

David Robinson
The Conditional Figure
June 19 – July 21



Chair, 2009



Dead Reckoning, 2012

Sculptor David Robinson has been a force in the Canadian art scene for the last 25 years. Based in Vancouver, he is known for his conceptually and physically complex works that are outstanding contemporary examples of a type of humanist realism that engages with fundamental, often spiritual questions of the experience and meaning of being. His sculptures do this through a few central premises; the universal human, our interaction with the physical world and the exploration of metaphysical ideas and their expression in form.

This exhibition presents large-scale sculptural works that consider the figure as a conditional entity, existing in a dynamic, rather than a static state. Figures are split and penetrated, surfaces are textured and rough. The idea of the unassailable body, strong, solid and resolute, is brought into question, bringing forward the view of ourselves as systems in flux, constantly changing and evolving in time and space. In some works, the figures themselves retain a solidity of form, and it is their extended bodies – boats, planes, wings, ladders etc. – that suggest the fragile nature of both structures and beliefs in which we wrap ourselves.

His works are created with virtuoso skill and an experts' understanding of materials and form. There is always a search for balance, strength and perseverance in Robinsons' art, demonstrated through expressive gesture and figurative interaction with architectural elements. These elements function as references to the history of sculpture itself and conceptually as physical manifestations of obstacles, doubts and crises that constantly try to upend, dislodge and obstruct us as we navigate through our lives.

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