

sculpture

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Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

Ridgefield, Connecticut

Robert Taplin

Through March 20, 2011

Taplin's "Punch" series gives a contemporary psychological and political twist to the misadventures of this imaginary trickster from the 17th-century commedia dell'arte. Nothing less than a lens through which to magnify and distort personal anxieties and societal norms, Taplin's Punch "demonstrates the power of shame and guilt by ignoring them," always preserving his

mystique behind a blank mask that leaves us to project emotions and interpretations. This selection of four sculptures (Punch arrested at the border and homeless, among other scenarios) is accompanied by a major new outdoor work. *The Young Punch Goes Shopping with His Mother* captures the inveterate troublemaker in an awkward role of adolescent obedience, firmly taken in hand by towering authority.

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