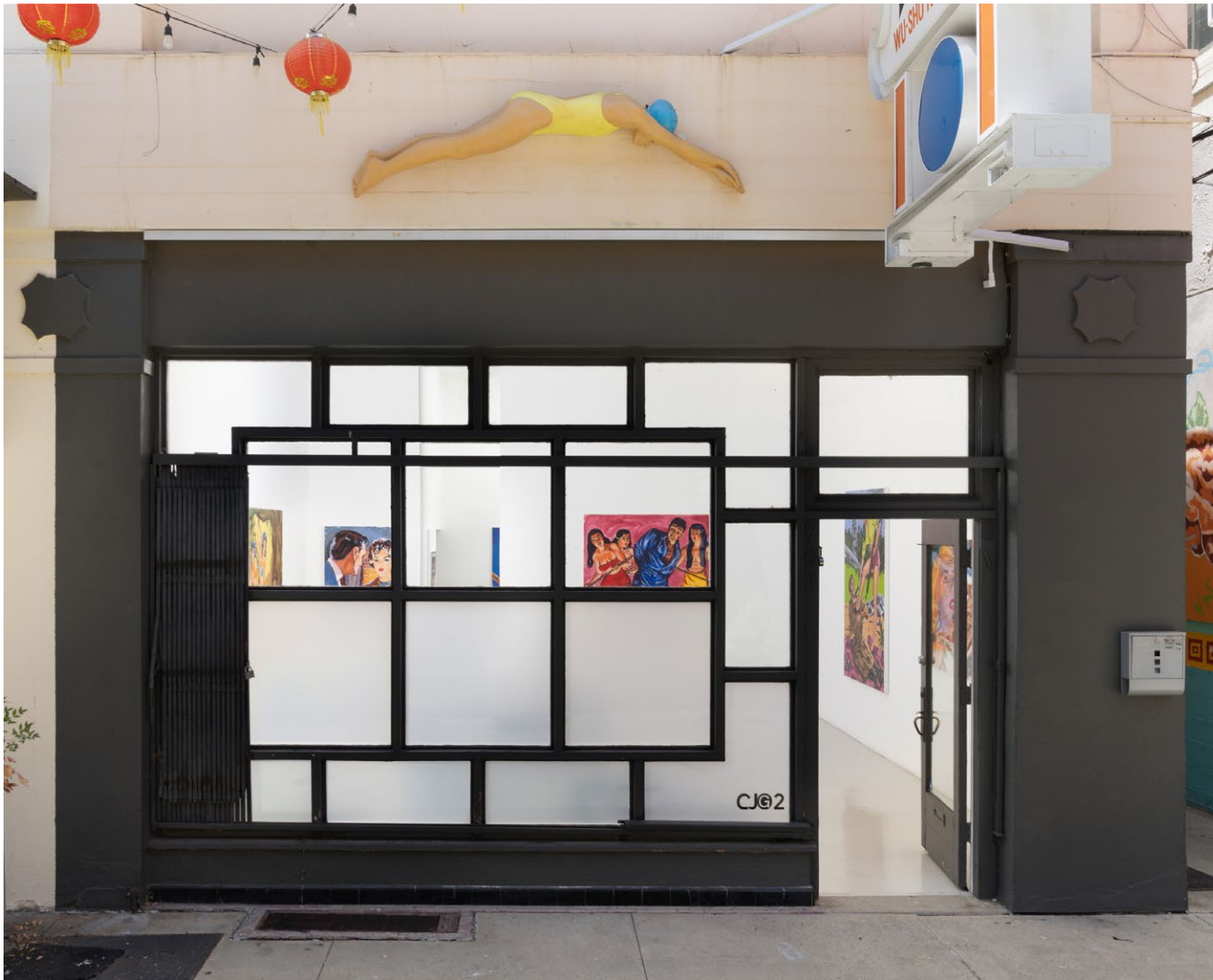


WALTER ROBINSON
ESCAPE TO ADVENTURE



CJG CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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Escape to Adventure

During my long career as a conman and pirate, I maintained a peculiar kind of honesty. Boasting an ice-cold nerve that verged on lunacy, I scorned to lie my way out of trouble. When a suspicious customs official noticed an irregularity on my cargo manifest, I simply picked him up by the front of his shirt and threw him over the side.

I managed to talk the owners of a one-masted schooner into giving me command. Explanation for their assent is a little hazy. I had no papers, and my description had been published. There aren't that many one-eared red-headed men around. The owners were damned fools.

Running guns to island insurgents was very profitable. For a few rusty muskets I was able to load the ship with oranges and lemons, coconuts, hogs and women. One night, we had a bit of trouble. The guide disappeared. "I'll tell you where the bastard is!" laughed the female swashbuckler. "In the belly of a shark, where he belongs!" A couple of dorsal fins had been following the ship. They weren't there now.

I decided to get drunk. My skin felt icy cold yet sweat poured from my face. I grabbed a bottle of rye and poured myself a tumblerful. I drank it down without stopping. It didn't do any good.

Then a sort of brightness fell upon me, and looking up, I found the moon had risen and was silvering the mizzen-top, and almost at the same time the voice of the lookout shouted, "Land ho!" The tropical water was green and clear as we cut through it towards the narrow beach, spray from the rolling waves spilling over the deck.

It was hot and humid, with a smell of sunbaked sand and rain-soaked vegetation. I climbed over a low ridge and saw nothing in front of me but clouds, blanketing the hidden valley below. The sun was going down fast.

As I edged around a blind corner on the narrow trail, I found myself face to face with a score of native women, dressed in brightly colored costumes and at least six feet tall. Each carried a steel-tipped spear pointed straight at me.

The tallest Amazon warrior approached slowly, teeth gleaming and dark eyes flashing. She wore a colorful lava-lava which left the upper part of her body bare. Blue-black hair spilled across her shoulders, and a golden amulet on a thick chain hung from her neck.

"You belong to the volcano god now," she insisted.

A human heart is covered by only two inches of flesh, I thought. Light gleamed on the spear's point as she thrust it at me in a lightning move. I threw myself back, but the blade caught my left shoulder. The gash reached down to my elbow, and soon my shirt was sticky with blood.

I lunged for the dense undergrowth in a last desperate effort. A colorful tangle of tropical beauty, it was marked by huge tropical trees and a wild profusion of flowers. Raucously hued birds flitted overhead, their strange cries splitting the air.

Then the touch of cold metal sent agonizing pain down my spine and across my shoulders. Slowly sinking to my knees, I coughed blood. Before falling into darkness, I heard my pursuers chanting. "Kill! Kill!"

-- New York, May 17, 2022

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ESCAPE TO ADVENTURE

Walter Robinson (b. 1950, Wilmington, DE) is a New York painter and art writer. He began exhibiting at Metro Pictures in 1982, and more recently has shown his paintings at Jeffrey Deitch, Air de Paris, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand in Geneva, and Galleria Mazzoli in Modena, among others. In 2019 Charlie James Gallery presented an exhibition of his “Shirt Paintings.” In 2017 his work was included in “Fast Forward: Work from the 1980s” at the Whitney Museum. Galleria Mazzoli published a 500-page monograph on his work by Richard Milazzo, titled “A Kiss before Dying.” Walter’s work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) New York. Over a long career as an art critic, Robinson served as founding editor of Art-Rite (1973-1977), art editor of the East Village Eye (1983-1985), and founding editor of Artnet Magazine (1996-2012).

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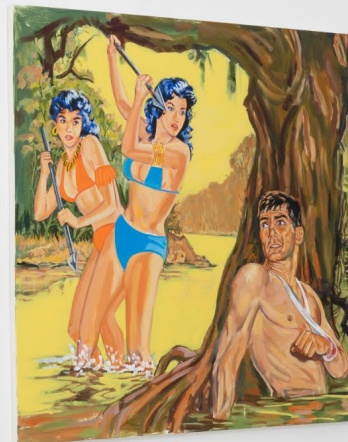
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Indochina
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 48 inches
2021

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The Pit
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 inches
2022

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Yellow River
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 60 inches
2022

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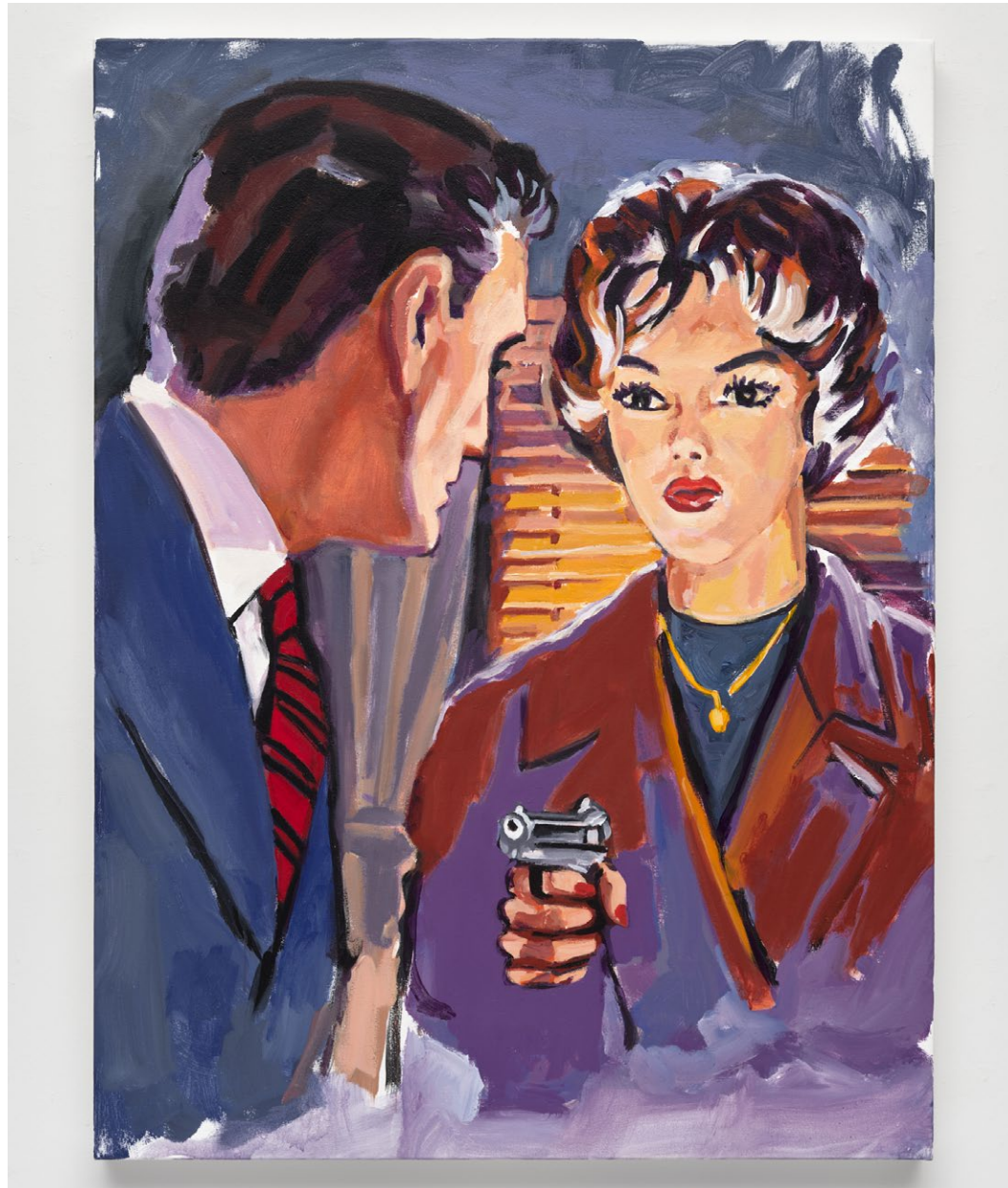
The Ledger
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
2021

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Vice Squad
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
2022

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Last Stop
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 36 inches
2022

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Terror Street
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 40 inches
2020

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Charlotte Airport
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 60 inches
2022

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Vodka
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 24 inches
2017

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Oxy & Tramadol
Acrylic on canvas
40 x 60 inches
2022

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Norwich
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches
2016

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Lumbago
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 16 inches
2021

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One-person Exhibitions

- 2022 "Escape to Adventure," Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2021 "It's Doom, Baby," Air de Paris
- 2020 "New Paintings and Works on Paper," Galleria Mazzoli, Modena
"Modern Times" Galerie Bertrand, Geneva
- 2019 "Shirt Paintings," Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles
"Romance, Cigarettes & More," Pure Joy, Marfa, TX
- 2018 "Salad, Candles and Money," Vogt Gallery, New York
Galerie Bertrand, Artissima, Turin
Stems, "Permanent Embrace," Brussels
- 2017 "Walter Robinson," Inna Art Space, Hangzhou, China
"The Americans," Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz
"Romance," Galerie Bertrand, Geneva
- 2016 "Biology," Stems Gallery, Brussels
"Walter Robinson: A Retrospective," at Jeffrey Deitch, New York, September 2016
Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic, CT, September 2016
Jeff Bailey Gallery, Hudson, NY
"Charles Bukowski & Walter Robinson: There's a Bluebird in My Heart," Owen James Gallery, Brooklyn
- 2014-16 "Walter Robinson: Paintings and Other Indulgences," a retrospective at the University Galleries, Normal, Ill.; traveling in January 2016 to Moore College Galleries, Philadelphia; and Jeffrey Deitch, New York
- 2014 "Figure Studies," Lynch Tham, New York, May 2014
"Painkillers," Tops, Memphis
- 2013 "Indulgences," Dorian Grey Gallery, March 2013
- 2012 "Hello from New York," Firecat Projects, Chicago, December 2012
2008 Metro Pictures, New York
- 1998 Cabinet Gallery, London
- 1995 Tricia Collins Grand Salon, New York
- 1986 Metro Pictures, New York
Semaphore Gallery, New York
Wessel O'Connor, Rome
Zero One, Los Angeles
- 1985 Metro Pictures, New York (with Thomas Lawson)
Piezo Electric, New York
Zero One, Los Angeles
1984 Piezo Electric, New York
Semaphore Gallery, New York (with Duncan Hannah)
Metro Pictures, New York
1982 Metro Pictures, New York

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 "Facial Recognition," Fabien Frys Gallery, Dubai
"Luncheon on the Grass," Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles
- 2021 "If Tomorrow Comes," Bravin Lee, NY
"Friends and Family," Magenta Plains, NY
"Tasting Menu," Barns Art Center, Junction, NY
"Indoor Dining," Marinaro, NY
"In Good Taste," Dinner Gallery, NY
"Grouper," Broadway, NY
"Doomed and Famous," cur Adrian Dannatt, Miguel Abreu, NY
- 2020 "Sacred Vessel," Arsenal Contemporary, NY
"Maximalism," cur Alison Gingeras, South Etna, Montauk
"A la Carte," AEIVA, Birmingham, AL
- 2019 "Big Painting," cur Jonathan Travis, Patrick Parrish Gallery, NY
"Glenn O'Brien: Center Stage," cur Natacha Polaert, Off Paradise, NY
"Go Figure," cur Beth DeWoody, Firestone Gallery, East Hampton
"Chen Dongfan x Walter Robinson," Inna Art Space, NYC and Hangzhou, China
"The Other Glass," cur. John Drury, Heller Gallery, NYC
"Damn! The Defiant," Fredericks & Freiser, NYC
"Make Believe," cur. Bruce W. Ferguson, Magenta Plains, NYC
"Pretty Woman," Galerie Derouillon, Paris
- 2018 "Summer of Love," Freight & Volume, New York
"The Barn Show," cur. Johannes Vogt, Easthampton, New York
"Brand New: Art and Commodity in the 1980s," Hirshhorn Museum
- 2017 "All about Frank," the Old School, New York
"A Wall and a Clang," UNLV Galleries, Las Vegas
"Apropos l'Hiver," Bel Ami, Los Angeles
"American Genre," Maine College of Art, Portland
"Supreme Friction," Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
"Gnomon," Non-Objectif Sud, Tulette, France
"Summer Group Exhibition," Marlborough Contemporary
"Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts," American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York

WALTER ROBINSON ESCAPE TO ADVENTURE

- "Cake Hole," Mrs., Maspeth, Queens
 "Zeitgeist," MAMCO, Geneva
 2016 "Fast Forward: Painting from the 1980s," Whitney Museum
 "Desire," cur. Diana Widmaier Picasso, Moore Building, Miami
 "Zombie Formalism," Mitchell Alpus, NY, October 2016
 "Infotainment," Elizabeth Dee Gallery, NY, October 2016
 "Summer Show," Galerie Bertrand, Geneva
 "Hanging Paper," Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
 "New West," Molloy Gallery, NY, May 2016
 "Copy Paste," curated by Chris Bors, "SPRING/BREAK Art Show," New York
 "Don't Make a Scene," Kai Matsushima, New York
 "Hard Love," curated by Barry Blinderman, Jose Martos, New York
 2015 "Unrealism," curated by Jeffrey Deitch, Moore Building, Miami
 "Only 2.5 Hrs from GWB," curated by Pia Dehne, Hamden, New York, and Roxbury, New York
 "Sweet Smell of Success," curated by James and Enzo Shalom, New York Hilton Hotel
 "Viewer Discretion ... Children of Bataille," curated by Kathleen Cullen, Stux + Haller, New York
 "La femme de trente ans," curated by Caroline Soyez-Petithomme, art : concept Paris
 2014 "To Your Health! The Science, Culture & Art of the Cocktail," Everhart Museum, Scranton, Pennsylvania
 "Twenty by Sixteen," curated by Geoffrey Young, Morgan Lehman, New York "un(Scene) art fair," New York
 "SPRING/BREAK Art Show," Skylight at Moynihan Station, New York 2014 "Spring/Break," March 2014, New York
 "Bad Conscience," Metro Pictures, Jan 16-Feb 22, curated by John Miller
 2013 "Social Photography III," Carriage Trade, N.Y.
 "Peter Angemann, Walter Robinson: Plein Air - Hot Romance, Sept. 22-Nov. 4, 2013, Kunstmuehle, Muersbach, Germany, curated by Thomas Eller
 "404 E 14," Tibor de Nagy Gallery, June 20-Aug 2, 2013
 "All F*#king Summer," Gavlak Gallery, Palm Beach
 "Found and Lost," curated by Hope Sandrow, ArtSites, Riverhead, June 8-Aug 18
 2012 "Bad for You," curated by Beth Rudin deWoody, Shirazu Gallery, London "White Male Complex," cur by Thomas Eller, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Nov 3-24, 2012
 "Times Square Show Revisited," Hunter College Art Galleries, Sept. 14-Dec. 8
 "Claxon," curated by Walter Robinson, Haunch of Venison, New York
 "Ping-Pong Basel Miami," Projektraum M54, Basel, Switzerland
 "Data Trash," curated by Chris Dorland, I-20, New York
 "Desperately Seeking Susan: Art from the 1980s," Kathleen Cullen Fine Art
 "Loughelton Revisited," Winkleman Gallery, New York
 2011 "Social Photography," Carriage Trade, New York
 "Wit," curated by Glenn O'Brien, Paddle8
 "Art, Access & Decay: New York 1975-1985," curated by Peter Frank & Lisa Kahane, Subliminal Projects, L.A.
 2009 "Nincompatibles," Bowman Bloom, New York
 "Naked," Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York
 "Looking at Music: Side Two," Museum of Modern Art
 "Regift," Swiss Institute, New York
 "Images & (Re)presentations," Le Magasin, Grenoble
 2008 "Market Forces," Carriage Trade, New York (and traveling)
 2004 "East Village USA," New Museum of Contemporary Art
 "Stencil & Spray, ca. 1984," The Proposition, New York
 2003 "OnLine," Feigen Contemporary, New York
 "First Person," Gallery Schlesinger, New York
 "The Summer of Lust," Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, Mass.
 "Nip and Tuck," Artek Contemporaries, New York
 "After Matisse Picasso," P.S. 1, New York
 2002 "Something, Anything," Matthew Marks Gallery, New York
 "Transcendent and Unrepentant," Rosenwald Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts, Philadelphia
 2000-01 "Post-Hypnotic," touring show, Illinois State Galleries, Normal, Ill.
 2000 "Certain Things: Unlikely Treasures," Elsa Mott Ives Gallery, New York 1999
 "Mod!," Tricia Collins Contemporary Art, New York
 "Village Disco," Cabinet, London
 1998 "Pets," Bronwyn Keenan, New York
 1997 "Consumption," Printed Matter, New York
 1994 "Red," Barney's for Little Red Schoolhouse, New York

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

Collections

Museum of Modern Art
Whitney Museum
Devon Dikeou
Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Winston-Salem Hall Family Foundation
Nina and Frank Moore
Jeffrey and Maria Eugenides
Fabiola Beracusa
Michael and Sheila Rips
Tony Salame, Beirut

Selected Bibliography

- Alfred MacAdam, "Salad Candles & Money," Brooklyn Rail, Jan. 8, 2019
- Andrea Scott, "A Secret Exhibit," New Yorker, Mar. 14, 2018
- Nick Remsen, "A Fashion Guide to Miami Art Week," NYT, Dec. 1, 2017
- Emily Gosling, "The Artist Painting Pulp Fictions on Bedsheets," AnOther Magazine, Aug. 3, 2017
- Roberta Smith, "Painting from the 1980s, when Brash Met Flash," NYT, Feb. 9, 2017
- David Ebony, "Walter Robinson," Art in America, Dec. 13, 2016
- Phoebe Hoban, "American Pulp," Whitehot Magazine, October 2016
- Peter Schjeldahl, "A Man-About-Downtown Gets His Due," New Yorker, September 26, 2016
- Charlotte Burns, "I'm Just a Stupid Painter," The Guardian, September 17, 2016
- Amy Fusselman, "An Interview with Walter Robinson," Ohio Edit, September 2016
- Adam Gopnik, "A Morandi for our Time," Artnet News, May 3, 2016
- Barry Blinderman, ed., Walter Robinson, Paintings and Other Indulgences, 144 pp., University Galleries, Illinois State University, 2015

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Collin Sundt, "Wanting to Be Art," Artcritical, Mar. 2, 2016
Brian Boucher, "Walter Robinson at the Galleries at Moore,"
Artnet Magazine, Jan. 25, 2016
Michelle Grabner, "Walter Robinson, University Galleries,
Illinois State University, Artforum, Mar 2015
Sarah Schmerler, "Walter Robinson," Art in America, Oct 2014

Noelle Bodick, "Artist Walter Robinson on Painting Desire,"
Artspace Magazine, June 26, 2014
Stephanie Strasnick, "Walter Robinson," Artnews, Sept. 2014
Phong Bui, "Walter Robinson with Phong Bui," Brooklyn Rail,
Nov. 2014
Donald Kuspit, "Walter Robinson," Artforum, Summer 2013
Andrew Russeth, "Art Net: The Life and Times of Walter
Robinson," New York Observer, Jan 2012
Charlie Finch, The Unforbidden, Artnet Magazine, Nov. 10, 2009
Charlie Finch, "The Threat of Love," Artnet Magazine, Apr. 8,
2008
Jeanne Siegel, ed., Artwords 2: Discourse on the Early '80s,
1988
Ronald Jones, "Walter Robinson," C Magazine, Toronto, Dec. 1987
Carlo McCormick, "pOPTOMETRY," Artforum, Nov. 1985, pp. 87-91
Jeanne Silverthorne, "Walter Robinson, Metro Pictures,"
Artforum, Summer 1985, pp. 112
Regan Upshaw, "Walter Robinson at Sempahore," Art in America,
Feb. 1985
Joseph Masheck, Point 1, 1984, pp. 124-127
Brooks Adams, "Walter Robinson at Metro Pictures, Art in
America May 1982
Thomas Lawson, "Last Exit: Painting," Artforum, Oct. 1981
Jeffrey Deitch, "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, 1992-95
Art editor, East Village Eye, 1982-85
Editor, The Art Letter, 1978-82
Publisher and editor, Art-Rite magazine, 1973-78

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, 1993-99
Executive director, Collaborative Projects (COLAB), 1980