

Devening Projects

NATHANIEL ROBINSON

Rooms with Rooms and Games

November 17 - December 21, 2024

Devening Projects

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Devening Projects is proud to present Rooms with Rooms and Games, Nathaniel Robinson's fifth solo show at the gallery. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artist on Sunday, November 17th from 3 - 5pm. The exhibition will continue then until December 21st.

Rooms and Games

It is hard to know what to think.

There is such a thing as existing and experiencing existence. And there is the world which goes its own way heedlessly. Whether these are actually contradictory, I'm not sure. But it does confront me as puzzling, and as a stumbling block.

The figure feels the water flowing from the faucet, or feels for water which will not flow, or waits for the feeling of flowing water. The figures felt like a risk, which was good. They are acting within models, scenarios constructed like stage sets for perspicuous viewing from the outside. They are parts of a demonstration demonstrating experiences.

What this is for, and who this is for, is not clear to me. So it is difficult to know what to say about it. This is despite the fact that, from my own perspective, these current objects come from a direct, even crude and ruthless, way of making them mean what they mean.

Not knowing who or what this was for was an opportunity. This is possibly a reflection, or a case, of the opportunities present in this moment broadly, in a moment when the future has seemingly been removed and replaced with mere consequences.

When I call something something (like calling something a game), I mean that it is that and also that it isn't that.

Call the whole game an elaboration on the semipermeable membrane, the primordial selective separation from the environment. Or rather, not to presuppose environment and self, the division of one reality into two environments, one surrounding the other, and the maintenance of that distinction. Not a simple distinction, but a distinction conditioned on connection conditioned on separation. You know what I mean. So it is a game with rooms. With a slight jolt I notice that, while looking up from the keyboard and thinking out my next words, I have been watching moths searching for openings in the nighttime window screen.

— Nathaniel Robinson, October 2024

Nathaniel Robinson has had solo exhibitions at venues including Feature, Inc. and Magenta Plains in New York; Devening Projects and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago; Thomas Park in Seoul; Twig Gallery, Brussels; and Northwestern College, St Paul. He has participated in group exhibitions at On Stellar Rays, 33 Orchard, Martos Gallery, and White Columns in New York; Devening Projects, Heaven Gallery and Adds Donna in Chicago; the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College; as well as in Brussels, Dusseldorf, Leipzig, Melbourne, and Istanbul. In 2015 he was a recipient of the Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant. In 2019 his work was included in the Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts at the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York. In 2022 he constructed an empty space with the aid of a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. Often he has wondered if he has lived a skeleton's life as a questioner of reality. His exhibitions have been reviewed in The New York Times, New York Magazine, Artforum, Art in America, Hyperallergic, Modern Painters, The L Magazine, New City, and Art Ltd. Robinson lives and works in Brewster, New York. Born 1980, Cranston, RI; BA Amherst College, 2002; MFA The School of the Art Institute of Chicago 2005.





Game with Rubble, 2024; unidentified softwood, plywood, polyurethane foam cushioning; concrete, stone, brick, bread, and a variety of small objects; PVA wood glue, mounting cleats and screws; 2.625 x 16 x 13.5 inches; mounted with top edge 18.5 inches from the floor.

2.



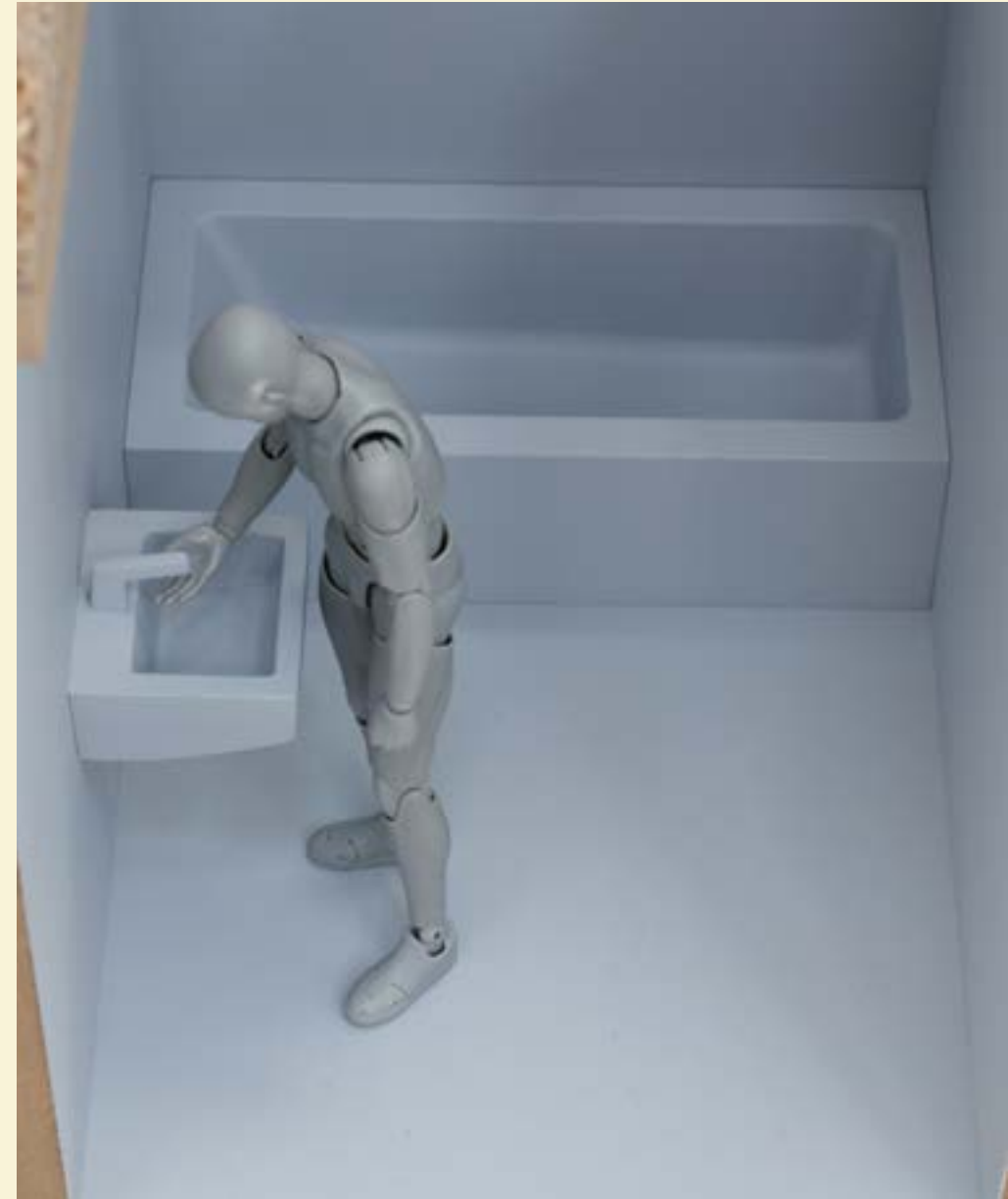
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3.



Room with Figure and Faucet, 2024; medium density fiberboard, particle board, douglas fir, Bandai-Namco S.H.Figurearts body-kun, wooden dowels, steel pins, screws, PVA wood glue, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, tulip poplar; 14.5 x 15 x 13.625 inches including bracket, mounted with top edge of bracket 40.25 inches from the floor.

4.



Room with Figure and Faucet, 2024; medium density fiberboard, particle board, douglas fir, Bandai-Namco S.H.Figurearts body-kun, wooden dowels, steel pins, screws, PVA wood glue, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, tulip poplar; 14.5 x 15 x 13.625 inches including bracket, mounted with top edge of bracket 40.25 inches from the floor.

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Room with Chairs, Table, Town, and Crumb, 2024; medium density fiberboard, plywood, glass mirror, salvaged award plaque, tinted PVA wood glue, basswood, bread treated with polyurethane varnish, cyanoacrylate glue, aluminum mounting cleats, drywall screws, paint; 16 x 14.5 x 10.75 inches. Mounted with top edge 36 inches from the floor.

8.



Room with Chairs, Table, Town, and Crumb, 2024; medium density fiberboard, plywood, glass mirror, salvaged award plaque, tinted PVA wood glue, basswood, bread treated with polyurethane varnish, cyanoacrylate glue, aluminum mounting cleats, drywall screws, paint; 16 x 14.5 x 10.75 inches. Mounted with top edge 36 inches from the floor.

9.



Room with Chairs, Table, Town, and Crumb, 2024; medium density fiberboard, plywood, glass mirror, salvaged award plaque, tinted PVA wood glue, basswood, bread treated with polyurethane varnish, cyanoacrylate glue, aluminum mounting cleats, drywall screws, paint; 16 x 14.5 x 10.75 inches. Mounted with top edge 36 inches from the floor.



Stairs with Figure, 2024; plywood, medium density fiberboard, steel, aluminum, Bandai-Namco S.H. Figurearts body-kun, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, PVA wood glue, cyanoacrylate glue, wooden dowels, drywall screws; 26.5 x 27.5 x 5.75 including mounting plates.
Mount with uppermost screw at 35.25 inches from floor.



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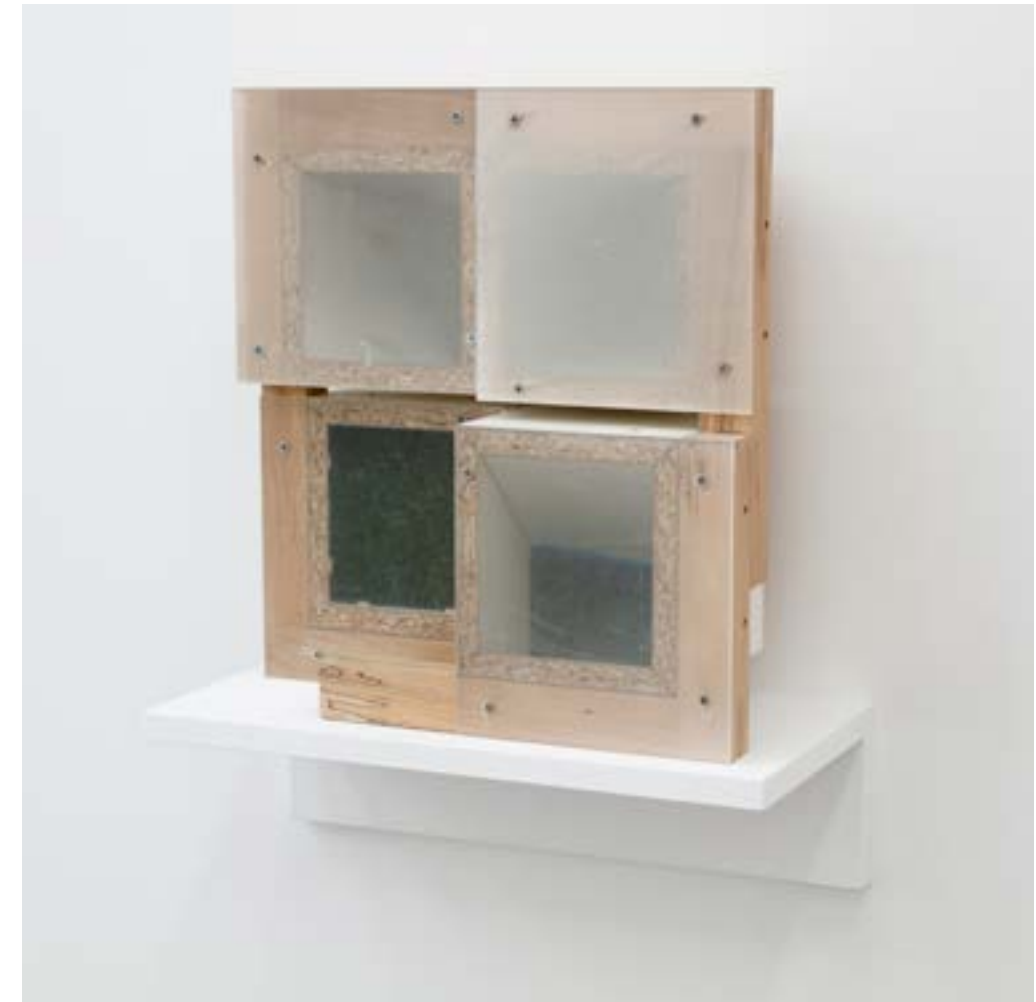


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Game with Lenses and Grass, 2024; spalted maple, paper-faced particle board, sections of polycarbonate Fresnel lenses, plywood, screws, artificial grass, paint, PVA wood glue, water-based polyurethane varnish; 22 x 16.75 x 8.25 inches including shelf; mounted with top edge of shelf 48 inches from the floor.

16.

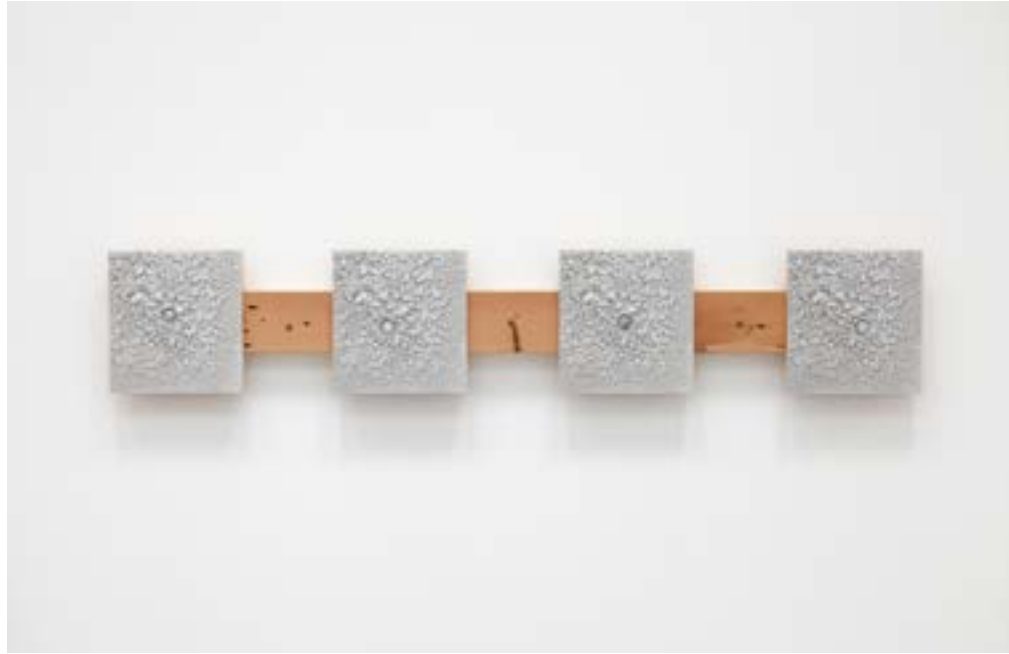


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17.



Game with Lenses and Grass, 2024; spalted maple, paper-faced particle board, sections of polycarbonate Fresnel lenses, plywood, screws, artificial grass, paint, PVA wood glue, water-based polyurethane varnish; 22 x 16.75 x 8.25 inches including shelf; mounted with top edge of shelf 48 inches from the floor.



Game with Grounds and Bolts, 2024; reclaimed softwood construction lumber, pigmented polyurethane casting resin, plywood, PVA wood glue, polyurethane glue, steel bolts, washers, nuts, #10 framing screws, water-based polyurethane varnish, graphite; 7.5 x 46.5 x 2 inches, mounted with upper edge 60.75 from the floor.



Room with Large Paintings, 2024; plywood, oil-based primer, oil-based enamel paint, pneumatic brad nails, wood filler, polycarbonate sheet, mirrored glass, galvanized carriage bolts, paper shim, steel mending plate, drywall screw, stainless steel screws, cyanoacrylate glue, PVA wood glue; sections of paper currency, security envelope, MTA Metrocard, exhibition announcements, business card, and food packaging; 17 x 14.375 x 20 inches; top of bracket 45.5 inches from the floor.



Room with Large Paintings, 2024; plywood, oil-based primer, oil-based enamel paint, pneumatic brad nails, wood filler, polycarbonate sheet, mirrored glass, galvanized carriage bolts, paper shim, steel mending plate, drywall screw, stainless steel screws, cyanoacrylate glue, PVA wood glue; sections of paper currency, security envelope, MTA Metrocard, exhibition announcements, business card, and food packaging; 17 x 14.375 x 20 inches; top of bracket 45.5 inches from the floor.



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Room with Figure and Clock, 2024; medium density fiberboard, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, Bandai-Namco S.H.Figurearts body-kun, clock, douglas fir, screws, bamboo dowels, PVA wood glue, cyanoacrylate glue; 23 x 21.5 x 9.25 inches including bracket,





Room with Figure and Clock, 2024; medium density fiberboard, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, Bandai-Namco S.H. Figurearts body-kun, clock, douglas fir, screws, bamboo dowels, PVA wood glue, cyanoacrylate glue; 23 x 21.5 x 9.25 inches including bracket,



Room with Figure and Clock, 2024; medium density fiberboard, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, Bandai-Namco S.H. Figurearts body-kun, clock, douglas fir, screws, bamboo dowels, PVA wood glue, cyanoacrylate glue; 23 x 21.5 x 9.25 inches including bracket,



Room with Closet and Droppings, 2024; plywood, medium density fiberboard, douglas fir, mirrored glass, tinted polyurethane casting resin, polyethylene foam, PVA wood glue, cyanoacrylate glue, epoxy, water-based polyurethane varnish, paint, #10 framing screws, drywall screws, wooden dowels; 15.5 x 13.75 x 11 inches including bracket; mounted with top edge of bracket 49 inches from the floor



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Room with Curtain and Filter, 2024; melamine-faced particle board, air filter, mirrored glass, polyethylene sheeting, tulip poplar, PVA wood glue, drywall screws, aluminum wall cleats; 10 x 19 x 11.25 inches, mounted with top edge 64.75 inches from the floor.

34.



Room with Curtain and Filter, 2024; melamine-faced particle board, air filter, mirrored glass, polyethylene sheeting, tulip poplar, PVA wood glue, drywall screws, aluminum wall cleats; 10 x 19 x 11.25 inches, mounted with top edge 64.75 inches from the floor.

35.



Room with Curtain and Filter, 2024; melamine-faced particle board, air filter, mirrored glass, polyethylene sheeting, tulip poplar, PVA wood glue, drywall screws, aluminum wall cleats; 10 x 19 x 11.25 inches, mounted with top edge 64.75 inches from the floor.



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Room with Crater, 2024; pine, charred pine, douglas fir, chalk, plywood, shellac, PVA wood glue, steel mounting bracket, drywall screw; 9.75 x 22 x 22 inches including bracket, mounted with top of bracket 36 inches from the floor.

38.



Room with Crater, 2024; pine, charred pine, douglas fir, chalk, plywood, shellac, PVA wood glue, steel mounting bracket, drywall screw; 9.75 x 22 x 22 inches including bracket, mounted with top of bracket 36 inches from the floor.

39.



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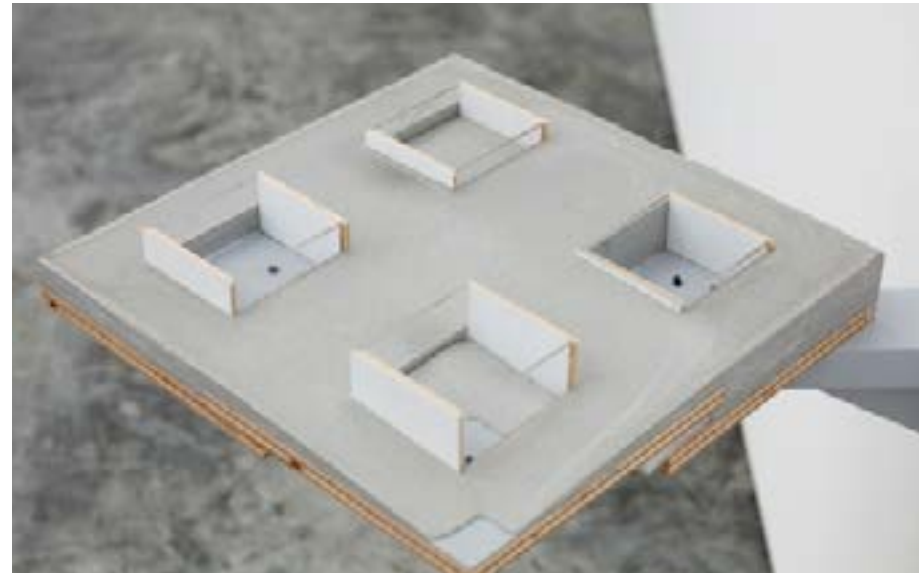
Room with Painted Walls and Ceiling, 2024; plywood, PVA wood glue, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, aluminum wall cleats; 8.75 x 17.5 x 9 inches, mounted with top edge 48.75 inches from the floor

42.



Room with Painted Walls and Ceiling, 2024; plywood, PVA wood glue, paint, water-based polyurethane varnish, aluminum wall cleats; 8.75 x 17.5 x 9 inches, mounted with top edge 48.75 inches from the floor

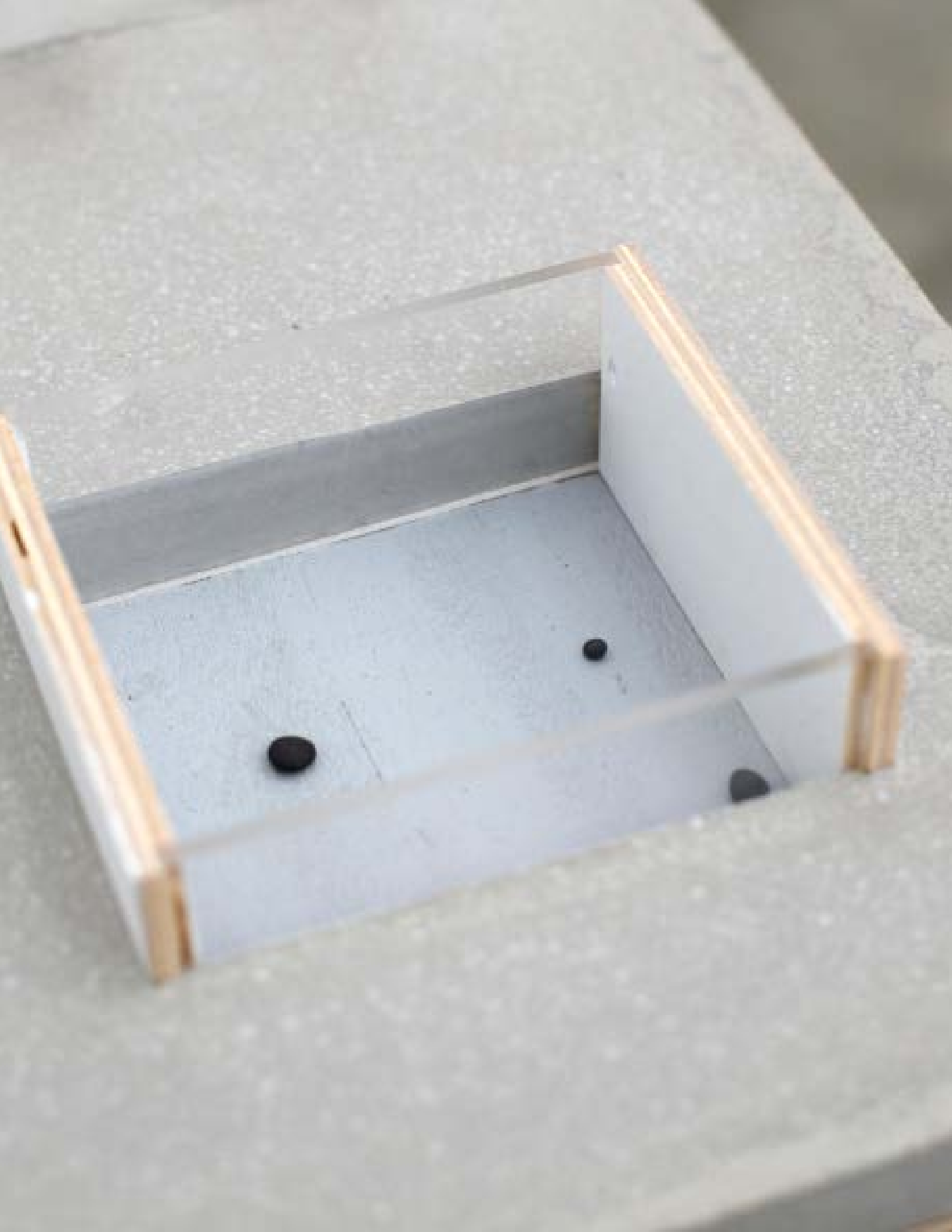
43.



Game with Three Stones, 2024; t-111 plywood siding, plywood underlayment, clear sheet acrylic, douglas fir, tinted acrylic primer, polyurethane varnish, self-leveling cement, PVA wood glue, paint, cyanoacrylate glue, screws, tinted polyurethane casting resin; 7 x 23.5 x 27 inches including bracket; mounted with top of bracket 30 inches from the floor.



Game with Three Stones, 2024; t-111 plywood siding, plywood underlayment, clear sheet acrylic, douglas fir, tinted acrylic primer, polyurethane varnish, self-leveling cement, PVA wood glue, paint, cyanoacrylate glue, screws, tinted polyurethane casting resin; 7 x 23.5 x 27 inches including bracket; mounted with top of bracket 30 inches from the floor.



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NATHANIEL ROBINSON

Born 1980, Rhode Island; lives and works in Brewster, New York
nathaniel-robinson.com

Education

2005 MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2002 BA, summa cum laude, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

Solo Exhibitions

2022 Res Nullius, Thomas Park, Seoul, Korea
2021 2020 to 2021, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
2019 Paintings, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
2018 No One's Things, Magenta Plains, New York, NY
2015 Discrete Pieces, Launch F18, New York, NY
2013 Outer Air, Feature Inc., New York
The Sensible Range, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
2010 De Facto, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
Civil Twilight, Feature Inc., New York, NY
Civil Twilight, TWIG, Brussels, BE
2008 Pseudorandom, Denler Gallery, Northwestern College, St. Paul, MN
Wash, Gift Shop Project Space, Chicago, IL
2005 12 x 12 series: Nathaniel Robinson, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

Group Exhibitions

2024 A Net for String, Mother in collaboration with The Sphynx, Beacon, NY
2023 The Still Center of Life, Thomas Park, Seoul, Korea
2020 MPSTN, Fox River Grove, IL
Energy In All Directions, The Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Independent NY, Magenta Plains, New York, NY
2019 Rival Exchange, ADDS DONNA, Chicago, IL
Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts & Letters, New York, NY
ZENTRIFIED! Curated by Ken Johnson, Thomas Park Gallery, New York, NY
2015 Chrome Green curated by James Kao and Laura Mackin, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
The Now Forever, Basilica, Hudson, NY
2014 Let's Go Let Go: In Memoriam Hudson, 33 Orchard, New York, NY
2013 No Name, On Stellar Rays, New York, NY
Green Flower Street, Tatiana Kourochkina Gallery, Istanbul, TU
2012 Punt, Feature Inc., New York, NY
Upstream, Video Art Program, NADA Hudson, Hudson, NY
Creature from the Blue Lagoon, Martos Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY
I Surrender, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
If Loss Could Weigh, TCB art inc., Melbourne, AU
Color: Fully Engaged, A+D Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
I Am Not Monogamous, I Heart Poetry, Feature Inc., New York, NY
We Regret to Inform You There Is Currently No Space or Place for Abstract Painting, Martos
2010 Quarterly Site #4: Registers, LVL3, Chicago, IL
Gravity Matters and Shadowy Folds, dok25a, Dusseldorf, DE
Looking Back: The Fifth White Columns Annual, White Columns, New York, NY
2009 Skulture, Feature Inc., New York, NY
Little Triggers, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
All My Friends are Dead, Maerzgalerie, Leipzig, DE

2008 Paper Love, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
Action.Stop.Action, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA
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2009 Skulture, Feature Inc., New York, NY
Little Triggers, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
All My Friends are Dead, Maerzgalerie, Leipzig, DE
2008 Paper Love, Devening Projects, Chicago, IL
Action.Stop.Action, Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA
2006 Hope, Linda Warren Gallery, Chicago, IL
Four Ways to Tell a Story, Eli Marsh Gallery, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
2005 A Sense of Place: Emerging Chicago Sculpture, The Lobby Gallery, Chicago, IL
Lookers, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
Drawn to Drawing, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2004 Peridolia, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA
Infrathin, Gahlberg Gallery, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL
Infrathin, portable exhibition curated by Dan Devening, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL
2003 Body of Work, Gallery Agniel, Providence, RI
2002 Form and Color, Lenore Gray Gallery, Providence, RI

Grants and Awards

2022 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant
2019 American Academy of Arts & Letters Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts Purchase Prize
2015 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors grant
2003 Jacob Javits Fellow
2002 Athanasios Demetrios Skouras Prize, Amherst College

Bibliography

2021 Pocaro, Alan. "Slipping Glimpses: A Review of Nathaniel Robinson at Devening Projects," New City, September 2021.
Butler, Sharon. "Nathaniel Robinson's Train of Thought," Two Coats of Paint, September 2021.
2019 Grabner, Michelle. "Nathaniel Robinson: Devening Projects." Artforum, May 2019.
2018 Yau, John. "Nathaniel Robinson Questions America's Feckless Policies, Hyperallergic, 27 May
Heinrich, Will. "Nathaniel Robinson and Alex Kwartler," New York Times, 13 June
2016 Johnson, Ken. "Nathaniel Robinson: 'Discrete Pieces,'" New York Times, 1 January
Helmke, Juliet. "Nathaniel Robinson," Modern Painters, April 2016
2014 Dluzin, Robin. "Nathaniel Robinson: 'The Sensible Range' at Devening projects + Editions," Art Ltd., January 2014
2013 Saltz, Jerry. Critic's Pick, New York Magazine, 3 February
Schmerler, Sarah. Review, Art in America, May
Johnson, Ken. "Nathaniel Robinson: 'Outer Air,'" New York Times, 17 January
2012 Sutton, Ben. "Martos Gallery Makes for the Hamptons," Artinfo.com, 3 August
2010 Kastner, Jeffrey. Review, Artforum, November 2010, 262-63
Massara, Kathleen. "Trash Talks Back", The L Magazine, 15 September
Johnson, Ken. Review, New York Times, 10 September 2010
2005 Pesanti, Heather, "The Moon Has a Face like the Clock in the Hall," exhibition essay, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Wilk, Deborah, "Studio City," Chicago Magazine

Public Collections

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
The Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY