgate
42ft long site-specific mural using images produced by children from local schools.

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*Some days I am the strong tree, nothing can move me.
I am invincible.*

*Some days I am the old tree that has shed all its leaves.
I am vulnerable.*

*Some days I am the lone tree stood in solitude.
I am surviving.*

Some days I have been overgrown by all that surrounds me. Overwhelmed I suffocate.

Most days I am never the tree that I want to be.

Paul Robinson's paintings feature three key elements, trees, repetitive patterns and representations of decaying painted surfaces. The paintings are precariously near to disassembling, as the amalgamations of his ambivalent recollections are disparate and fragmented. Yet an instinctive process of non-sequential layering combines these disjointed and seemingly disconnected elements seamlessly together.

Robinson begins his paintings by establishing a surface loaded with character and depth, rich in organic and synthetic tones. Viewing his process as a type of artificial decay, he creates natural forms by laying fabrics and paper towels onto the canvas that absorb and transfer the paint that he pours freely.

Robinson is constantly documenting various trees for his photographic archive; some are stumbled upon when travelling with a loved one, some encountered on a daily commute and others are obsessively sought out whilst looking for an idyllic tree to express his current series of thoughts. The trees used in the paintings are of emotional significance to the artist; but as with all objects, living and dead, the feelings attached to them are transient.

The repetitive patterns Robinson uses in his paintings are again chosen from his photographic archive. They are not solely there to serve as a decorative nuance, but instead bring a further layer of his personal history to the paintings. The pattern used in his most recent paintings is appropriated from his mother's wallpaper, which hung on the walls of his childhood home for almost twenty-five years until it was stripped away this year. The selected pattern goes through a process of digital reconstruction, creating a flawless crisp design.