

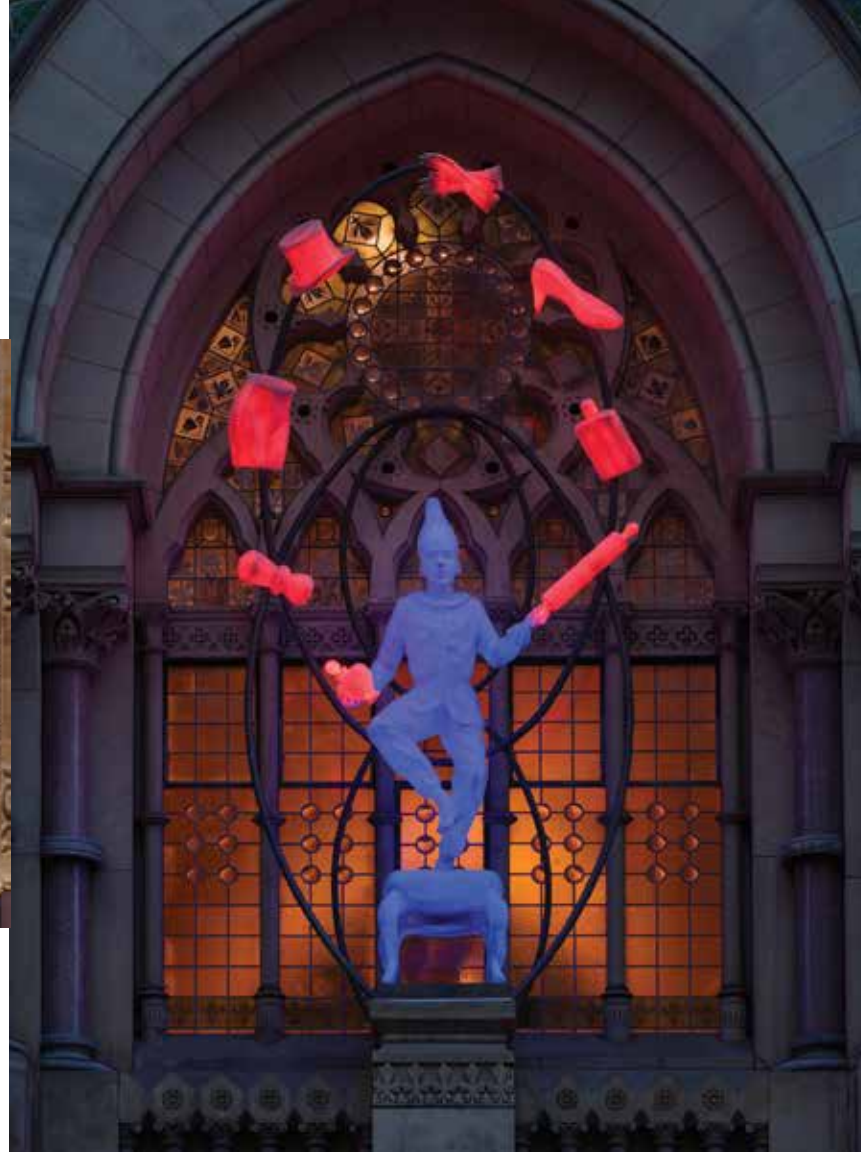
WHO IS PUNCH?



Robert Taplin, *Punch Invited to a Stag Party*, 2012, cast resin, 11 x 12 x 10 in., photo credit Peter Mauss / esto

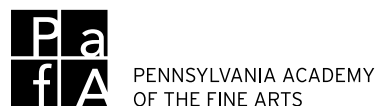
Punch is a comic character who originated with the Commedia dell'arte, a form of masked theater that began in 17th century Italy, and is also found populating the rococo art of France's ancien régime. In England and the United States, Punch is best known as the violent trickster from the puppet shows "Punch and Judy."

Robert Taplin's interest in Punch began after viewing an exhibition of drawings by the artist Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (1727-1804), whose series "Entertainment for Children" (ca. 1800) cast the clown in scenes from his everyday world. In the spirit of Tiepolo, Taplin's Punch engages in 21st century mischief— he attends rowdy bachelor's parties, preens on the red carpet, and attempts illegal border crossings. Punch, as Taplin says, "is nothing if not adaptable."

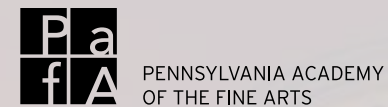


Above: Robert Taplin, *The Young Punch Juggling*, 2014, fiberglass, steel, and lights, 193 x 86 x 30 in., photo credit Peter Mauss / esto; Cover: Robert Taplin, *Punch Makes a Public Confession*, 2014, milled foam, reinforced gypsum, wood, and steel, 106 1/2 x 64 x 44 1/2 in., photo credit Peter Mauss / esto

The Sculpture Plinth Program: Robert Taplin is supported by Arthur Dantchik, Joe and Jane Goldblum, William and Joan Goldstein, Marie Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Peterson, and Richard Vague



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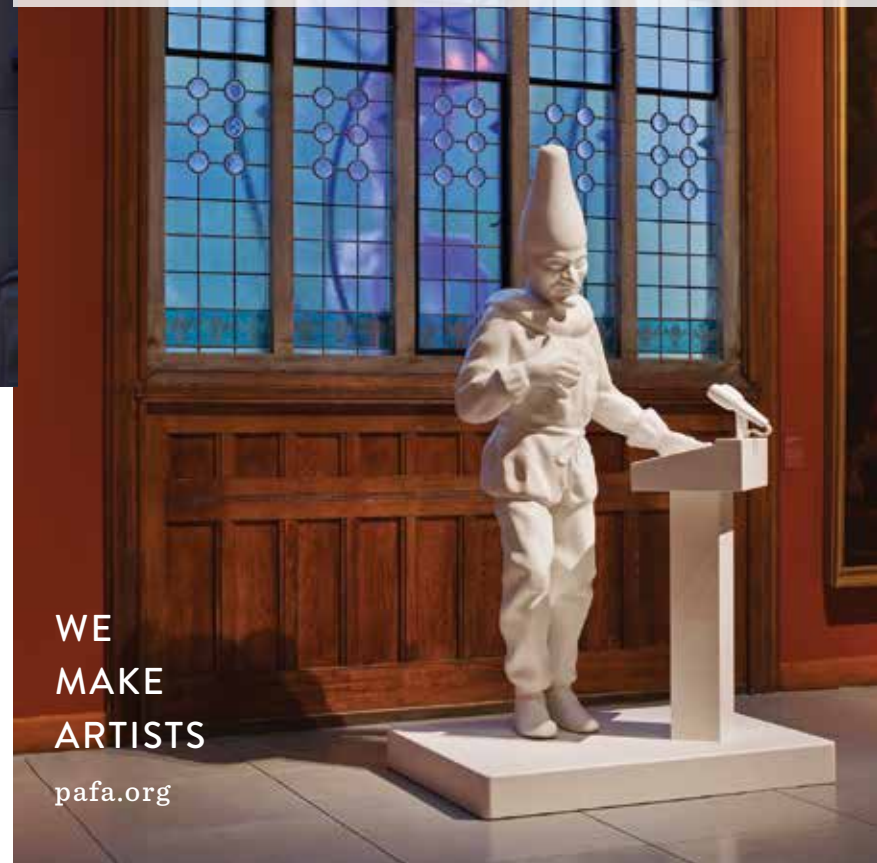


THE YOUNG PUNCH JUGGLING

February 2015 – May 2016

ROBERT TAPLIN: PUNCH

February 13 – May 24, 2015



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ROBERT TAPLIN: PUNCH

Robert Taplin: Punch, a group of twelve small-scale and two large-scale sculptures, was installed amidst the historic art in PAFA's famed 1876 Furness & Hewitt designed building, from February 13 – May 24, 2015. Shown at various stages of his life, from mischievous child to delinquent adult, these manifestations of Punch were scattered throughout the museum's permanent collection. Whether it was Punch the repentant politician confessing in the Washington Foyer, flanked by portraits of the founding father, or Punch the magician setting off an explosion in front of the abstract expressionists, the trickster was a source of queasy fascination. *The Young Punch Juggling*, currently on the front façade of the building, is a sitespecific piece designed by Taplin as part of PAFA's sculpture plinth program. The work, sixteen feet tall and constructed from fiberglass and steel, is illuminated from within at night. Precariously balanced on a stool, Punch juggles traditionally masculine and feminine objects from the early 20th century. This mix of cultural signifiers from various eras reflects and plays off of the eclectic architectural references that architect Frank Furness brought together in the exuberant Broad street façade of PAFA's building.

Right, top to bottom: Robert Taplin, *Punch Pops the Weasel*, 2013, Cast resin, 14 x 12 x 12 in., photo credit ZP Heller; Robert Taplin, *Punch Does a Magic Trick*, 2010, Cast resin, 10 1/2 x 12 x 10 in., photo credit Peter Mauss/esto



ABOUT THE ARTIST



Robert Taplin, *Punch Is Homeless*, 2012, Milled foam, reinforced gypsum, steel, and AstroTurf, 99 x 93 x 57 in., photo credit ZP Heller

Robert Taplin is a sculptor based in New Haven, CT, who, has executed public commissions for the New York MTA, Arts in Transit and the state of Connecticut Percent for Art, Program. Taplin has been the recipient of numerous, awards and fellowships, including grants from the, Connecticut Commission on the Arts, the National, Endowment for the Arts, and the John Simon Guggenheim, Memorial Foundation. Taplin has also written extensively, on sculpture, most prominently for Art in America, and, taught in several graduate and undergraduate programs,, most recently at Rhode Island School of Design. His work, has been exhibited nationally in venues such as MASS, MoCA, the Wadsworth Atheneum, and the Aldrich, Contemporary Art Museum.