

ROBIN GNARLY

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST · PAINTER · SCULPTOR · STORYTELLER ·
WORLDBUILDER

ARTIST CV & STATEMENT

Dutch multidisciplinary artist working across painting, sculpture, illustration, poetry, installation, and conceptual projects. Known for surrealist vision, street-culture roots, and a fearlessly experimental approach to the human condition.

WEB

robingnarly.com

SHOP

gnarly.shop

INSTAGRAM

[@robingnarly](https://www.instagram.com/robingnarly)

BRAND

Robin Gnarly X

Robin Gnarly

SHORT BIO

Robin Gnarly (b. Netherlands) is a Dutch multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans painting, sculpture, illustration, poetry, and immersive conceptual worlds. Rooted in graffiti culture — shaped by an early assistantship to New York graffiti pioneer Lin Felton — his work blends surrealism, absurdism, street culture, and visual philosophy into a singular artistic universe. He has exhibited throughout Europe and his works are held in private collections across multiple continents.

LONG BIO

Robin Gnarly emerged from the underground art scene of the Netherlands with a creative instinct that refused to stay within a single discipline. As a teenager, he became an assistant to Lin Felton — one of New York's graffiti pioneers — an experience that fundamentally altered his understanding of scale, colour, movement, and the relationship between image and space. That formative period became the bedrock of an artistic identity that would continue to expand outward in every direction.

From those graffiti-stained foundations, Gnarly moved into fine art, developing a body of work that is simultaneously playful and philosophical, absurdist and earnest. His paintings and sculptures inhabit a universe populated by invented characters, symbolic narratives, and images that feel both entirely invented and strangely familiar. Humour and wonder are not ornaments in his practice — they are structural principles.

Over the years, Gnarly has exhibited throughout Europe and built an international collector base spanning North America, Australia, and beyond. His work has found its way into private collections associated with musicians and cultural figures including George McCrae, Trevor Hall, members of Sticky Fingers, and Nahko — artists who, like Gnarly himself, operate at the intersection of culture, storytelling, and craft.

Today Gnarly continues to develop the Robin Gnarly Universe — an ever-expanding conceptual ecosystem that encompasses visual art, literature, character development, children's books, poetry, and installation. He is also the founder of Different Mind Therapy (DMT), a project rooted in the belief that art, when encountered honestly, can reorder the way we see ourselves and the world. His practice remains what it has always been: fearless, experimental, and deeply human.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I make work because I don't know how not to. There is a surplus of images and ideas that exists inside me and that, if not given form, becomes noise. Painting, sculpture, writing — these are not separate disciplines for me. They are the same conversation conducted in different registers.

My work lives in the territory between the absurd and the profound. I am drawn to characters who are slightly wrong — beings that carry the weight of something larger than themselves without quite knowing it. I am interested in what happens when the ordinary is pushed one degree past recognition. That threshold is where I work.

Graffiti taught me that context is never neutral. A wall is never just a wall. A gallery is never just a gallery. The surfaces we choose and the spaces we enter are arguments. Every mark is a position. I have never forgotten that.

I am not interested in art that explains itself. I want to make things that leave a residue — images that come back to people at unexpected moments, that shift something small in the way they perceive their own life. That is the only ambition that has ever felt worth having.

MANIFESTO

Make the strange familiar. Make the familiar strange.

Work with wonder as a method.

Treat the absurd with the seriousness it deserves.

Never explain. Always mean it.

EXHIBITION HISTORY

Ongoing	Robin Gnarly Universe — conceptual ongoing series, international
Group / Solo	Multiple exhibitions throughout Europe (Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, UK)
Early Career	QUIKSAND Exhibition — group exhibition, selected works
International	Works presented through private gallery and independent channels, global

SELECTED PROJECTS

Active	Robin Gnarly Universe — ongoing conceptual world: paintings, sculpture, characters, lore
Active	Different Mind Therapy (DMT) — art-as-reorientation framework, founder
Active	Author & Illustrator — children's books, poetry, visual storytelling
Active	Robin Gnarly X — independent creative brand encompassing fine art, streetwear, digital
Active	Gnarly Shop (gnarly.shop) — independent art & merchandise platform
Formative	Assistant to Lin Felton — large-scale graffiti production, New York tradition
Formative	QUIKSAND — early career collaborative exhibition project

NOTABLE COLLECTORS

Works from Robin Gnarly's practice are held in private collections associated with the following individuals:

George McCrae	North America
Trevor Hall	North America
Members of Sticky Fingers	Australia
Nahko	North America

Collections span private holdings across Europe, North America, Australia, and beyond.

CURRENT PRACTICE

Creator	Robin Gnarly Universe — ongoing world-building across visual and narrative media
Founder	Different Mind Therapy (DMT) — art-led reorientation project
Author / Illustrator	Children's books, poetry collections, illustrated storytelling
Poet	Published and performed across written and digital contexts
Multidisciplinary	Painting, sculpture, installation, conceptual and digital projects
Brand	Robin Gnarly X — independent creative label, robingnarly.com

PUBLICATIONS & PRESS

Selected publications, editorial features, and press coverage available upon request. Digital portfolio and full project archive at robingnarly.com.

EDUCATION & FOUNDATIONS

Self-developed practice rooted in direct mentorship and hands-on production. Key formative experience as assistant to Lin Felton (New York graffiti pioneer), supplemented by independent study across fine art, literature, philosophy, and street culture traditions.

CONTACT & REPRESENTATION

WEBSITE	robingnarly.com
SHOP	gnarly.shop
INSTAGRAM	@robingnarly
BRAND	Robin Gnarly X
INQUIRIES	Via robingnarly.com / DM @robingnarly
LOCATION	Sittard–Geleen area, Netherlands

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