

Tobin Rothlein

Tobin Rothlein's work draws upon elements of sculpture, performance, dance and video. A Pew Fellow in Performance Art (2006), his work has been presented internationally at venues including the Clore at London's Royal Opera House, Holland's Noorderzon festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Battersea Arts Center (UK), Sa Sa Bassac, and Metahouse Galleries, Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and The Whitney Museum of American Art Altria. Rothlein has been awarded an Independence Foundation Fellowship and two Dance Advance awards for his exploration into interdisciplinary performance work. He is co-founder and producing artistic director of Miller Rothlein since 2004.

There is a palpable and finite tension within the skewed balance of humans and our surroundings; the structures and systems that shape, define, and encase us - economic, political, cultural, social. My impulse is to instigate this tension, to quietly give it a nudge.

Within this superstructure I find it fascinating that a minimal alteration, from the most infinitesimal and un-empowered of places, can become a destabilizing force. It can reorder space or shift action and thought, leaving the observer simply wondering how it happened. I seek out this poetry of the very small. These simple gestures, movements and estrangements that immediately alter not only how we perceive a thing, but at times the very thing itself. I most often explore this through the human body as primary medium: the trace of the body within a space; the imprint of body upon other objects; the individual body in anatomical finite detail, and the body en masse as community.

I draw upon elements of sculpture, performance, dance, and video. I believe these disciplines exist in a constant state of change and redefinition. They hold no responsibility to mimic the past, uphold tradition, follow old rules, or succumb to contemporary ones. They do not HAVE to be anything.

It is important to me that there be an element of unpredictability. For this reason I work with materials that are living, thinking, impermanent and breathing. This is the form of collaboration within my process, a balance of two opposing forces; Control and Chance. I sculpt and choreograph the Object, the Viewer and the Performer, each becoming integral partners: to rearrange, subvert, rethink and re-see.

www.tobinrothlein.com

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TOBIN ROTHLEIN

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art 2013
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre and Communications, Concentrations in Chinese Studies and Film/Video
Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI

Intensive Mandarin Chinese and Chinese Culture Certificate
Beijing Language and Culture University (formerly Beijing Language Institute), Beijing, China

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 **Maryland Institute College of Art**, Baltimore, MD – *MFA thesis show*
- 2012 **Vox Populi Gallery, AUX Space**, Philadelphia, PA – *Still Life: just under 42 very small performances and installations*
- Sa Sa Art Projects**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - *This City: This Building*
- 2011 **Mural Arts Program**, Philadelphia, PA – *Journeys South: Start Here (with Amanda Miller)*
- Meta House Gallery**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia – *Isolations*
- 2007 **Whitney Museum of American Art, Altria Gallery**, New York, NY – *Pitch Black (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller, Jacob Ter Veldhuis, and PRISM Saxophone Quartet)*
- Philadelphia Museum of Art, Great Hall**, Philadelphia, PA – *Pitch Black (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller, Jacob Ter Veldhuis, and PRISM Saxophone Quartet)*
- Philadelphia Live Arts Festival**, Philadelphia, PA – *Principles of Uncertainty (with Amanda Miller, Nadia Hironaka, and Eugene Lew)*
- 2006 **Grand Theatre, Noorderzon Festival**, Groningen, Holland – *Civilian/Warrior*

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCE

- 2013 **Pterodactyl Gallery**, Philadelphia, PA – *Dematerialization*
- Being Social in the Analog World**, Philadelphia, PA (Miller Rothlein)
- 2012 **Gross McCleaf Gallery**, Philadelphia, PA – *Romantic Impulse: Currents in Contemporary Art II*
- 2011 **SaSa Bassac Gallery**, Phnom Penh, Cambodia – *Cow, Mirror, Anthem, Rock* (performance art by Lim Sokchanlina (KH), Khvay Samnang (KH), and Tobin Rothlein (USA))
- Baltimore Museum of Art**, Baltimore, MD – *Dance With Me*
- Being Social in the Analog World**, Various public locations, Baltimore, MD
- Kimmel Center for Performing Arts**, Philadelphia, PA – *PUNCH (Miller Rothlein)*
- Vox Populi Gallery AUX Space**, Philadelphia, PA
- MIRO Mash Up: MIRO+Caroline Lathan Stiefel+Van Stiefel*
- MIRO Mash Up: MIRO+Fritz Horstman+Todd Keyser*
- Neighborhood House**, Philadelphia, PA – *MIRO Mash Up: MIRO+Kaschock+Kong*

- 2010 **EMPAC, Filament Festival**, Troy, NY – *Already Seen* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
Royal Opera House, London, UK – *ROH2 Residency* (with Pete Wyer)
Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA – *Best of MIRO Mash Up* (Miller Rothlein)
Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia PA – *How am I not Myself?* (Miller Rothlein with A. Miller and V. Rao)
- 2009 **Sai Arts**, Bangalore, India – *How am I not Myself?* (Miller Rothlein with A. Miller and V. Rao)
Darpana, Ahmedabad, India – *How am I not Myself?* (Miller Rothlein with A. Miller and V. Rao)
Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia PA – *Off the Grid: Generate Degenerate* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
Indiana University of PA, Indiana, PA – *Spooky Action* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
Kimmel Center, Philadelphia, PA – *Spooky Action* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
- 2008 **International Dance Theatres Festival Lublin**, Lublin, Poland – *Self Portrait* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Great Hall, Philadelphia, PA – *Self Portrait* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
- 2006 **Royal Opera House, Clore Studio**, London UK – *Hurdy Gurdy* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA – *Lie to Me* (Miller Rothlein with Antony Rizzi and Amanda Miller, with support of Kunstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany)
Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dayton, Ohio – *Jacob Lawrence Project* (with Donald Byrd, Rennie Harris, Reggie Wilson, Kevin Ward)
Opera North, Resonance 3, Leeds, UK – *Cremenville* (with Pete Wyer and Matt Sharp)
Farnham Maltings, Farnham, UK – *Cremenville* (with Pete Wyer and Matt Sharp)
- 2005 **Battersea Arts Centre, Burst Festival**, London, UK – *Saccades and Fixations* (with Pete Wyer and Matt Sharp)
Jazz at Lincoln Center, Beyond the Machine 3.0, New York, NY – *Chelsea/Chelsea* (with Pete Wyer and The Julliard Electric Ensemble)
Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA – *Hurdy Gurdy* (Miller Rothlein with Amanda Miller)
- 2004 **The National Music Theatre**, Amsterdam, Netherlands – *Facing Mekka* (with R. Harris)
Singing City, Philadelphia, PA – *Rejoice in the Lamb* (with Amanda Miller)
This Way Up UK, London, UK – *Adam's Apple* (with Pete Wyer and Matt Sharp)
BAC New Opera Festival, London UK – *Adam's Apple*, (Sharp Wire)
Philadelphia Fringe, Philadelphia, PA – *Adam's Apple*, (Sharp Wire)
Arts Bank, Philadelphia, PA – *Arms of Morpheus* (with Jody Gates)
- 2003 **Rennie Harris Puremovement**, Philadelphia, PA – *Facing Mekka US tour* (with Rennie Harris)
Mandell Theater, Philadelphia PA - *Tabula Rasa, Pursuit, High Low Short & Tight* (Phrenic)
- 2002 **Mandell Theater**, Philadelphia PA – *Imbalance* (Phrenic)
- 2001 **Arden Theatre**, Philadelphia, PA – *Frequencies, In the Arms of Morpheus, Cantata* (Phrenic)
Arts Bank, Philadelphia, PA – *RE: Turn* (with Carol Brown and Group Motion)
The Place, London, UK – *The Idea of Sea* (with Carol Brown)

- 2000 **Forrest Theater**, Philadelphia, PA – *Shut Up and Dance (Bent and Anxiety Attack)*
- BBC British Short Film Festival**, London, UK – *Swan*
- Forrest Theater**, Philadelphia, PA – *Shut Up and Dance (Swan)*
- Lincoln Center, Dance on Camera Festival**, New York, NY – *Invisible, Song of the Body*
- Philadelphia Fringe Festival**, Philadelphia, PA – *Untitled #1, Fly on the Wall (with Amanda Miller)*
- The Arts Bank**, Philadelphia, PA – *Orte (with Carol Brown and Manfred Fischbeck / Group Motion)*

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2013-14 **Fulbright Fellowship** Alternate - *Performance Art, Cambodia*
- 2012 **Maryland Institute College of Art** Recipient, *Graduate Research Grant: Cambodia*
- 2010 **Royal Opera House ROH2**, London, UK - *Residency with Pete Wyer*
- 2009-12 **Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts** Recipient - *Professional Development Grant* –
for Cambodia - 2012
for Germany/France - 2011
for Cambodia – 2011
for UK – 2010
for India – 2009
- 2008 **The National Studios**, London, UK – *57 hours - development residency (with John Keane, Bryony Lavery, Phyllida Lloyd, Pete Wyer)*
- 2006 **Pew Fellowship in the Arts** Recipient, Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 **Dance Advance Grant** Recipient, Philadelphia, PA, *Civilian/Warrior Project Phase 2*
- 2006 **The Grand Theatre**, Groningen, Holland – *Residency*
- 2005 **Independence Foundation Fellowship** Recipient, Philadelphia, PA
- 2005 **Dance Advance Grant** Recipient, Philadelphia, PA, *Civilian/Warrior project phase 1*
- 2005 **Battersea Arts Center**, London, UK, 2005 – *Residency (Saccades & Fixations with Matt Sharp and Peter Wyer)*,
- 2004 **Cove Park**, Cove, Scotland – *Residency (with Cathy Marston)*
- 2004 **Battersea Arts Center**, London, UK – *Residency (Adam's Apple)*
- 2004 **Envisioning Dance**, Publication names *Song of the Body* as one of “Best Dance Films”
- 2004 **Philadelphia Live Arts**, Philadelphia, PA , Recipient – *Rocky Award*
- 2000 **Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts** Recipient – *Fellowship in Media Arts*