

ART of the ROBOT

06.22.13 – 09.22.13

ART of the ROBOT

APPLETON
MUSEUM OF ART
College of Central Florida

4333 East Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470-5001
352.291.4455
www.AppletonMuseum.org

Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, Noon - 5 pm

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Brian Despain, *The Escape*,
oil on wood panel, 16 x 20"

despainart.com

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at the
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of ART
College of Central Florida, Ocala

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www.appletonmuseum.org

Pictured (left and below):
Amy Flynn,
Prima: FOBOT, mixed media;
and *Fernando*: FOBOT,
mixed media



A

ART AND SCIENCE FICTION collide in *Art of the Robot* at the Appleton Museum of Art. The Museum's new summer show is sure to provide inspiration and enjoyment for all ages as it celebrates our fascination with robots and the enduring impact they have on our imagination. See robot inspired creations in all mediums, shapes and sizes, marvel at their design, and engage in their stories in this spectacle of robot force, on view through September 22nd. The exhibit also features a Create Your Own Robot area and a special Robot Family Day is planned for Saturday, August 10th, from 10am to 4pm.

"People, of all ages, are fascinated with robots, the way they move, and the



Will Wagenaar,
GINNY – robot dog,
found object assemblage

materials they are made of,” says the Appleton’s Director, Cindi Morrison. “My hope is the exhibit will inform, inspire and reinforce the concept that robots have been, and will always be, a part of human history, and have become a popular mode of expression for artists confronting fundamental issues and contradictions in our advanced industrial culture.”

Early examples of robotic art and theater existed in ancient China as far back as the Han Dynasty (third century BC), with the development of a mechanical orchestra, and

and range from humanoids to industrial robots, collectively programmed ‘swarm’ robots, and, as in the *Star Trek* series, be as small as microscopic nano robots.

Artists use their artwork to reflect the world around them, so it is only natural to find that robots have become a part of the reflection. Each of the artists invited to participate in this exhibit has a unique way of portraying their robot creations through paintings, prints, found object sculptures, photographs and other materials. The *Art of the Robot* exhibit features works by 14 artists from 7 different states and Florida, and include: Mark Brown, Easthampton, MA; CyberCraft Robots, St. Petersburg, FL; Brian Despain, Seattle, WA; Amy Flynn, Raleigh, NC; Nemo Gould, Oakland, CA; Heather Heilman Loercher and Howie Hartman, Wrightsville, PA; Don L. Jones, Pittsburgh, PA; Eric Joyner, San Francisco, CA; Richard Muller, Altadena, CA; Lisa Grothman Ryan, Wilmette, IL; Donna Sophronia-Sims, Birmingham, AL; Will Wagenaar, Port Richey, FL; and Tim Warchocki, Winter Garden, FL.

Each of the artists invited to participate in this exhibit has a unique way of portraying their robot creations.

other devices such as mechanical toys. These included flying automatons, mechanized doves and fish, angels and dragons, and automated cup-bearers — all hydraulically actuated for the amusement of Emperors by engineer-craftspeople whose names have mostly been lost to history. Robots, like Rosie in *The Jetsons*, can be autonomous or semi-autonomous

Opposite page
(left to right):
Mark Brown, *Oz Robot*,
2012, 25 x 11 x 6”;
Olympic Green Robot,
2012, 31 x 19 x 10”;
Photography by
John Polak
bossbrownart.com



Mark Brown

INSPIRED BY THE Japanese robots and space toys of the 1950’s, Mark Brown began building his robot sculptures over a decade ago. He finds most of the components for his extraordinary, one-of-a-kind pieces at tag sales and flea markets. Within an endless stream of metal containers and jar lids lies a wonderful array of colors, textures and forms. Objects of daily life—plates, food tins, thermoses, hand tools, letters and numerals are all transformed into an ever expanding cast of characters.

Below: CyberCraft Robots,
Stowaway aboard the Orbiting Laboratory,
mixed material 3D wall sculpture
with lights, 16 x 16 x 4.5"



CyberCraft Robots

CYBERCRAFT ROBOTS creates sculptural artifacts from the future. These Spaceships, Robots, and Raygun sculptures are composed of a variety of metals and glass, using cold connections. Each sculpture has a story. The narrative becomes part of the piece, and no piece is complete without it. CyberCraft Robots work aboard an Orbiting Laboratory, under the leadership of their Primary Robot Creator, Sarah Thee Campagna.

In addition to having a retro, sci-fi, metal groove, CyberCraft Robots relay emotion and movement, and speak to issues of humanity.



Left:
CyberCraft Robots,
The SpiderBorg,
mixed metal and glass
sculpture with lights,
14 x 14 x 14"

cybercraftrobots.com



Above: Brian Despain, *The Escape*,
oil on wood panel, 16 x 20"

despainart.com

Art of the Robot

Brian Despain

A HUGE FAN OF *Star Wars* (specifically, the original trilogy), Brian Despain became fascinated not only with the robots themselves, but their whole history—who produced them, the various pros and cons of each model, how much they cost, who owned them, etc. This desire to look a little deeper and to explore a little further is what compels him to continually push his robot universes a little further and his stories a little deeper.

"I've always enjoyed the idea that the robots I paint are all part of a series—a series of robots constructed on some long forgotten factory floor." —Brian Despain



Right: Brian Despain,
Revelations, oil on panel, 8 x 10"

Amy Flynn

AMY FLYNN’S “FOBOTS” (Found Object roBOTS) were born from her love of flea markets and robots. She likes to tell people that they combine two of her favorite passions—making stuff, and shopping. Flynn also loves the irony of taking really old things and creating robots, which have always been so symbolic of the future. Each of her FOBOTS has its own story, its own personality, and—like the tin man—its own heart inside.



This page (left to right): Amy Flynn, *Royce Rolls*: FOBOT, mixed media; Buzzbee Berkeley: FOBOT, mixed media

ifobot.com

“I love finding a cool vintage item that was once someone’s treasure, and making it special again.”

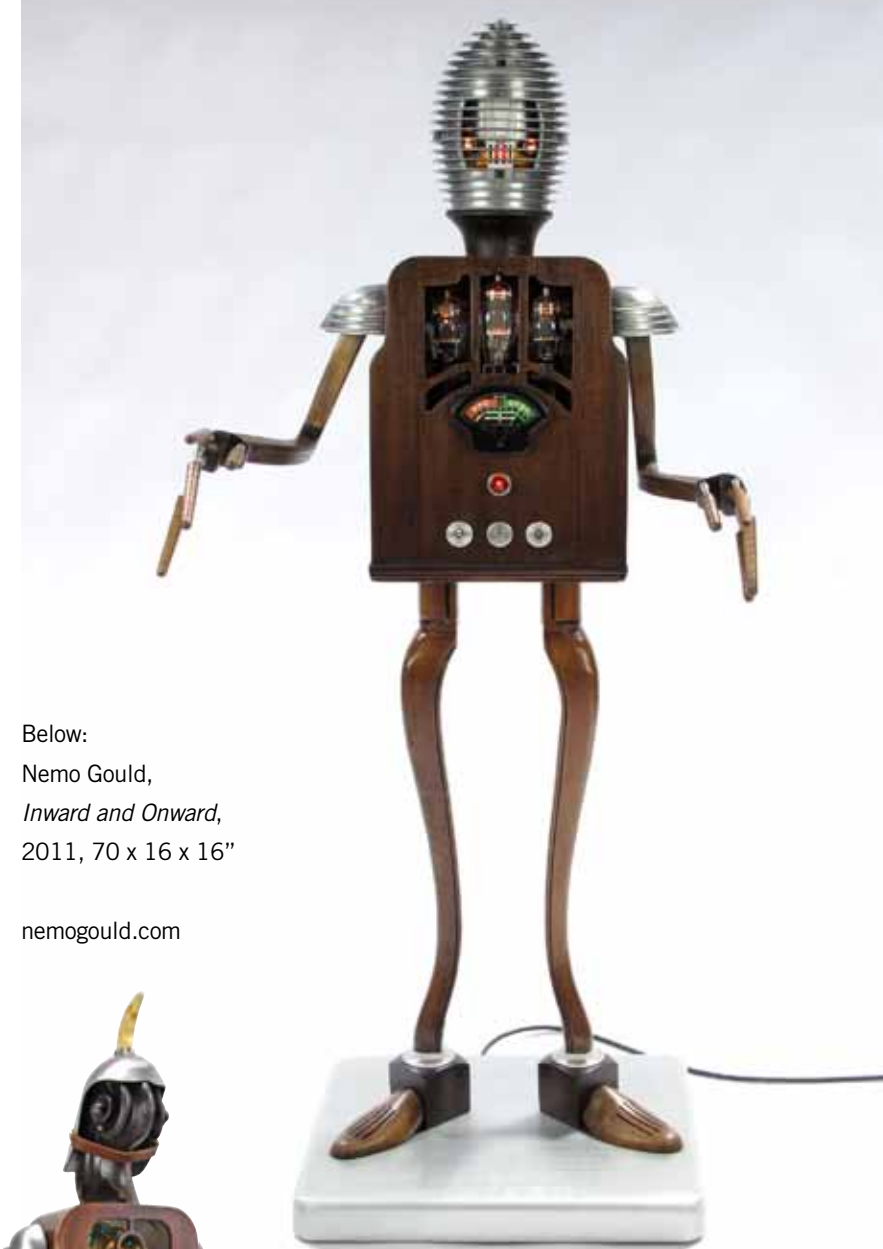
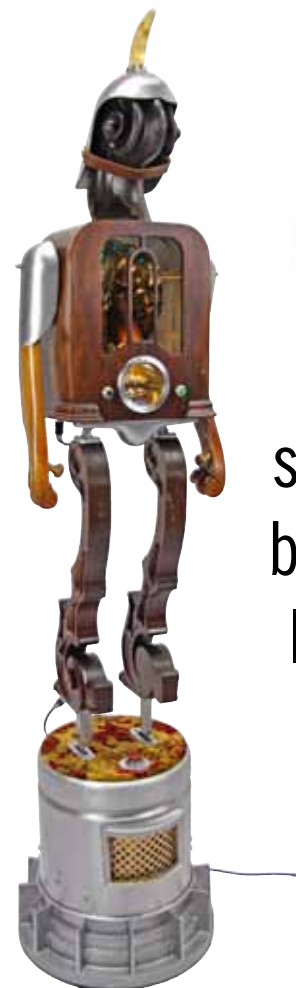
—Amy Flynn

Nemo Gould

A SELF-PROCLAIMED “compulsive collector of things,” Nemo Gould found a creative excuse for his condition—building kinetic robot sculptures with found materials he gathers from all around the San Francisco Bay area. Each piece, constructed using a variety of building techniques such as welding, machining, woodwork and furniture/antique restoration, is a direct reflection of Gould’s strong belief that art should be both meaningful and enjoyable.

Below: Nemo Gould, *Inward and Onward*, 2011, 70 x 16 x 16”

nemogould.com



“My work appeals to a seven-year-old boy’s mind because I still have one... I take silly very seriously.”

—Nemo Gould

Above (and right): Nemo Gould, *Doubtful* (and detail), 2010, 64 x 27 x 25”



Heather Heilman Loercher & Howie Hartman

STEADFAST TO A mission of reuse, assemblage sculptor, Heather Heilman Loercher, creates works with an intention of reinvented symbolism, often speaking to issues of environment, emotion and self evolution. Photographer, Howie Hartman, captures the imagery and energy of the subject, utilizing a source of light applicable to the intention of the work.



Don L. Jones' lively cast of robot assemblage sculptures embody the reincarnation of discarded scraps of humanity.



This page (left to right):
Don L. Jones,
Fly Me To The Moon,
wall sculpture;
Prince Albert, assemblage
robot sculpture

jonesrobo-works.com



Don L. Jones

SINCE CHILDHOOD, Don L. Jones has enjoyed creating art. At age 9, his father introduced him to arc welding, brazing, wood-working, construction and shop principles. This training, combined with a profound admiration for art, nature and science fiction, inspired him to create a variety of sculptures throughout his childhood. Following a 20-year career in advertising, Jones decided to professionally promote his works, which include a lively cast of robot assemblages.

“I have an interest in discovering, uncovering and reclaiming objects from the rust and dust of our surroundings.” —Heather Heilman Loercher

Heather Heilman Loercher
& Howie Hartman, *Hunfree* (above)
and *Mizabel* (left), *BOT* series,
digital capture, hh.project, 2013





Eric Joyner

IN THE YEARS following World War II, the major export from Japan wasn't electronic equipment, but toys—specifically, tin toys—and one of the most popular motifs was toy robots.

Capturing this period in history has become a passion for painter, Eric Joyner, who celebrates this bygone era with images marrying the metal creations with images plucked from his imagination.

Eric Joyner, *Moon Rise*, 2008, Courtesy of Corey Helford Gallery

ericjoyner.com



Richard Muller

FOR RICHARD MULLER, working in the aerospace industry in Los Angeles, where he builds his robots, has provided an extremely fertile terrain from which to mine his raw robot materials. Muller learned the enjoyment of tinkering and fixing things in a workshop from his grandfather, who collected vast stores of itemized “junk” he would refer to as “gold when you need it.” Each of Muller’s creations is packed with personality and irresistible charm.

This page
(left to right):
Richard Muller,
Bongo; and *Jacques*;
photos by:
Richard Muller

guyrobot.com

Lisa Grothman Ryan

AFTER SEEING A TOY robot exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, artist, Lisa Grothman Ryan, fell in love with the colors and personalities of the robots, and knew she had to start painting them. Since then, she's started her own toy robot collection and enjoys bringing their marvelous characters to life in her paintings.

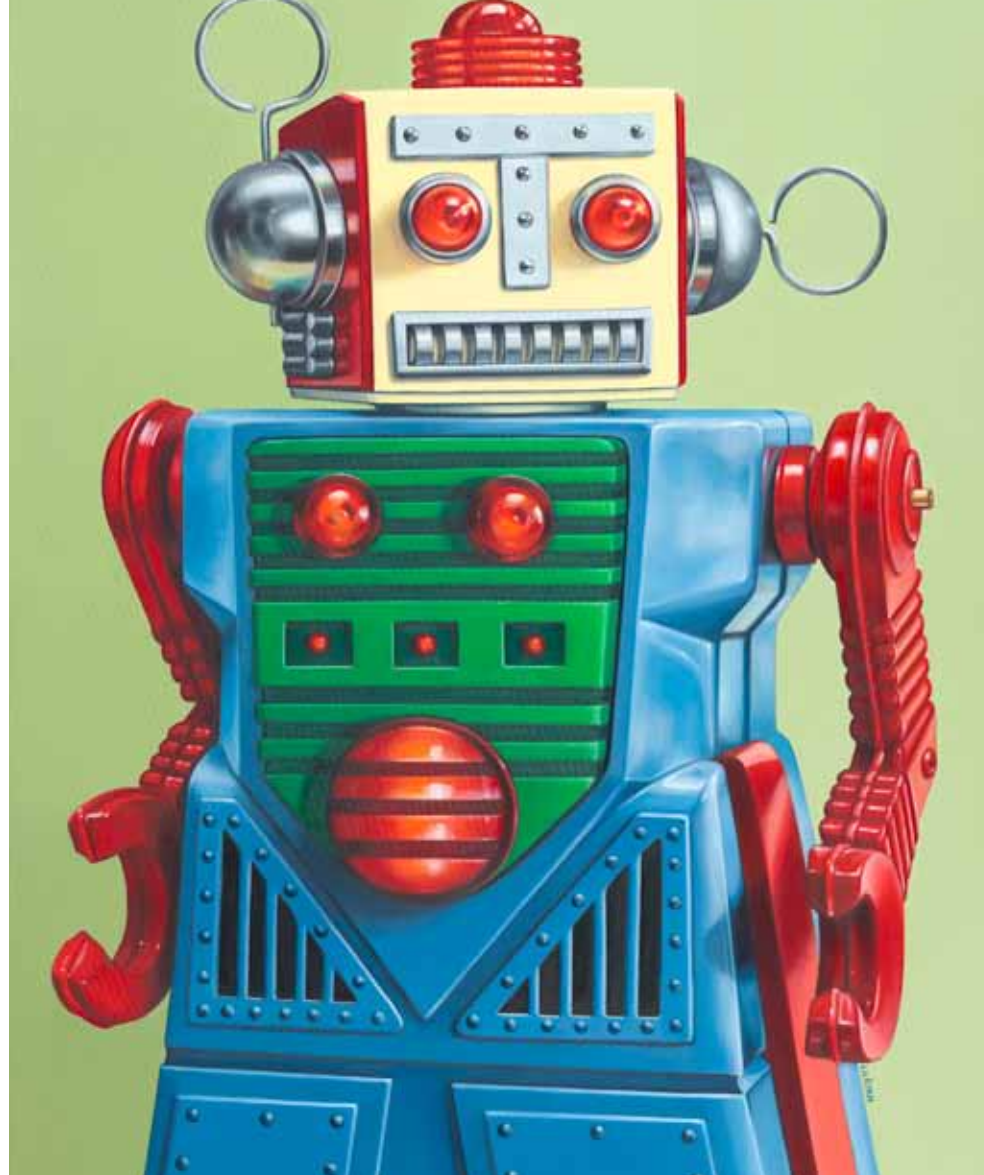


“I hope when visitors look at these robots they will create their own stories about the paintings.”

—Lisa Grothman Ryan

This page (above and left):
Lisa Grothman Ryan,
Eternal Optimist, oil, 24 x 30";
and *Fired Up*, oil, 24 x 30"

lisaryansgallery.com



“Discovering the hidden artistic essence of the most common objects is an exciting revelation.”

—Donna Sophronia-Sims

Below and right:
Donna Sophronia-Sims, *ETA*; and *Calvin*

castofcharacters23.etsy.com



Donna Sophronia-Sims

DONNA SOPHRONIA-SIMS had never thought of making art with found objects until she took a metal fabricating class at Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham, AL. There she learned how to weld and use other equipment to assemble metal, skills she now uses to transform common objects into something beyond what they were intended—something surprising and often amusing and whimsical.



Will Wagenaar

IN 2008, WILL WAGENAAR established his first on-line art business, Reclaim2Fame, recycling and repurposing old stuff creatively into works of art and functional objects. Each piece is hand crafted from recycled items found in thrift stores, flea markets, and “your grandma’s attic”—all reflect his passion as an artist, concern for the environment and his desire to delight his customers.



Above and left:
Will Wagenaar,
MORTY, found object
assemblage; and
*VALOR – The Steampunk
Dragon Prince*

willwagenaar.tumblr.com

Tim Warchocki’s creations are fittingly deemed, “Robotki,” a combination of the word “robot” and “Warchocki.”

Tim Warchocki,
Robotki *Neesta Robot*



Tim Warchocki

TIM WARCHOCKI’S whimsical-looking, “found-art robots” are fashioned from arbitrary yet recognizable, modified objects. The creation of each robot begins by dumping the “found” parts onto the floor and playing with the resulting chaos until the “Robotki” manifests itself. Warchocki calls this practice “the configuration of confusion.” Each component is handpicked and repurposed from various sources, including thrift stores, swap meets and even dumpsters.



Tim Warchocki,
Robotki *DomeBot Robot*

coroflot.com/warchocki