



**J e f f R o b i n s o n**

*Kansas City, MO*

**Artist Statement**

*I've been called a lot of things in my life but for this purpose I'm a representational painter.*

*I paint odes on objects, portraits of things.*

*I strive for verisimilitude not exactitude. My interest is re-interpreting an object and not replicating it.*

*My paintings are my way of assimilating the world around me. Common objects such as books, shoes and clouds are deconstructed in my head and reconstructed with my hands.*

*Composition and proportion play a large role in my work. It is just as important how an image sits on a page as what the image is.*

*I aim for originality. Discovering my own truths by building on previous discoveries, I count Thiebaud, Dine and Diebenkorn - among others - as my visual touchstones.*

*I love painting. It's about exploration and that's exciting. When it's going well it's alchemy in the studio, a magic act in pigments.*

*There's nothing quite so intoxicating to me as the sights and smells of my studio which is why it's the first place I go every morning and the last place I leave every night.*

*Jeff Robinson*

**Blue Gallery**

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 BlueGalleryOnline.com

# Jeff Robinson

Kansas City, MO

## Biography

Jeff Robinson (born 1959, Summit, NJ) enrolled in the Kansas City Art Institute in 1979 to study sculpture under the tutelage of Dale Eldred and Jim Leedy.

After the rigors of academia Robinson began to shift his focus from sculpture to painting. "The change in medium suited my temperament. Painting allowed me to get to ideas quicker." He stayed in Kansas City and partook of its burgeoning art scene at the Random Ranch and Left Bank galleries. From conventional subject matter - the figure - came unconventional work. *The Campfire Girls* series. "I liked to take things apart and put them back together again a little differently."

Completing a decade of work in Kansas City, Robinson was ready to move back east. In 1992 he was living in New York City and painting at a prodigious rate.

Figures took a backseat to Flags of his own invention and a growing personal iconography (e.g. key, horse, bridge, dog). The works were "adulations of symbols, odes on objects." Building up a canvas in layers of paint and then coaxing an image from this rich surface the work took on an almost sculptural quality. To add to the overt physicality, he would frequently cut and reassemble the canvas as he proceeded to its conclusion.

Within his first months New York, he began exhibiting at the Meisner/SoHo gallery and continued to show there over the next few years. In the mid-90's Robinson was taking part in the rebirth of art in New York by involving himself in several group shows around the city (e.g. GenArt and Oracle). He also began exhibiting in other galleries, including the project room of the Jason McCoy Gallery.

The design elements of the Flags informed a new series inspired by a childhood favorite, Spirograph. "Initially, I was exploring the subtleties of design but I got caught up in the sculptural possibilities of it. I made a large 12:1 scale Spirograph machine out of wood which I used it in the creation of the original *Spiro* series. It was important for me to go through the process of designing and making it if for no other reason than to bring me back to working three-dimensionally."

The Shirt drawings and paintings were born of this restlessness with subject and material. As always, inspiration comes from unexpected sources. The idea came to Robinson in NYC via a chance encounter with a friend who was on his way to Goodwill with a pile of clothes. Robinson saw "the shirt," was struck by its graphic quality, put it on - added the one he had been wearing to the pile - and wore it home. So began the series, *Same Shirt Different Day*.

In 1999 his love of literature and his proximity to the Strand Bookstore in Manhattan ("8 miles of Books") led to the next series, *Libris*.

Since 2010 Rooflines and Chairs have become areas of interest.

Jeff lives and works in the Roanoke neighborhood of Kansas City with his wife, author/illustrator Courtney Watkins and daughter Mary Charles.



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## Exhibitions

2018  
Blue Gallery: "Buttoned Down And Hardbound" Solo Show, KCMO

2017  
Blue Gallery: "Wonder Wall" Group Show, KCMO  
Heidmann Art Salon: "UNLACED" Solo Show, KCMO  
Main St. Gallery: "Artists of Roanoke" Group Show, KCMO  
Leedy-Voukos Art Center: Solo Show, KCMO  
Weinberger Fine Art: "Winter Collective" Group Show, KCMO

2016  
Albrecht-Kemper Museum: Recent Acquisitions, St. Joseph, MO  
Weinberger Fine Art: "Summer Collective" Group Show, KCMO

2015  
Self-Presented: Solo Show, Los Angeles, CA

2013  
Chase Edwards Gallery: Group Show, Bridgehampton, NY

2012  
Skidmore Contemporary Art: Summer Group Show, Los Angeles, CA

2011  
Aberson Exhibits: Group Show, Tulsa, OK

2009  
Kopeikin Gallery: Group Show, Los Angeles, CA

2008  
W Hotel Gallery: "New Work" Solo Show, Westwood, CA

2007  
Maude Carrin Gallery: "Spiro Series" Solo Show, Los Angeles, CA

2006  
LulaMac: "Same Shirt, Different Day" Solo Show, KCMO  
Desiron: "Spiro Series" Solo Show, Los Angeles, CA

2005  
Notus Arts: "Spirograph Paintings" Solo Show, NYNY

2004  
W Hotel Gallery: "Spirograph Paintings" Solo Show, Los Angeles, CA

2003  
Clifford Gallery: "Spirograph" Solo Show, Los Angeles, CA

1999  
Jason McCoy Gallery: Project Room, NYNY  
Primus Studios: "Summer Group", Group Show, NYNY

1998  
734 Broadway: Solo Show, New York  
Primal Light: "Emerging Artists" Group Show, NYNY  
Rogues Gallery: Group Show, NYNY

1997  
White Columns: Group Show, NYNY  
Gen Art: "Art Market" Group Show, NYNY  
Primus Studios: "Oracle" Group Show, NYNY

1996  
Danette Koke Fine Art: Solo Show, NYNY  
Gruen Galleries: "3 Painters" Group Show, Chicago, IL  
Primus Studios: Group Show, New York

1995  
Ramscale Art: "Bridges" Solo Show, NYNY  
Meisner/SoHo: "Gallery Artists" Group Show, NYNY  
Gruen Galleries: "Figures" Group Show, Chicago, IL

1994  
Gruen Galleries: "Spring" Group Show, Chicago, IL  
Meisner/SoHo: "Egg Art" Group Show, NYNY  
Danette Koke Fine Art: Group Show, NYNY

1993  
Lehman-Sitcoske: "Gallery Artists" Group Show, NYNY  
Gruen Galleries: Group Show, Chicago, IL

1992  
415 Delaware: "Twin Gods" Two Man Show, KCMO

1991  
Left Bank Gallery: "Four Minor Deities" Group Show, KCMO

## Corporate Collections Include

Albrecht-Kemper Museum  
American General Insurance  
Kansas University Medical Center  
New York Times  
Nike Corporation  
St. Regis Hotels  
Time Warner  
Twentieth Century Investments

## Private Collectors

Brooke Dillman, Actress Wrecked, LA  
Christopher Nolan (director/writer Inception, Batman Returns)  
Davey Holmes, Writer/Producer Get Shorty, LA  
David Epstein, Owner Tom's Town, KCMO  
Dean Devlin (writer/producer Independence Day)  
Elizabeth Haw  
Fred Nelson (President People's Choice, NYC)  
James Deck  
Jason McCoy, Owner McCoy Gallery, NYC  
Jess Cagle, Editor-in-Chief People Magazine/EW, NYC  
Julia Morris (actress, AUS)  
Julie Bowen (actress, Modern Family)  
Kate Walsh (actress Grey's Anatomy)  
Kelly Wearstler (Wearstler Design, LA)  
Mary Curt Watkins  
Mike O'Malley (writer/producer Survivors' Remorse)  
Molly Luetkemeyer, Designer M. Design, LA  
Nancy Miller, Writer  
Seth Gottlieb  
Sonya Walger (actress Lost, Scandal)  
Stephen Brown (Producer, The Wire, LA)  
Steven Levy, Agent/Producer, LA  
Tuc Watkins (actor Boys in the Band, NYC)

# Jeff Robinson

*Kansas City, MO*

## *Publications*

Blue Print  
California Home & Design  
Dwell  
Harpers Bazaar  
House & Garden  
House Beautiful  
LA Times  
O at Home  
Rolling Stones  
Time  
Vogue

## *Other*

Cher album cover  
Lisa Loeb music video set  
Badgley Mischka Fashion Week set

