



1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2015

2018

1936

Born in Brisbane on 16 April, the second of four children to Ada (née Vogt) and Robert Robinson.

1943–49

Lives in Fairfield, a southern Brisbane riverside suburb, with his family. Spends his early schooling at Junction Park Primary School at nearby Annerley. He shows artistic skill early on, producing the best pastel drawings of his primary-school class.

1950–53

Attends Brisbane State High School, South Brisbane. In 1953, he sees the exhibition *French painting today* at the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG), which leaves a lasting impression on him. He shows considerable talent at playing the piano, which remains an integral part of his life. At the end of high school, he has to choose between becoming an art teacher or a professional pianist.

1954–56

Commences training as a primary school teacher at Queensland Teachers' Training College, Kelvin Grove. In 1955, he is awarded a two-year scholarship and embarks on an art teacher-training course at Brisbane's Central Technical College (CTC). In 1956, he is awarded the College's Godfrey Rivers Memorial Medal for excellence in painting, sculpture, applied art and drawing.

1957–62

Appointed instructor in art at CTC, and works part-time towards an art teacher's diploma and a diploma in drawing and painting (which he completes in 1962).

In 1958, marries Shirley Rees, a former commercial art student at CTC. The couple settles in Gaythorne, an inner north-west suburb of Brisbane, and the first of their six children is born in 1959.

1963–69

Commences a six-year tenure as an art lecturer at Kedron Park Teachers' College. Family moves to Coorparoo on Brisbane's south side. In 1967, Robinson holds his first solo exhibition at the Design Arts Centre, Brisbane.

1970–71

The Robinson family moves to a three-hectare farm at Birkdale on Brisbane's eastern outskirts. Robinson is appointed Senior Lecturer in Art at Kelvin Grove Teachers' College (until 1975). In 1971, he travels to Sydney to see the *Pierre Bonnard* exhibition, which exerts a strong influence on his art, particularly his compositions of domestic interiors.

1975

Begins to focus on landscapes of the Redland Bay district and Moreton Bay. He moves to Toowoomba for six months to teach at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education.

1976–80

Starts to teach at North Brisbane College of Advanced Education (until 1981). In 1977, he holds a solo exhibition at Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane. The theme of farmyard life becomes the main subject of his art from the late 1970s. He is also influenced by his love of music, with many of his works containing musical references, such as *Orchestra with cows* 1980.

1982–86

Appointed Senior Lecturer in Art at Brisbane College of Advanced Education (until 1989). In 1984, he moves with his family to an 80-hectare farm at Beechmont in Queensland's Gold Coast hinterland, and begins to paint the precipitous landscape of this subtropical rainforest area.

Selected for inclusion in *Australian Perspecta* in 1983 and the *Sixth Biennale of Sydney* in 1986.

1987–89

Awarded the Archibald Prize for portraiture in 1987 for *Equestrian self portrait*. Completes first *Creation landscape* painting in 1988. Leaves teaching in 1989 and starts working as a full-time artist.

1990

Awarded the Wynne Prize for landscape in 1990 for *The rainforest*. Begins making lithographs. Travels overseas for the first time, visiting Greece, England, France, and Italy.

1991–92

Bill and Shirley's lives are devastated by the loss of two of their children. The artist becomes increasingly introspective, and his work more contemplative. Commences the 'Mountain' series, which he considers among his finest work.

1994–96

Moves to Kingscliff on the northern New South Wales coast, where the changing moods of the sea and sky become a primary inspirational focus for his work. Acquires a rainforest studio at Springbrook in the adjacent hinterland. In 1995, he wins the Archibald Prize for the second time, with *Self portrait with stunned mullet*. Travels to Paris where he makes lithographs at Atelier Bordas (and he makes subsequent prints there in 1998, 2000, 2004, and 2006). In 1996, he wins the Wynne Prize again for *Creation landscape: Earth and sea*.

1998

Awarded an honorary doctorate by his alma mater, QUT.

2000

Included in the group exhibition *Bonheurs des antipodes* at Musée de Picardie in Amiens, France.

2001

Returns to live in bayside Brisbane. Holds first solo exhibitions at Philip Bacon Galleries, Brisbane, and Australian Galleries, Melbourne and Sydney. First full survey exhibition of his work is shown at QAG.

2005–08

Purchases coastal retreat near Byron Bay and sells property at Springbrook. Appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2007. In 2008, moves from bayside Brisbane to the city's inner west.

2009–10

The William Robinson Gallery opens at QUT with the exhibition *William Robinson: Realms of vision*, followed by *Hinterland: The rainforest works of William Robinson* in 2010.

2010

Returns to painting in the still life genre, largely as a result of moving back to live in the inner suburbs of Brisbane.

2011

Artist celebrates his 75th birthday. The William Robinson Gallery and QUT Art Museum host a major exhibition of key works from the artist's oeuvre and publish the accompanying monograph, *William Robinson: The transfigured landscape*.

*William Robinson: A portrait of the artist* opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT. The artist donates seven—of only eight self portraits produced—to QUT, including the Archibald Prize-winning paintings, *Equestrian self portrait* 1987 and *Self portrait with stunned mullet* 1995.

2012

*William Robinson: Insights*, curated by Davida Allen, Betty Churcher, and David Malouf, opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT.

2013–14

Included in major survey exhibition *Australia* at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

*William Robinson: The farmyards* opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT, and the artist donates his eighth self portrait, *Self portrait with basket*, to QUT. In 2014 *William Robinson: Infinite sphere* opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT.

Donates *Creation landscape: The dome of space and time*, the final multi-panel work from the 'Creation' series, to QUT.

Starts revisiting farmyard works based on his sketches from 1984 and produces a multi-panel oil stick farmyard work.

2015

Shows a handful of gouache farmyard works alongside mostly still life images at his solo exhibition at Australian Galleries in 2015.

*William Robinson: Inspirations*, curated by The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO, opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT. Artist completes a new work for this exhibition *Poinciana and fern garden*.

2016

Artist celebrates his 80th birthday. The William Robinson Gallery hosts a high tea and conversation with The Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO and the artist.

*William Robinson: Genesis*, opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT.

2017

*Eternal present: The still life paintings of William Robinson*, curated by John McDonald, opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT.

*William Robinson: Genesis* tours to the Embassy of Australia in Washington D.C.

Donates the 'Mountain' series, comprising five major landscape paintings produced in 1992–93, to QUT.

2018

The international tour of *William Robinson: Genesis* continues at the Australian Embassy in Paris. The exhibition returns to Australia to tour to Hamilton Gallery in Victoria and S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney.

The exhibition *Nature imagined* opens at the William Robinson Gallery, QUT.

Continues to live and work in Brisbane.