

Chico MacMurtrie

1961 Born in 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

2022 Video works by Chico MacMurtrie, Dilalica Gallery, Barcelona
2021 *Border Crossers*, Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, University of Texas at El Paso
2018 *Chico MacMurtrie, recent drawings from the Border Crossers series*, Institute for the Humanities Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Live Robotic Border Crossers performances, University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), Ann Arbor, MI
2017 *Pneuma Fountain*, Stift Kremsmuenster, in collaboration with Ars Electronica and OO Landesartenschau, Austria
2016 *Pneuma World*, retrospective exhibition of Inflatable Soft-Machines, Muffathalle, Munich, Germany (September)
Border Crosser, temporary public art installation, commission by ZERO1, City Hall Plaza, San José, CA
2015 *Biomorphic Wall / Border Crosser*, Pioneer Works, Center for Art and Innovation, Brooklyn, NY
2013 – 2015 *The Robotic Church*, a site-specific installation and public performance series at the ARW studio in Brooklyn, NY
2013 *Chrysalis*, Pioneer Works, Center for Art and Innovation, 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 *Sixteen Birds, Inner Space, Biomorphic Wall*, Beall Center for Art + Technology, Irvine, CA
Sixteen 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 *Sixteen 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
Sixteen Birds, MU Exhibition Space, Eindhoven, Holland
2006 *Sixteen 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 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, Theatre Artaud, San Francisco, CA
- 1992 *Trigram: A Robotic Opera* (with Bruce Darby), Theatre Artaud, San Francisco, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Possibles: Artworks from .Beep Collection, Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau, ISEA 2022, Barcelona
 In Place: Future Artifacts and Remembrance on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, SFAI Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- 2021 Were-:Nenotech Forms, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ
- 2019 Mundos Alternos, Art and Science Fiction in the Americas, Queens Museum, New York, NY
 Useless: Machines for Dreaming, Thinking, and Seeing, curated by Gerardo Mosquera, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY
- 2018 *Open*, curated by Zhang GA and co-presented by Chronus Art Center, CAC, and ZHI Art Museum at the ZHI Art Museum, Chengdu, China; (cat.)
- 2017 *Mundos Alternos*, University of California Riverside (UCR), Riverside, CA as part of Pacific Standard Time LA/LA (September 2017 – March 2018) ; (cat.)
Creature Digitali, curated by Montxo Algora, Ex-Dogana, Rome (cat.)
The New Inflatable Moment, curated by Mary Hale and Katarzyna Balug, Boston Society of Architects BSA, Boston, MA
- 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 (cat.), Bethune Cultural Capital 2011, France
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 Ange-

- les, CA
 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN
Elektrische Stadt Festival, Dresden, Germany
- 2003 *Personal Space*, Gigantic Art Space (GAS), New York, NY
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 Amorphous 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: *Pneuma Fountain*, Stift Kremsmuenster, 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

Grants/Awards/Fellowships

2020 New York Fellowship for the Arts
2019 Map Fund Grant
2016 Guggenheim Fellowship in Fine Arts
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

Selected Press

- 2021
Green, Kate. "Border Crossers by Chico MacMurtrie." Critic Picks, [Artforum](#), November 2021.
Moya Ford, Lauren. "13 Arts Organizations Across 5 States and 2 Nations Unite for Desierto Mountain Time." [Hyperallergic](#).
Zhang Ga. "Integrativ, interdisziplinär, interaktiv. Eine kommentierte Bildstrecke von Zhang Ga." *Kunstforum International*, Bd 277, October 2021.
Poirier, Shar. "Art Installation reaches across border". [Sierra Vista Herald](#), May 27, 2021.
Cruz, Azaneth. "Cruzar la Frontera." [El Heraldo de Mexico](#). July 14, 2021.
Llurba, Ana. "What makes us Human? 'Border Crossers' by Chico MacMurtrie in El Paso (Texas)." [A*Desk Magazine](#), October 21, 2021.
- 2019
Zarley, David. "Chico MacMurtrie's Art Transcends the Southern Border." [Freethink](#). September, 23, 2019.
Heinrich, Will. "'Mundos Alternos', Where the Other Worlds Come to Life." [The New York Times](#). July 15, 2019.
Glista, Tia. "Latinx Artists Use Sci-Fi to Imagine Postcolonial Futures." [Papermag](#). May 17, 2019.
[BRIC TV](#). Robotic Church | BK Made, February 14, 2019.
[Neural](#). "Border Crossers, rebalancing reason". November 19, 2018.
- 2018
Sharp, Sarah Rose. "A Giant Robot Artwork Built to Bend Over Border Walls." [Hyperallergic](#). February 23, 2018.
DeVito, Lee. "Artist Chico MacMurtrie, U-M students build robot that could cross Mexican wall." [Detroit Metro Times](#). February 21, 2018
Slagter, Martin. "Artist at University of Michigan makes 40-foot 'border crossing' robotic sculpture." [MLive](#). February 21, 2018.
Bruckner, Meredith. "Artist Chico MacMurtrie, U-M students to demonstrate border-crossing robotic sculpture." [ClickonDetroit.com](#) February 15, 2018.
- 2017
Szilágyi, Róza Tekla. A brief lunch with the Amorphous Robot Works in Munich. Interview with Chico MacMurtrie and Bill Bowen. [Artmagazin](#). November 17, 2017.
- 2016
Chico MacMurtrie, The Soft Machines. [Trailblazer](#). [The Dyneemaproject](#). August 18, 2016.
Meier, Alisson. "The Robots Being Built to Cross the US-Mexico Border". [Hyperallergic](#). April 14, 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
Szewczyk, Stacey. "Robotic Church Founder Chico MacMurtrie And The Giant Inflatable Bridge He's Making For Super Bowl 50". [Tech Times](#). November 26, 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 País*
- 2007
Lee, Jennifer. "Condos With Water Views, for the Birds." [New York Times](#).

Selected Publications / Exhibition Catalogs

- 2021 Hattinger, Gottfried. *Maschinenbuch: Eine Sammlung zur Kultur- und Kunstgeschichte der Apparate*. Scheidegger & Spiess, pp. 212, 343, 503.
- 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.
- 2007 Algora, Montxo. "Maquinas y Almas / Machines and Souls". Museo de la Reina Sofia. Madrid.
Dixon, Steve ; Smith, Barry. *Digital performance : a history of new media in theatre, dance, performance art, and installation*. Cambridge : MIT Press.

Teaching

- 2021 Visiting Artist at the University of Texas at El Paso
- 2018-19 Visiting Artist at the University of Applied Arts (Angewandte), Vienna
- 2018 Visiting Artist at the U-M in collaboration with LSA Department of Humanities, Engineering, Art and Design, and Information
- 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

- 2022 Carnegie Mellon; University of New Mexico, Santa Fe
- 2020 Regent's Lecture at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 2018 Chico MacMurtrie: *Border Crossers*. Penny Stamps Speaker Series in collaboration with the Institute for the Humanities
- 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 University of California Riverside. October 16-17.
- 2013 Lecture at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 Lectures at University of California, Los Angeles, CA; New York University, New York, NY; University of California Davis, CA; University of California Irvine, CA