

CHRIS FITCH  
ART, DESIGN & MECHANICS

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SCULPTURE EXHIBITIONS, INSTALLATIONS:

(mostly group shows)

**2018**

*A Cache of Kinetic Art*, Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ.

**2016**

*Perpetual Motion*, Heron Arts, San Francisco, CA.

**2015**

*SlideLuck Boston*, IBM Center, Cambridge, MA.

**2014**

*Machines and Mechanizations*, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA.

*What Artists Study*, Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, MA.

**2013**

*Pedigree*, New Arts Center, Newtonville, MA.

**2012**

*Present*, Boston Cyberarts Gallery, Boston, MA.

*La Plus Belle Poubelle – Economy of Means in a Mean Economy*, Artspace, Shreveport, LA. – large-scale installation of an indoor swamp made from junk – a "95% post-consumer recycled landscape."

**2011**

*Fluid*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

*Move Me*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

**2010**

*Findings*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

*Great Small Works*, St. Ann's Warehouse, DUMBO, Brooklyn, NY.

*The Adventures of Innocence*, FPAC Gallery, Boston, MA.

– [Two person show].

**2009**

[Ongoing] *Toytem*, Inventions Gallery, Hartford Science Center, Hartford, CT.

– Interactive electronic sound/light sculpture made from circuit bent electronic toys celebrates the ancestral spirits of play and invention.

*Point of View/Persistence of Vision*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

**2008**

*Superartificial*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

**2007**

*International Triennial*, Osaka University of Arts, Osaka Japan.

– Prize winner for "This Century's Leonardo da Vinci."

*Technomorph*, Axiom Gallery, Boston, MA.

**2006**

Art Interactive, Cambridge, MA

Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA.

*C9 Botbits*, Jewett Arts Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA.

*Collision Collective IX*, Art Interactive, Cambridge, MA.

**2003**

*Wait For Weight*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

– Live sculpture performance/installation with David Juddelson.

*The Ballad of Hands and Wires*, New Art Center, Newton, MA.

**1999**

*Kabinett der Mechanik*, Technorama Switzerland, Winterthur, Switzerland.  
*Innovations in Motion: Kinetic Sculpture*, Discovery Museum, Bridgeport, CT.

**1998**

*Mechanical Collisions*, Arthur Ganson Studio, Woburn, MA.

**1996**

*Dancing On The Rocks*, a presentation with Arthur Ganson, MIT, Cambridge, MA.

*On the Move*, Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA.

**1994**

*Chris Fitch's Mechanical Creations*, Barbershop Gallery, Taos, NM.

– Solo show.

**1993**

Golden Gallery, Boston, MA.

Madelyn Jordon Gallery, SoHo, New York City.

**1991**

DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA.

The Loading Zone; Tables of Content, Boston, MA.

**1988**

*Bachelor Rowing Machine For Self-Conscious Married Men*, Yale University, New Haven, Ct.

– Solo show/installation.

#### PRESS:

*Figures in the Fourth Dimension*, by Ellen Rixford, 2015. One-of-a-kind book on the nuts and bolts of figurative kinetic sculpture, including automata (both contemporary and historical) and puppetry. There is an extensive chapter devoted to my work.

*100 Boston Artists*, by Chawky Frenn, Schiffer Publishing, 2013.

*Russian Popular Mechanics*, a Russian language magazine, in which I was profiled for their section called *Artefact* featuring my kinetic work, September, 2012.

*Otono-no-Kagaku*, [Science for Adults], a Japanese language magazine, in which I was profiled for an article on my kinetic work, Spring, 2011.

*The Adventures of Innocence @ FPAC Gallery*, by Ricky Tucker, Big Red and Shiny, 07-21-10.

– "...visually stimulating... show that's well-placed, and ripe with kinetic and self-exploding theme..."

*ART; Sculpture That Moves By Air, By Touch*, by William Zimmer, The New York Times, 02-21-99.

– "...Mr. Fitch injects mysticism into the tradition of kinetic art..."

*Taming Technology's Overload With Artful Systems*, by Cate McQuaid, The Boston Globe, 05-02-03.

– "...A child visiting the gallery when I was there named her favorite piece, which turned out to be a hand-cranked sculpture by Fitch..."

*Technology and Art*, by Britt Beedenbender, The Barnstable Patriot, 08-17-06

– "...The mechanical sculpture created by Chris Fitch is a physically and visually engaging device that will have every visitor taking turns at the crank to generate the mini-drama..."

*PAAM Art Show*, by Cate McQuaid, The Boston Globe, 08-24-06.

– "...Chris Fitch lays bare all the cogs and chains the crank sets spinning, but it still feels magical..."

*Collision Collective at Axiom*, by Greg Cook, New England Journal of Aesthetic Research, 08-29-07.

- "...The most satisfying piece is "Tantalus Mackerel" by Chris Fitch of the Boston area..."
- Collision Collective: Superartificial @ Axiom*, by Matthew Nash, Big Red and Shiny, 05-26-08.
- "...Fitch presents a much more contemplative experience in his piece Falling... immersive experience... rising above the space of the gallery, transcending the body..."
- "COLLISION" of Experimental Art*, by Emma Ingrisani, Wellesley News, 02-23-06.
- "...*Tantalus Mackerel* by Chris Fitch exemplifies the mood of the exhibit as a whole..."
- Deconstructing da Vinci, Reconstructing Chris Fitch*, by Ashley Evan Pond, The Taos News, 05-12-94.
- "...The craftsmanship is that of a master... Fitch covers all the bases. His mechanical sculptures are fun, appeal to the imagination, meticulously crafted with an uncommon skill, ironic, humorous, sensuous, and fateful..."
- Art Alive and Kicking*, by Adrienne LaFrance, ArtsFuse, WBUR.org, 02-22-06.
- "...sophisticated and analytic... impressively explores the fusion of artistic expression and practical creation..."
- DeCordova's "Toys by Artists" a Draw for the Young and Old*, by Marty Carlock, Boston Globe, 03-17-91.
- "...In a class by itself... pieces are moved via a system that has to be seen to be believed..."
- Artwork in a Playful Mode*, by Christine Temin, Boston Globe, 02-22-91.
- "...Fitch's piece addresses the whole notion of 'progress,' of thinking you're getting somewhere when it's really the world around you that's changing..."
- The Aniniput Treehouse Inn*, by Kristyn Komarnicki, Joyce magazine, 02-01-93.
- "...One of the most charming aspects of the Aniniput Treehouse Inn is how seamlessly the structure blends into the natural surroundings, as if each room sprouted spontaneously from the branches that contain it..."

#### PERFORMANCE – PUPPETRY, FILM, STAGE:

##### **2013**

- A Dancer's Dream* (two Stravinsky ballets), Avery Fisher Hall, NYC.
- Designed and built mechanical puppets, special effects devices, and technical consultation for sold-out performances with the NY Philharmonic and Giants Are Small.

##### **2010**

- Fetch! Episode 512* (a PBS Kids "reality TV" show)
  - Guest artist leading a kinetic sculpture challenge.
- This Too Shall Pass* (an award-winning music video by the band OK Go!)
  - Consultant for design of complex Rube Goldberg machine.
- Le Grand Macabre* (an opera by Gyorgy Ligeti), Avery Fisher Hall, NYC.
- Designed and built miniature projection theaters; development of mechanical elements and technical consultation for US debut of the opera with the NY Philharmonic and Giants Are Small. Voted best classical music event of the year by New York Magazine.

##### **2009**

- The Life of Galileo* (by B. Brecht), Catalyst Collaborative at MIT, Central Square Theater, Cambridge, MA.
- Puppet maker.

*Freud's Magic Powder*, a film by Edouard Getaz, NYC.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Freuds-Magic-Powder/76267221146>

- Consultant.

##### **2008**

*Petrouchka*, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of MD.

– Puppet design and performance for multimedia puppet version of the Stravinsky ballet with the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, James Ross conductor, Doug Fitch director.

*Peter and the Wolf*, Walt Disney Hall, Los Angeles, CA.

– Creation of state-of-the art miniature mechanical puppet theater, puppets and sets, and puppeting for the *GiantsAreSmall* multimedia puppet version including original prequel with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Lionel Bringuier conductor, Doug Fitch director, Edouard Getaz producer.

### 2007

*The Great Rocket Launch*, a film by Joey Kolbe.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOWKvlerrWw>

– Starring role as Robert Goddard.

### 2004

*HBO Family Channel promotional video*. Handcranked Productions.

– Played the part of America's best dad.

### 1997

*La Plus Belle Poubelle Reprise: Beethoven's Ninth (abridged) Arranged for Poubelle*, Somerville Artbeat Festival, Somerville, MA.

– My brother Doug and I rebuilt a version of our junk band and were joined by David Reiffel.

### 1992

*The Hawthorne Effect*, Commonwealth Collaborative Theater, Cambridge, MA.

– Designed and built mechanical set to represent industrial weaving mills of Lowell, MA.

*The Good Person of Long Creek*, based on B. Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan*, Cornerstone Theater Co., Long Creek, OR.

– Mechanical set elements built from local farm equipment.

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### 1983

*Peer Gynt*, Lazy River Theater, Philadelphia, PA.

*A Man is a Man*, Lazy River Theater, Philadelphia, PA.

*As You Like It*, Lazy River Theater, Philadelphia, PA.

– Set building, designing mechanical set elements, acting, and promotional graphics.

### 1982

*La Plus Belle Poubelle*, Ecole des Arts et Architecture, Strasbourg, France.

– Two-man junk band with Doug Fitch.

## WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, INVITATIONS:

– *Building Automata and Other Useless Machines*, A semester-long class for 7-8 graders at the Fayerweather Street School, Cambridge, MA, 2012.

– *Bringing the Art of Movement into the Classroom*, A teacher development workshop for Worcester public schools, Worcester, MA, 2011.

– Guest artist lecturer at the Systems Biology department of Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, 2010.

– Co-curator for *Art For the Arts*, Fayerweather Street School, Cambridge, MA, 2010.

– Jury member for senior theses in animation and kinetic sculpture at MassArt and – Boston Institute for Art (Recurring).

– *Exploring the Expressive Potential of Cams*, Fayerweather Street School, Cambridge, MA, 2008.

– *Taking Kinetic Sculpture From Concept to Completion*, Fayerweather Street School, Cambridge, MA, 2007.

– *Collision Collusion*, Collision Collective, MIT, 2006.

– *Molding and Casting Foam Latex Stop-Motion Animation Puppets*, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, 2004, 2007.

- *Kinematics, Physics, Contraptions, and Dumpster Trash*, Privately commissioned workshop, NYC, 2005.
- *Art in a Blender*, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA, 1991.

#### STOP-MOTION ANIMATION:

- *As Head Model Builder (puppets, sets, rigs) for the following production companies for the following clients...*

HandCranked Productions, Waltham, MA. <http://handcrankedproductions.com>

- Sesame Street
- Motorola

Olive Jar/Red Sky Studios, Boston, MA.

- Chevron
- Disneyland
- Samsung
- Coca-Cola
- Cartoon Network
- Nickelodeon
- National Milk Board
- Quaker Oats
- Levi's
- Turner Classic Movies
- NFL Films
- Landmark Cinemas
- Seven Eleven
- Payless Shoes
- Arizona Jeans

#### SCIENCE MUSEUM EXHIBITS/EDUCATIONAL TOOLS:

- *Brainstorming and initial design, prototyping, debugging, building architectural presentation models, final design and fabrication of exhibit elements, in varying degrees with the following clients...*

- Denver Museum of Science and Nature
- Hartford Science Center
- Boston Museum of Science
- Boston Children's Museum
- New York Hall of Science
- Charles River Museum of Industry, Waltham, MA
- Arizona Science Museum
- Discovery Museum, Acton, MA
- New England Aquarium, Boston, MA
- Wright Brothers Museum, Dayton, OH
- Minnesota Science Museum
- TechnoFrolics, Somerville, MA
- Jeff Kennedy and Associates, Cambridge, MA
- TERC, Cambridge, MA:

- A math/science curriculum development laboratory, with whom I helped develop the following projects:

- *Physics Playground* - A dastardly plan to teach kids physics while they're playing at recess!

- *X./Y Cars* – Teaching Cartesian coordinates as a function of speed and distance with little cars.
- *Math in Motion* – An exhibit destined for the Minnesota Science Museum created to represent mathematical principles as sensory experiences.
- *Gear Strings* – Translating gear ratios in to distance ratios.
- *Giant Etch-a-Sketch* – A large two-person version the familiar toy adapted to teach Cartesian principles through drawing and teamwork.
- *Steam Piston* – A hand-cranked model of a steam piston with a computer interface that mapped force and leverage relationships.
- *Growing Chamber* – Hydroponic setup for classrooms.
- *Chaos Fountain* – A water-propelled device for modeling chaotic motion.
- *Light Track* – Outdoor adjustable light-chaser for racing against a clock.

### INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS:

Patent pending – *Debris Catchment System and Furniture Cover.*

Patent pending – *Tail-Driven Screw Fastener for Use in Tamper Resistant and Decorative Applications.*

Technofrolics, Somerville, MA.

– A science/art studio specializing in computer-choreographed objects and exhibits. I worked mostly on designing and machining physical components and writing/defending patents.

- *Counting Blocks* – Montessori-inspired math teaching device using physical building blocks and a computer interface to reinforce mathematical principles.
- *SpinBrowser* – Video navigation tool for museum settings.
- *Dancing Banners* – DMX controlled moter-driven choreographable banners.
- *Dancing Trees* – Magnetically driven iron dust “trees” that are choreographed to music.
- *Tower of Triangles* – A stack of elements spring-loaded together capable of modeling wave forms and harmonic patterns; funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.
- *Air Car* – Wind-driven model car that drives into the wind.

HandsOnToys, Woburn, MA.

– Producers of *Toobers and Zots, Floam, Wiggly-Giggly* balls, and much more.

• Design and construction of factory tools for the mass production of *Toobers and Zots.*

• Consultant on various other projects.

Laundromutt, Cambridge, MA.

– A local chain of self-serve dogwash spas.

• Custom designed and built dog shampoo systems using a venturi-inspired principle for dynamic aeration and suds formation.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN/INTERIOR/ARCHITECTURAL:

*Joshua Bell apartment, New York City.*

– Engineered mechanical elements for the apartment of violinist Joshua Bell, including a dining room table and bed that both rose to the ceiling when not in use, and a waterfall that poured into the bathroom jacuzzi.

*Courtyard garden, Taos, NM.*

– Residential courtyard rock garden in the Japanese style, with a waterfall, koi pond, dry stream and local alpine flora.

*Xeriscape garden*, Carson, NM.

– Perennial garden for a remote log cabin residence in the high desert southwest. Included a 400 foot purple stucco wall that defined outdoor rooms, whisper points, solar-powered fountain, grey water recycling and rooftop rainwater collection.

*Residential Townhouse*, Romblon, Philippines.

– A small three-story townhouse in the heart of the old Spanish-era town of Romblon, on the small marble-producing island of the same name. The design was inspired by local Spanish architecture, complete with a rooftop garden patio and earthquake resistance.

*Aniniput Treehouse Inn*, Romblon, Philippines.

– Inspired by local treehouse architecture, Doug Fitch and I decided to design and build a treehouse inn in a grove of pagatpat trees in a tidal area near the beach. The inn had three bedroom outbuildings, living/dining area, kitchen, shower and treetop office - all connected by raised walkways, solar power and plumbing. In the evenings the trees filled with aniniputs (fireflies). Published in an article in Joyce magazine, the inn met its demise in a typhoon three years after it was built.

Joe Bartlett Landscape, New Haven, CT

– Was principal garden designer for the firm for two years and designed gardens for the following clients in the New Haven area:

- *Broadnax residence*, New Haven, CT.
- *Fleming residence*, West Haven, CT.
- *The Elizabethan Club*, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- *Burkun residence*, Durham, CT.
- *Zetterberg residence*, Branford, CT.
- *Bartlett residence*, New Haven, CT.
- *Beach House*, Branford, CT.
- *Fairhaven Health Clinic*, New Haven, CT.
- *Wexler residence*, New Haven, CT.

#### EVENT DESIGN/PERFORMANCE:

– I ran an emergency amusement company called Titanic Events for a while with my brother Doug. Here's a sampling of some of our projects:

- *Barfly*, Roxy Nightclub, Boston, MA.
  - A three-foot mechanical housefly that nightly burst through the wall of a the popular nightclub and sped around the ceiling over the heads of surprised partygoers.
- *Shark Attack at L'Espalier Restaurant*, Scuba Magazine, Ford Company, Boston, MA.
  - A practical joke played by some Ford executives against some Scuba executives.
- *The [re]Birth of the Boston Art Scene*, DeCordova Museum/South St. Gallery Association, Boston, MA.
  - A block party in downtown Boston celebrating the Boston art scene that featured, among other things, a ten-foot egg that hatched a live chicken, a farmer, a large cactus, and six dancing fairies.
- *Theater-Dinner Performance Event*, The Titanic Studio, Allston, MA.
  - A surrealist dinner that featured many surprises, a sampling of which might include dancing roses, staged kitchen disasters, food descending from the heavens, a weather report from a meteorologist wearing a bowl of dip on his head in the middle of the table, surrounded by carrots, surrounded by hungry rabbits, a guest in a brick wall costume, and a dining table that rose after the meal to become a garden pergola....
- *Caribbean Night*, Roxy Nightclub, Boston, MA.
  - An underwater/tropical theme party where the bar waitresses wore costumes that dispensed tropical drinks and a nine foot tall jukebox pumped out ska and reggae.

- *Titanic Café*, Titanic Studio, Allston, MA.
  - Under the banner “ART IS FOOD” we turned the Titanic Studio into a performing arts space and café. Eventually, the space became well known (especially the floating desert/Las Vegas themed restroom) in the Boston area as an alternative music scene.
- *Larry Sommers Memorial Bench*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
  - As a memorial to a well-loved member of the Adams House community, we built a glowing translucent fiberglass bench for the courtyard.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Professionally trained in Solidworks (2004) and Photoshop (2000)  
Artist's assistant to Arthur Ganson (1990-1992)  
Apprenticeship with William Wainwright (1993-1994)  
Music Study with Malamini Jobarteh, Gambia, West Africa (2001)  
Self-directed jungle orchid collecting expedition, Philippines (1984)

#### EDUCATION:

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, B.A. Film Studies, May 1988.  
Honors: Cum Laude With Distinction in the Major, Jonathan Edwards Arts Prize,  
Bates Memorial Grant for the Arts.

Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, 1983.  
Honors: Cum Laude Society, Draper Memorial Prize for Declamation, Latin  
Departmental Award for Declamation, Theater Departmental Award for Directing.