

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

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, I invite 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](https://www.instagram.com/robinbutter)

[facebook.com/studiorobinbutter/](https://www.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 - Artivism Leiden Universiteit
2021

2017 - master-class alumni with Corinne
2020 Noordenbos Corinne Noordenbos

2010 - BA of Arts, Photography Den Haag,
2014 Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende
Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2024 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

2024 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-gemeentearchief-tentoonstelling-onder-moeders-vleugels-migratieverhalen-van-haags-turkse-vrouwen/ Solo

2022 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/ Solo

PROJECTS

2025 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

2024 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.

2023 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

2022	<p>Eye in eye with Laak Tramtunnel Gallery The Hague, Netherlands</p> <p>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 www.robinbutter.com/news/2022/5/7/exhibition-oog-in-oog-laak-haags-dna-haags-gemeentearchief-tramtunnel-gallery</p> <p>Solo</p>	<p>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 age-old phenomenon and bringing it together in this photo book. In Beesel, a history has been created around an event that never took place.</p>
2022	<p>Dragon's blood Brandstof Galerie Leerdam, Netherlands</p> <p>'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. www.galeriebrandstof.nl/lege-pagina</p> <p>Solo</p>	
2021	<p>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</p> <p>www.instagram.com/spaceplaceone/</p> <p>Solo</p>	2019
2019	<p>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. www.elia-artschools.org/events/elia-academy</p> <p>Solo</p>	2015
2018	<p>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. www.rotterdamphotofestival.com/exhibitionprogram</p> <p>Group</p>	
2018	<p>-SYB- Sybren Kuiper Fotobook Festival Kassel Kassel, Germany All photo fotobookfestival.org/portfolio-item/10fbf/</p> <p>Group</p>	
2018	<p>'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</p> <p>Group</p>	
2018	<p>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'. thefamilyofnoman.com/infos.php</p> <p>Group</p>	
2016	<p>'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' www.parisphoto.com/en/2016-program/</p> <p>Group</p>	
2015	<p>'It takes my mind off things' Life Framer, Think Tank Gallery, Los Angeles, US Los Angeles , United States Groupshow Life Framer</p>	

photo exhibition www.life-framer.com
Group

- 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
Group
- 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
Group
- 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-en-organisatie/gemeentelijke-organisatie/atrium-city-hall-geeft-ruimte-aan-ideeen.htm
Solo

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2014 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
Fotografmuseum Amsterdam, Prix
Europa Berlin and more.
www.neunow.eu
- 2013 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/portretten-voor-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
city!
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. dergreif-online.de/contributors/robin-butter/
finished
- 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 things' 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 Lectoris Publishers Robin Butter The Hague, Netherlands lectoris.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 liedek 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 age-old 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 texworld-paris.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 lesbranchouilles.com/photographie/wpa-de-robin-butter-le-livre-de-la-semaine/ artikel
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	<p>Photographer Robin (35) immerses herself in Laak: 'The neighborhood is in your DNA, it never goes away'</p> <p>Newspaper AD - Haagsch Courant The Hague, Netherlands www.ad.nl/den-haag/fotografie-robin-35-dompelt-zich-onder-in-laak-de-buurt-zit-in-je-dna-dat-gaat-nooit-weg~a2bf5859/?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F</p> <p>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.</p>
2021	<p>n.v.t. Newspaper NRC - Sarah Ouwerkerk Amsterdam, Netherlands www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2021/06/08/een-dorpje-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.</p>
2021	<p>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</p>

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

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

2019 - Guest teacher architecture
2020 photography workshop for the Monumenten Zorg The Hague

2019 - Post '65 teacher architecture
2020 photography, commissioned by

2018 - Technical assistant Michael Wolf for the
2018 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 - Guest artist for FCA Group, BTS project
2018 Case Study, teaching workshop 'creative process (conceptualization and realization) of an image'.

2018 - technical assistant Michael Wolf -
2018 exhibition The Real Toy Story Fotomuseum The Hague

2015 - C&C Projecten, STROOM Den Haag vs
2015 MAris College Belgisch Park



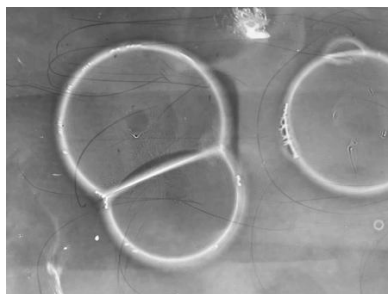
portrait of Nevin for The Hague city archives, 2024



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 x 80 x 5 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 x 240 mm