### **ROBIN BUTTER**

My name is Robin Butter, she/her visual artist from The Hague, Netherlands. As a child, it was my dream to become an archaeologist, inspired by the sense of adventure that digging in the earth evoked in me. However, my passion for storytelling has since blossomed! To which documentary photography becoming a tool for exploring history, mythology in social topics. In my work, I strive to approach these subjects in a vibrant and engaging manner, working closely with autonomous communities. Creating a space by weaving together elements of a self-created history and the everyday life. Linvite viewers to escape the ordinary and embark on a journey of discovery with me. Graduated from the Royal Academy of Arts, The Hague in 2014. Photographing shooting ranges in the Netherlands titled "It Takes My Mind Off Things". The work was self-published as a photobook in November 2015, with the launch at Paris Photo. In december 2023 the photobook Drakeblood (blood of the dragon) was released by publisher Lecturis. I worked from 2018-2023 closely with the village-community of Beesel & Stichting Draaksteken. It was a process to take the viewer through the almost elusive intertwining of different realities in Beesel. The village holds great symbolic significance for me, and in my book, I capture this village and its elusive myth. I prefer to work analog in the darkroom, I experiment with analog printing techniques.

#### **WEBSITES**

projects and visual CV

www.robinbutter.com

Der Greif magazine: Artist blog + Contributor

dergreif.org/contributors/?name=Robin+Butter

SOCIAL MEDIA

instagram.com/robinbutter facebook.com/studiorobinbutter/

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

DuPho/ Platform GKF

#### **EDUCATION**

2022 -	BDB 'Artist as a Teacher' didactics Hoge
2023	School der Kunsten
2020 - 2021	Artivism Leiden Universiteit
2017 -	master-class alumni with Corinne
2020	Noordenbos Corinne Noordenbos
2010 - 2014	BA of Arts, Photography Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

## **EXHIBITIONS**

2024

2024

2022

My Name in 100 Colophons; It takes my mind off things Fotohof Salzberg, Austria Overview of the exhibition where the dummy graduation work from 2014 and the published photobook from 2015 are compared through a rhythmic presentation, focusing on image choices and narrative of the same project 'It Takes My Mind Off Things'. fotohof.at/en/exhibitions/zu-gast-n5-my-name-in-100-colophons/

Group

clear 62 / 5.000 Vertaalresultaten Vertaalresultaat Under Mother's Wings - Migration Stories of Turkish Women from The Hague Atrium City Hall The Hague, Netherlands With the exhibition Under Mother's Wings: Migration Stories of The Hague-Turkish Women, the Hague Municipal Archives gives Turkish mothers, daughters and grandchildren a voice. In collaboration with the Avrasya Foundation, 12 women were interviewed and portrayed by photographer Robin Butter. These (often) first generation women who came to the Netherlands tell their story, the story of migration to the Netherlands. Stories about the pain, the sorrow, but also about the good that this has brought them.

atriumcityhall.nl/agenda/posterwand-haags-gemeentearchieftentoonstelling-onder-moeders-vleugels-migratieverhalen-vanhaags-turkse-vrouwen/

Solo

Solo

Dragon blood Atelier K84 Amsterdam, Netherlands Atelier K84 is proud to be the first to show the solo exhibition 'Drakeblood' by The Hague-based documentary photographer Robin Butter. Robin uses photography as a means of digging into the backgrounds of cultural phenomena. In her search for the escape of her own reality from the everyday, she photographs people and their stories, exploring the meaning of history and myths. atelierk84.nl/

## **PROJECTS**

2025

2024

2023

The Hague Bonfires Haags Historisch Museum The Hague, Netherlands The Hague Bonfires Collaboration with photographer Daniel Heikens and the Hague Historical Museum. 2-year project that has just started about the history, present and future of the 'kerstomen rausen' With focus on Duindorp and Scheveningen

No child's game Den Haag Leiden, Netherlands Dealing with it from a personal perspective i have discovered that with 1 in 6 women around the globe has to deal with this medical intervention. Yet, nobody has told the story, yet. Dealing with frustration there is no imagery available about this drastic procedure about hope, grief, love. Trying to understand the cultural and social contexts surrounding female fertility, i want to capture the essence of this complex subject matter. Navigating the nuances of fertility as a deeply personal and universally relevant aspect of the human experience, shedding personal light on the emotional, ethical, and scientific dimensions of fertility treatments like IVF for many women

Drakeblood / blood of the dragon The Hague - Beesel, Netherlands www.robinbutter.com/drakeblood Dragons are celebrated worldwide in various forms, such as stories, books, films and series. The most famous story in Europe is that of

Eye in eye with Laak Tramtunnel Gallery The Hague, Netherlands From the March 14th until June 4th 20223, you can stop at Spui Gallery of the Tramtunnel, if you like. To meet 55 residents I photographed for the Haags Gemeentearchief, for the project Haags DNA / Laak. Within a few weeks I have tracked down residents from my old neighbourhood and met fantastic new ones. With the great help for tips like initiatives @samen\_voor\_laak, and Vrouwenbuurtlab. Or anyone who could help shine a light on people, who are not always in the spotlight they deserve. Thank you! Had great conversations, laughed, danced in storm & wind, sometimes the conversation got to sad turns, and talked about problems of the neighbourhood. All these faces represent, or show a strong connection within the district in their own special way <a href="https://www.robinbutter.com/news/2022/5/7/exhibition-oog-in-oog-laak-haags-dna-haags-gemeentearchief-tramtunnel-gallery Solo">www.robinbutter.com/news/2022/5/7/exhibition-oog-in-oog-laak-haags-dna-haags-gemeentearchief-tramtunnel-gallery Solo</a>

Dragon's blood Brandstof Galerie Leerdam, Netherlands 'Drakeblood' by The Hague-based documentary photographer Robin Butter. Robin uses photography as a means of digging into the backgrounds of cultural phenomena. In her search for the escape of her own reality from the everyday, she photographs people and their stories, exploring the meaning of history and myths. <a href="https://www.galeriebrandstof.nl/lege-pagina">www.galeriebrandstof.nl/lege-pagina</a>

It takes my mind off things Space Place One - Gallery of Modern Art Space Place Nizhny Tagil, Russian Federation Solo exhibition - 'It takes my mind off things' - Robin Butter 11.11.21 - 28.11.21 @ Space Place One - Gallery of Modern Art Space Place <a href="https://www.instagram.com/spaceplaceone/">www.instagram.com/spaceplaceone/</a> Solo

ELIA Academy 2019: What's going on Here? Decoding Digitality in Higher Arts Education. Stuttgart Academy of Art & Design, entrance hall Stuttgart, Germany In addition to the main event in September and the online festival, we support emerging artists throughout the year. NEU NOW operates as a platform promoting artistic excellence and creating an (inter)national springboard for artists of the future. Select artists are invited to show their work and participate in residencies with our partners including Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam, Prix Europa Berlin and more. Selecting 1 artist of the previous editions from the past 10 years. Robin Butter is selected from the 2014 Neu Now group. <a href="www.elia-artschools.org/events/elia-academy">www.elia-artschools.org/events/elia-academy</a> Solo

Fake | Truts Rotterdam Photo Festival 2018 Rotterdam, Netherlands Photography has long been perceived as one of the most truthful mediums but has always been questioned. Images have the power to change the perception of the masses and alter history. Where a photojournalist attempts to impact the crowd with a "truthful" image, the conceptual artist might do the same with manipulated imagery. With the use of many types of photography, Rotterdam Photo seeks the line between real and fabricated with the theme Fake | Truth. We explore how truthful an image actually can be and how fabricated and altered images might actually be a gateway to a new truth.

 ${\color{red} \underline{www.rotterdamphotofestival.com/exhibitionprogram} \\ {\color{red} Group}$ 

2018 -SYB- Sybren Kuiper Fotobook Festival Kassel Kassel, Germany All photo fotobookfestival.org/portfolio-item/10fbf/

'Different ways of portraiture' Hoogtij #52 Sue\_das lab The Hague, Netherlands Portraiture is an important subject in photography. All photographic portraits that we present at Sue\_Das Lab are made in completely different ways. By putting them together, we get a better insight on what portraiture can do. work: 'After all I still want a Fox' Hoogtij #52 Sue\_das lab

Family of No Man Cosmos Arles Books Arles, France The Family of No Man is the culmination of an open call that has brought together 494 female and inter-gender artists from all around the world working in the medium of photography. The aim of this radical curatorial proposition is to revisit Edward Steichen's original The Family of Man, a seminal photographic exhibition and publication from 1955, which in its time was described "as one of the most ambitious undertakings in an art museum". work: 'Portraits of Power Boost'. <a href="mailto:thefamilyofnoman.com/infos.php">thefamilyofnoman.com/infos.php</a>

'It takes my mind off things' Paris Photo Main sector H2 / Dirk K Boeken Paris, France Showcase + book signing photobook 'It takes my mind off things' <a href="www.parisphoto.com/en/2016-program/">www.parisphoto.com/en/2016-program/</a> Group

'It takes my mind off things' Life Framer, Think Tank Gallery, Los Angeles, US Los Angeles , United States Groupshow Life Framer

George and the Dragon, but how can this legend have a major impact on a small village community in Central Limburg, the Netherlands? Beesel is dragon territory! A dragon from the river Maas appears in this village once every seven years. The village then turns into an open-air spectacle. where 500 volunteers from the 2.500 inhabitants bring the story of George and the Dragon to life. When you are born in Beesel, 'drake blood' automatically flows through your veins. 'Drakeblood' is Limburg dialect for dragon's blood. The oldest known mention of the Beeselse dragon dates from 1736, where people sang about 'dat liedeke van den giftighen draecke' (song of the poisonous Dragon), which is passed on from generation to generation. In the region, this phenomenon is known as the Dragon Stabbing. It seems to be much older, but due to a gigantic fire in 1899, many archives about the village were lost and it remains only speculation. By entering into close collaboration with the village, Robin has succeeded in capturing this ageold phenomenon and bringing it together in this photo book. In Beesel, a history has been created around an event that never took place.

'It takes my mind off things' self-published The Hague, Netherlands www.robinbutter.com/it-takes-my-mind-off-things-photobook Publicatie in eigen beheer uit gegeven van 'It takes my mind off things' design by -5YB- edition: 400

2019

2015

Book-app Y-doc Amsterdam , Netherlands <u>www.ydocfoundation.org</u> photobook app only available for Apple

2021

2022

2022

2019

2018

2018

2018

2016

2015

photo exhibition www.life-framer.com

2015 'The Photobook as art object' Dehli Photo Festival, New Dehli, India

New Dehli, India The photobook as art object, currated by Regina

Anzenberger www.delhiphotofestival.com

2014 Neu/Noq Reid Gallery Glasgow, United Kingdom Neu/Now 2014

festival, Group show with graduates selected by Elia Art Schools to represent different Art Academies based in Europe of 2014.

www.neunow.eu

2014 'A cup of Joe, historical coffee tents The Hague City Hall The Hague The Hague, Netherlands Solo exhibition in collaboration with The

Hague Municipal Archive about the historic coffee tents in The Hague. Combination of archival images with not material manufactured by Robin Butter www.denhaag.nl/nl/bestuur-enorganisatie/gemeentelijke-organisatie/atrium-city-hall-geeft-

ruimte-aan-ideeen.htm

### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2014

2013

Neu/Now 2014 Glasgow, United Kingdom In addition to the main event in September and the online festival. we support emerging artists throughout the year. NEU NOW operates as a platform promoting artistic excellence and creating an (inter)national springboard for artists of the future. Select artists are invited to show their work and participate in residencies with our partners including Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam, Prix Europa Berlin and more.

www.neunow.eu

Nicolai Howalt Copenhagen, Denmark

nicolaihowalt.com

2013 Trine Søndergaard Copenhagen.

Denmark trinesondergaard.com

### **COMMISSIONS**

2024

12 portraits Migration Stories of Turkish Women from The Hague for exhibition in City Hall Haags Gemeentearchief The Hague With the exhibition Under Mother's Wings: Migration Stories of The Hague Turkish Women, the Hague Municipal Archives gives Turkish mothers, daughters and grandchildren a voice. In collaboration with the Avrasya Foundation, 12 women were interviewed and portrayed by photographer Robin Butter. These (often) first generation women who came to the Netherlands tell their story, the story of migration to the Netherlands. Stories about the pain, the sorrow, but also about the good that this has brought them.

www.robinbutter.com/news/2024/8/9/portrettenvoor-haags-gemeentearchief-amp-

stichting-avrasya-te-zien-in-atrium-den-

haag finished

2021 Religion in change Haags Gemeentearchief

The Hague, Netherlands 20 portraits about 17 religious sites, which have changed markedly in recent decades. Churches have been completely demolished, others are now used by a different faith community than what the church was originally built for, and new places of worship have been built, such as the largest temple complex in the Netherlands that we find in Laak, and in many neighborhoods too. small or larger mosques. In short: the religious landscape changes with our lively and super diverse

haagsgemeentearchief.nl/images/PDF\_bestanden/Fietsboekje\_Geloven\_in\_v

finished

2017 Artist blog Der Greif Ausburg, Germany Public Domain - Every week an artist whose single image was published by Der Greif is given a platform in which to blog about

contemporary photography. dergreifonline.de/contributors/robin-butter/

2015 "the importance of art in society' Stroom Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands Art

assignment - C & C projects Stroom vs Maris College Belgian Park guest artist / teacher. Guiding school students in their art

projects www.stroom.nl finished

2013 'A cup of Joe, historical coffee tents The Hague Haags Gemeente Archief The Hague

Art assignment - Cooperation for material and exhibition about the Hague coffee tent www.denhaag.nl/nl/bestuur-en-

organisatie/gemeentelijke-

organisatie/atrium-city-hall-geeft-ruimte-

aan-ideeen.htm finished

### SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2020 'It takes my mind off tings' National
Library of The Netherlands The Hague,
Nederland Phtobook 'It takes my mind
off things' is been added to the
collection of the National Library of the

Netherlands.

2017 'It takes my mind off things' Hellenic Centre for Photography Athenes,

Griekenland museum collection

2014 'A cup of Joe, historical coffee tents The

Hague The Hague Municipal Archives
The Hague , Nederland collection

Cityarchives The Hague

### **PUBLICATIONS**

2024

The great Dutch art calendar 2025 Catalog Nai / Nai uitgevers Trichis Rotterdam, Netherlands grotekunstkalender.nl The Great Dutch Art Calendar offers a platform to renowned and upcoming talent. For artists, it is the way to present their work to a wide audience. The calendar shows the versatile range of art in the Netherlands in an original way. The selection is made each year by a changing team of art experts and guarantees the quality and diversity of the artworks in the calendar. The GNKKs have been a great success for years. These works are bundled in a hefty, almost 3 kilo full-colour tear-off calendar.

2023

Drakeblood / blood of the dragon Book Lecturis Publishers Robin Butter The Hague, Netherlands

lecturis.nl/product/drakeblood/ Dragons are celebrated worldwide in various forms such as stories, books, films and series. The most famous story in Europe is that of George and the Dragon, but how can this legend have a major impact on a small village community in Central Limburg, the Netherlands? Beesel is dragon territory! A dragon from the river Maas appears in this village once every seven years. The village then turns into an open-air spectacle, where 500 volunteers from the 2.500 inhabitants bring the story of George and the Dragon to life. When you are born in Beesel, 'drake blood' automatically flows through your veins. 'Drakeblood' is Limburg dialect for dragon's blood. The oldest known mention of the Beeselse dragon dates from 1736, where people sang about 'dat liedeke van den giftighen draecke' (song of the poisonous Dragon), which is passed on from generation to generation. In the region, this phenomenon is known as the Dragon Stabbing. It seems to be much older, but due to a gigantic fire in 1899, many archives about the village were lost and it remains only speculation. By entering into close collaboration with the village, Robin has succeeded in capturing this ageold phenomenon and bringing it together in this photo book. In Beesel, a history has been created around an event that never took place.

2023

2019

Trendbook A/W 19/20 Messe Frankfurt
Texworld Paris Paris , France texworldparis.fr.messefrankfurt.com/paris/en.html
From the series 'Ocean Hope' - work in
progress 2019 - a picture has been chosen
to inspire their trend book for autumn /
winter for 2019-2020

2019

'Shooting holes in zombies' NRC Media Diederik Huffels Amsterdam , Netherlands nrc.nl Two photographs from the series 'It takes my mind off things', 2015 made it to page 6/7 in NRC weekend edition 'Leven'. About the difference between the gun culture in the US and here in the Netherlands. Text by Diederik Huffels, adventure in Las Vegas shooting with a Tommy gun at nazi zombie's and Koos Dijksterhuis critical response.

2017

Art Narratives Bologna/Italië artnarratives.com/author/butter interview

2016

Le livre de la semaine Les Branchouilles, Paris Pierre Bressard Paris, France <u>lesbranchouilles.com/photographie/wpa-de-robin-butter-le-livre-de-la-semaine/</u> attibel

2016

Editorial It takes my mind off things Yet-Magazine artikel

2016	Der Greif magazine Ausburg, Duitsland magazine
2015	It takes My Mind Off Things expanded edition self-published kunstenaarsboek
2015	Life Framer, Tink Thank Gallery exhibition Life Framer, London catalogus groeps expositie
2014	ELIA Neu Now festival live 2014 Glasgow Elia, Amsterdam catalogus groeps expositie
2014	It Takes My Mind Off Things self-published kunstenaarsboek

### **REVIEWS**

2022 Photographer Robin (35) immerses

herself in Laak: 'The neighborhood is in your DNA, it never goes away'
Newspaper AD - Haagsch Courant The Hague, Netherlands <a href="https://www.ad.nl/den-haag/fotografe-robin-35-dompelt-zich-onder-in-laak-de-bourt-zit-in-je-dna-dat-gaat-nooit-weg~a2bf5859/?">https://www.ad.nl/den-haag/fotografe-robin-35-dompelt-zich-onder-in-laak-de-bourt-zit-in-je-dna-dat-gaat-nooit-weg~a2bf5859/?</a>

referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F

The @ad\_denhaag today published an interview about the series 'Eye in Eye Laak' as part of the Hague DNA project, which has been on display in the Tramtunnel Gallery for several weeks. Thank you @christy92 for the conversation and the extra light on the beautiful people I got to photograph. Strengthen their (background) story more than the project. That was and is the soul purpose of it all. Photographer AD clearly had a different image of the District than I did. I am against visualizing communities, especially Muslim women in the media in this way.

2021 n.v.t. Newspaper NRC - Sarah

Owerkerk Amsterdam, Netherlands www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2021/06/08/eendorpje-in-de-ban-van-een-draak-a4046494 publication in national newspaper NRC 9 juni 2021 text written by Sarah Ouwerkerk. In the NRC newspaper I am taking you on an adventure today, June 9th 2021. With the 'Drakeblood' story. Which I've been working on for about 2 years now, together with Beesel and the Draaksteken Foundation. Very exciting, to be published while still working on it, but even more exciting because I also

have to build up a bit of responsibility for 2500 people of the village of Beesel.

2021 Interview local broadcaster television 'Summernight of.. TV Omroep P&M

Venray , Netherlands
www.youtube.com/watch?
v=7EoaYb0kO2E Local broadcaster
with its own version of Dutch hit
program NPO- summer guests. Entitled
'The summer evening of.." Interviewed
for 24 minutes for the broadcaster
about the Drakeblood project

# SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - -- Teacher of analogue photography & darkroom at Buurhuis de Volharding

On-going

2020 - - Photography Teacher, for the 'Kunstplan' Royal Academy of Arts, Preparatory Course On-going

2019 - -- Guest teacher photography Preparatory
Courses, Royal Academy of Art, The
Hague On-going

### **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

2024 Nominee Joop Swart Masterclass World Press Photo, NL Amsterdam, Netherlands

nominees for the 2024 Joop Swart Masterclass, selected by an international

panel of nominators.

2023 Funding for publication of photobook
Drakeblood Het Cultuurfonds Amsterdam,

Netherlands The Cultuurfonds has provided a contribution of [X] to facilitate the publication of the photobook Drakeblood / blood of the dragon by Publisher Lecturis in

December 2023.

2019 Shortlist Paris , France International

Women Photographs Award 2019

2015 Honored Stroom PRO Kunstprojecten The

Hague, Netherlands

2015 Honored Fonds kwadraat Amsterdam

2014 Gehonoreerd Ydoc foundation, Amsterdam Amsterdam Ydoc

PhotobookApp prize, winnaar

2014 Unseen dummy award, shortlisted Unseen,

Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands

2019 - 2020	Guest teacher architecture photography workshop for the Monumenten Zorg The Hague
2019 - 2020	Post '65 teacher architecture photography, commissioned by
2018 - 2018	Technical assistant Michael Wolf for the exhibition at the Fotomuseum The Hague
2018	Museum educator The Hague Municipal Archives in collaboration with Historisch Informatiepunt
2018	Photography technician, Photography workshop, Royal Academy of Art The Hague
2018 - 2018	Guest artist for FCA Group, BTS project Case Study, teaching workshop 'creative process (conceptualization and realization) of an image'.
2018 - 2018	technical assistent Michael Wolf - exhibition The Real Toy Story Fotomuseum The Hague
2015 - 2015	C&C Projecten, STROOM Den Haag vs MAris College Belgisch Park



portrait of Nevin for The Hague city archives, 2024



portrait of Gülcan together with her mother and daughter for the Hague Municipal Archives, 2024



Sketch detail in darkroom , 2024 Analogue photogram, n.t.b.



Sketch detail in darkroom , 2024 analogue photogram, n.t.b.



Jo, Saint George 1967, Drakeblood, 2023 C print Hahnemuhle photo rag metallic, 60 x 80 x 5 cm



Beekstraat, Beesel, 2023 C print Hahnemuhle photo rag metallic,  $60 \times 80 \times 5 \text{ cm}$ 



draak lam tam, 1935, 2023 reproduction, 21 x 16 cm



Portrait of Ran for the exhibition 300 years of Pinkas, 2023



page from photobook Drakeblood , 2023 offset print, 170 x 240 x 10 mm



Drakeblood / blood of the dragon - photobook, 2023 Offset printing - 188 pages of interior content + 2x 4 pages of glued endpapers in HARDCOVER.,  $170\times240~\text{mm}$