

Chico MacMurtrie / Amorphic Robot Works

Curriculum Vitae

1961 Deming, NM
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

Education

1980-1983 B.F.A. University of Arizona, Tucson
1983-1987 M.F.A., University of California, Los Angeles, UCLA (New Forms and Concepts)

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017 *Pneuma Fountain*, Kremsmuenster Monastery, Austria (June 14 - October 15)
2016 *Pneuma World*, retrospective exhibition of the *Inflatable Architectural Bodies* series, Muffathalle, Munich, Germany (cat.)
Border Crosser, temporary public art installation, presented by ZERO1, City Hall Plaza, San José, CA
2015 *Biomorphic Wall / Border Crosser*, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY
2013 – (ongoing) *The Robotic Church*, a site-specific installation and public performance series at the ARW studio in Brooklyn, NY
2013 *Chrysalis*, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY
Chrysalis, MOCA, Tucson, AZ
2012 *Inflatable Robotic Arts in Canada*, Video Pool Media Arts Center, Winnipeg, Canada
Organograph: exhibition of the winning model of the Climate Clock International competition, City Hall San Jose, CA
2011 *Birds, Inner Space, Biomorphic Wall*, Beall Center for Art + Technology, Irvine, CA
Birds, Richard L. Nelson Gallery / UC Davis, CA
2010 *Sixteen Birds*, Project Space Muffatwerk, Munich, Germany
Inflatable Architectural Body Inner Space, National Gallery of Macedonia, Čifte Amam, curated by Melentie Pandilovski, Skopje, Macedonia
2009 *Birds and Inflatable Architectural Body*, Wood Street Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
2007 *The Floating Tree: A Condominium for Birds*, temporary public art installation, Anable Basin, East River, New York, NY
Inflatable Architectural Bodies, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
Totemobile, commissioned by PSA Citroën, C42 showroom, Champs-Élysées, Paris, France
Birds, MU Artspace, Eindhoven, Holland
2006 *Birds*, commissioned by the Australian Experimental Art Foundation (AEAF), Adelaide, Australia
2005 *Too Big Dog Monkey, Cave of the Subconscious and YoYo Berimbau*
Wood Street Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
Forest of Totem Poles, The Columbus Museum of Art and Design, Columbus, IN
2004 *The Amorphic Evolution, 1987-2004*, (retrospective exhibition; cat) curated by Richard Castelli, Tri Postal, Lille, European Cultural Capital 2004, France
Fetus to Man, public art, commissioned by the City of Lille, European Cultural Capital, France
2003 *Growing Raining Tree*, three-year installation at The Center for Contemporary Art's

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- UN-Museum, Cincinnati, OH
- 2001 *The Seduction of the Bird Girl*, Exit Art Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 *Urge to Stand*, public art commission, Yerba Buena Center San Francisco, CA
- 1997 *Growing into your Cultural Skin: The Cave of the Subconscious*, Galeria de la Raza, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 The Dog Monkey with the Zaccho Dance Theater, Theater Artaud, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 *Trigram: A Robotic Opera* (with Bruce Darby), Theater Artaud, San Francisco, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Creature Digitali*, curated by Montxo Algora/ArtFutura, Ex Dogana, Rome (April 28 - September 10)
The New Inflatable Moment, curated by Mary E. Hale AIA and Katarzyna Balug, BSA Space, Boston, MA (May 3 - September 3)
Mundos Alternos: Art and Science Fiction in the Americas, curated by Tyler Stallings, Joanna Szupinska-Myers, and Robb Hernández, University of California Riverside (UCR), Riverside, CA as part of Pacific Standard Time LA/LA (September 2017 – March 2018) ; (cat.)
- 2015 *Nearly Human*, curated by Jasia Reichardt, Laznia Center for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, Poland ; (cat.)
- 2014 *Thing World*, New Media Arts Triennial, curated by Zhang GA, NAMOC, Beijing, China ; (cat.)
Alive / Eveil, curated by Sylvie Parent, Sesc Santana, Sao Paulo, Brazil ; (cat.)
Art Robotique, curated by Richard Castelli, Cite des Science et de l'Industrie, Paris, France ; (cat.)
- 2013 *The Wizard's Chamber*, Kunsthalle Winthertur, Switzerland
Kinesthetics: Art Imitating Life, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, NY ; (cat.)
- 2012 *Reactivation*, 9th Shanghai Biennial, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China ; (cat.)
Art and Artificial Life: Vida 1999-2012, Espacio Fundacion Telefonica, Madrid, Spain ; (cat.)
- 2011 *Transformer*, Le 360, curated by Richard Castelli, Bethune Cultural Capital 2011, France, (cat.)
Today's Art Festival, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 2010 ZER01 Biennial, curated by Steve Dietz, San José, CA
Inflatable Architectural Growth, temporary public art installation, SF Fine Art Fair, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *Inflatable Architectural Growth*, temporary public art installation, commissioned by
E-Arts Beyond, curated by ZHANG Ga, Pearl TV Tower Shanghai; (cat.)
Petit Mal, curated by Alejandra Labastida, MUAC, Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporanea, Mexico City, Mexico; (cat.)
- 2008 *Synthetic Times*, New Media Triennial, NAMOC, Beijing; (cat.)
Machines and Souls, Museo de la Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; (cat.)
- 2007 *Feedback*, curated by Christiane Paul, Laboral, Gihon, Spain; (cat.)
- 2005 *Ten New Horny Kids*, temporary public art installation, Art Los Angeles Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN
Elektrische Stadt Festival, Dresden, Germany
- 2003 *Personal Space*, Gigantic Art Space (GAS), New York, NY

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- Machine Visions*, Harvestworks, New York, NY
ArtBots, Eyebeam Atelier, New York, NY
Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival, Lincoln Center, New York, NY
2002 *NÖ Donaufestival*, Krems, Austria
Brooklyn Waterfront Festival, Brooklyn, NY
Digital Crossover, Muffathalle, Munich, Germany
Biennial Exhibition: *The S-Files*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
2001 VIDA LIFE 4.0 Awards Exhibition, Fundación Telefónica, Madrid, Spain
Maribor Computer Arts Festival, Maribor, Slovenia
2000 *Sonic Boom*, curated by David Toop, Hayward Gallery, London, UK (cat.)
Skeletal Reflections, EXPO2000 World Fair, Hanover, Germany
The Ancestral Path through the Amorphic Landscape, Nottingham: NOW Festival,
Co-commissioned by NOW and Muffathalle Munich, Germany
1999 *Klangart Festival*, Osnabruck, Germany
KornHaus, Bern, Switzerland
Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival, Lincoln Center, New York, NY
1997 *Bay Area Now: A Regional Survey of Contemporary Art*, curated by Renny Pritiken,
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, 1997
Arte e Tecnologia, curated by Vitoria Daniela Bousso, Instituto Cultural Itau, Sao
Paulo, Brazil; Forum Telecom, Lisbon, Portugal (cat.)
V2 Festival, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Museum of Innovation, San Jose, CA
The Bay Area Discovery Museum San Francisco, CA
1996 *Art Futura*, Madrid, Spain
Tacheles Theater, Berlin, Germany
Rearview Mirror to Reality Festival, Linz, Austria
Muffathalle, Munich, Germany
Sound Culture Festival, The Lab, San Francisco, CA
1994 *Automata 1994*, Mie, Japan
1993 *ArtTec*, Nagoya, Japan

Commissions

- 2017 Public Art Commission: *Peuma Fountain*, Kremsmuenster Monastery, Austria
2016 Public Art Commission: *Border Crosser*, City Hall Plaza, San Jose, CA
2014 *Organic Arches*, co-produced with SESC SP, Automatica and Molior. Presented at
SESC in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
2012 Public Art Competition: *Organograph*, a Climate Clock for the City of San Jose (in
collaboration with Geo Homsy and Bill Washabaugh).
2009 *Inflatable Architectural Growth*, commissioned by eArts Beyond International
Exhibition, Shanghai
2007 *Totemobile*, commissioned by PSA Citroën, Paris
2005 *Floating Tree*, A Tree for Anable Basin, commission by A Place in History, presented
in the East River, Long Island City, NY
2003 Public Art Commission: *Growing, Raining Tree*, Contemporary Arts Center,
Cincinnati, OH
2002 Public Art Commission: *Fetus to Man*, Lille Cultural Capital 2004, France
1999 Public Art Commission: *Urge to Stand*, San Francisco, CA

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Grants/Awards/Fellowships

- 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fine Arts, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
- 2012 Climate Clock Initiative Award for *Organograph*, a proposed kinetic public sculpture, by Geo Homsy, Chico MacMurtrie, Bill Washabaugh for the City of San Jose, CA
- 2010 CEC Artslink award for the "Amorphic Robot Works in the Balkans" project workshop and exhibition of Inflatable Architecture Inner Space, Skopje, Macedonia
- 2009 New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship (Digital/Electronic Arts)
- 2008 Third prize in Hybrid Art, VIDA Life 11.0, Art & Artificial Life International Competition, for *Interactive Birds*
- 2007 Honorable Mention in Interactive Art, Prix Ars Electronica, for *Totemobile*
Rockefeller Foundation Media Arts Fellowship
- 2005 Winning Entry and Grant Recipient, Long Island City in Context, for Floating Tree, A Tree for Anable Basin
- 2003 Artist's Fellowship, Computer Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)
Individual Project Grant, Daniel Langlois Foundation, for Skeletal Reflections
San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award, "Best of the Bay", for the public sculpture Urge to Stand
- 2002 Daniel Langlois Foundation, Individual Project Grant for Skeletal Reflections
New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Grant
- 2001 Honorary Mention, VIDA Life 4.0, Art & Artificial Life International Competition for Skeletal Reflections
- 2000 Honorary Research Fellow of Trent University in Nottingham, England for the production of The Amorphic Landscape
- 1999 Lannan Foundation Grant (via Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco) for the production of The Cave of the Subconscious
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. Grant (via Galeria de la Raza in San Francisco) for the production of The Cave of the Subconscious
- 1997 California Arts Council Fellowship - Performance Art
Eureka Fellowship - Fleischhacker Foundation
- 1996 Art Matters Grant
- 1995 National Endowment for the Arts - New Genres
- 1993 National Endowment for the Arts - Collaborative Grant
- 1991 ARS Electronica - Distinction in Interactive Arts
National Endowment for the Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts
Prix Ars Electronica, Distinction for Interactive Art for Tumbling Man
Arts International grant, Eastern European Tour of The Ancestral Path
- 1990 ARS Electronica - Honorable Mention in Interactive Arts
National Endowment for the Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts
San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts
- 1988 National Endowment for the Arts - Interdisciplinary Arts

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Selected Press

- 2016 Emory, Sami. "Robotic Sculptures Will Cross the U.S.-Mexico Border", [The Creators Project](#). February, 6, 2016.
Pizarro, Sal. "San Jose City Hall art piece reflects on meaning of borders", San José Mercury News. January, 31, 2016.
- 2015 Fallon, Claire. "These Creepy-Cool Robot Sculptures Will Take You to Church". [The Huffington Post](#).
Emory, Sami. "[A Lifelike 'Biomorphic Wall' Grows In Brooklyn](#)". The Creators Project.
Del Signore, John. "Worship Humanity's New Gods At Red Hook's Robotic Church". Gothamist.
Ronner, Abby. "[A Robotic Church Rises in Red Hook](#)". The Creators Project.
- 2014 "Robots and Artificial Intelligence". WNYC Science Fair. New York Public Radio / The Green Space
Brunet, Elena. "Les robots transformers existent! La preuve en video!" Le Nouvel Observateur.
Lechner, Marie. "Invasion de Transformarts a la Cite." Liberation.
Garcia, Viktor. "Quand la robotique sert l'art: l'expo a voir de la Cite des sciences." L'Express.
- 2013 Moore, Madison Alexander. "[Chico MacMurtrie's Robot Orchestra Lands in Red Hook](#)." The Creators Project.
Preston, Benjamin. "From Welded Worshipers, a Joyful Pneumatic Noise: Chico MacMurtrie's Robot Musicians Perform in Brooklyn." [The New York Times](#).
Meier, Allison. "A Colossal Inflatable Robot Opens Its Arms Into a Portal." Hyperallergic
Tan, Dion. "Video: Chico MacMurtrie Powers a 'Robotic Church.'" [Artinfo](#).
- 2012 Roberta Bosco. "Un enorme reloj robótico vigilará el cambio climático desde California". El Pais
- 2007 Lee, Jennifer. "Condos With Water Views, for the Birds." [New York Times](#).

Publications / Exhibition Catalogs (Selection)

- 2016 Chico MacMurtrie, "Into the Softmachine". "Art & Robotics – Exploring an Unlikely Symbiosis"; Series Title: Cognitive Science and Technology; Damith Herath, Christian Kroos and Stelarc; Springer Editions.
- 2014 "Art Robotique". *Cite Des Sciences et de L'industrie*, Paris.
Sylvie Parent. "Eveil/Alive", SESC SP, Sao Paulo.
"ThingWorld". International New Media Triennial, NAMOC, Beijing.
- 2012 "Reactivation". 9th Shanghai Biennial. Power Station of Art. Shanghai.
- 2008 Di'an, Fan and Ga, Zhang, ed. "Synthetic Times: Media Art China." MIT Press and National Art Museum of China.
Algora, Montxo. "Maquinas y Almas / Machines and Souls". Museo de la Reina Sofia. Madrid.
- 2007 Dixon, Steve ; Smith, Barry. Digital performance : a history of new media in theatre, dance, performance art, and installation. Cambridge : MIT Press,

Teaching

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2011 *Interactive Sculpture*, Parsons / New School, New York
2009 *Interactive Sculpture*, Parsons / New School, New York
1995-99 *Robotic Sculpture*, San Francisco State University, San Francisco
1994 Teaching Artist in Residency, Chicago Art Institute, Chicago
1985-87 Assistant instructor to Paul McCarthy, Nancy Rubens and Charles Ray, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Selected Lectures / Panel discussions (Selection)

2016 "Immigration: Art/Critique/Process", Thursday, March 17, 2016 to Friday, March 18
2015 "Revising the Past, Remaking the Future". Two-Day conference at the Culver Center at UCR ARTSblock. October 16-17.
2013 Lecture at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
2011 Lecture at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA; NYU, New York, NY, UC Davis; UC Irvine, CA