

# JB Blunk

BORN IN OTTAWA, KANSAS, 1926

DIED IN INVERNESS, CALIFORNIA, 2002

## Education

1949 University of California, Los Angeles, CA

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 "Wild Earth: JB Blunk + Toshiko Takaezu," Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
- 2024 "JB Blunk: Continuum," Fondation d'entreprise Martell, Cognac, France  
"JB Blunk With Work by Gordon Onslow Ford," Blum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 "JB Blunk: Muse," Kasmin, New York, NY
- 2021 "Three Forms: JB Blunk," Blunk Space, Point Reyes, CA
- 2020 "JB Blunk," Kasmin, New York, NY
- 2018 "Nature, Art & Everyday Life," Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA  
"J.B. Blunk," Kate MacGarry, London, United Kingdom
- 2016 "JB Blunk," Blum & Poe, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 "JB Blunk: Painting, Drawing, Sculpture," The Landing, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 "JB Blunk," Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 "Small Works and Photographs from Inverness," Dance Palace Community Center, Pt. Reyes Station, CA
- 2000 "California Spirit," Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA
- 1989 Smith Anderson Gallery, Palo Alto, CA
- 1986 "A Sculptor's Place," San Francisco Craft and Folk Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 1984 Pickard Galleries, Oklahoma City, OK  
"100 Plates Plus," Oklahoma State University, Norman, OK
- 1982 "100 Plates Plus," University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
- 1981 "100 Plates Plus," Artspace, Los Angeles, CA  
"100 Plates Plus," David Cole Gallery, Inverness, CA
- 1978 "Sculptures 1952-1977," Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 1954 Chuo-Koron Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

## Group Exhibitions

- 2025 "Once The Block Is Carved, There Will Be Names," curated by Liam Everett and Jonathan Griffin, Galerie Greta Meert, Brussels, Belgium
- 2023 "In the Shadow of Mt. Tam," Anthony Meier, Mill Valley, CA
- 2022-23 "Gordon Onslow Ford & JB Blunk," Blunk Space, Point Reyes, CA
- 2022 "Bright Garden: JB, Bruno & Rufus Blunk," Blunk Space, Point Reyes, CA  
"Three Landscapes: JB Blunk, Anna and Lawrence Halprin," Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA

- 2021 "Ceramics: Mingei to Modern," Blunk Space, Point Reyes, CA  
 "Blue Jeans & Brown Clay," Kate MacGarry, London, United Kingdom  
 "Lives of an Object," ARCH, Athens, Greece  
 "New Iconography: Artists Raising Children," The Landing, Los Angeles, CA  
 "Objects: USA 2020," R & Company, New York, NY  
 "Between the Earth and Sky," Kasmin, New York, NY
- 2020 "Protean," Kasmin, New York, NY (online)
- 2018 "In Conversation: Alma Allen & JB Blunk," Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA and Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV  
 "Marin Collects," College of Marin, Kentfield, CA  
 "Designed in California," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
 "Ship of Dreams: Artists, Poets, and Visionaries of the S.S. Vallejo," Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Sonoma, CA and Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA
- 2017 "Chair Stories," Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA  
 "Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia," Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- 2015 "Art and Other Tactics," Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 "What Would Mrs. Webb Do? A Founder's Vision," Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
- 2011 "Big A@# Sculpture Show," Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
 "Crafting Modernism," Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
- 2010 "The Anniversary Show," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 "JB Blunk Residency Exhibition," Reform Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 "SF20," Reform Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 Group show with John Anderson, Eubank Studio, Point Reyes Station, CA
- 1991 Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, CA
- 1987 Nich Tomi, Gallery Route One, Pt. Reyes Station, CA
- 1983 David Cole Gallery, Inverness, CA
- 1982 American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY
- 1978 Galerie Schreiner, Basel, Switzerland
- 1977 Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA
- 1976 "Retrospective of Sculpture in the Bay Area," James Willis Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1974 "Outdoor Sculpture," Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA
- 1973 Lester Gallery, Inverness, CA
- 1969 "Objects USA," Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.
- 1965 Egg and Eye Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1959 "Contemporary Japanese Ceramic Art," Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1958 San Francisco Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 1956 Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

## Books & Exhibition Catalogues

- 2020 *JB Blunk*. Inverness, CA: Books and Dent-de-Leone, 2020.

- Objects: USA 2020*, Glenn Adamson. R & Company, The Monacelli Press: 2020.
- 2019 Hodge, Brooke, ed. *Alma Allen & JB Blunk: In Conversation*. New York: August Editions, 2019. (exh. cat.)
- 2018 *The Once and Future Forest: California's Iconic Redwoods*. Berkeley: Heyday, 2018.
- 2016 *JB Blunk Cups, Plates, Bowls & Sculptures: Ceramics 1950-1999*. London: Dent-De-Leone, 2016.
- 2011 Lauria, Jo, Emily Zaiden and Sharon K. Emanuelli. *Golden State of Craft: California 1960-1985*. Los Angeles: Craft and Folk Art Museum, 2011.
- 2010 *JB Blunk*. Los Angeles: Blum & Poe, 2010. (exh. cat.)
- Nartonis, Katie. "The Post-War Studio Movement of West Marin: Preserving the Legacy." *San Francisco 20th Century Modernism Show 2010*, 2010, pp. 36-39.
- Williamson, Leslie. *Handcrafted Modern: At Home with Mid-century Designers*. New York: Rizzoli, 2010.
- 2008 Nielson, Mariah, ed. *JB Blunk: A Collection of Work from 1952-1992*. Los Angeles: Reform Gallery, 2008.
- San Francisco 20th Century Art & Design Show 2008*. San Francisco: San Francisco 20th Century Art & Design Show, 2008, pp. 18-20.
- 2002 Richardson, Phyllis. "JB Blunk." *Contemporary Natural*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2002, pp. 34-39.
- 1986 *Exhibition: A Sculptor's Place*. San Francisco: Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1986. (exh. cat.)
- 1984 *JB Blunk: 100 Plates, Sculpture*. Oklahoma City: Pickard Art Galleries, 1984. (exh. cat.)
- 1978 Wyle, Edith R. *JB Blunk Sculptures 1952-1977*. Los Angeles: Craft and Folk Art Museum, 1978. (exh. cat.)
- 1977 Emery, Olivia H. *Craftsman Lifestyle: The Gentle Revolution*. Pasadena: California Design Publications, 1977, pp. 175-178.
- 1970 Nordness, Lee. *Objects: USA*. New York: Viking Press, 1970, p. 268.

## Articles & Reviews

- 2024 Adamson, Glen, "Inheritance," *Family Style*, No. 2, Summer 2024, pp. 112-119.
- Roux, Caroline, "Cult Favorite JB Blunk, Who Shunned Galleries, Is on the Rise." *Artnet News*, June 7, 2024.
- 2023 Shollenbarger, Maria. "The countercultural cool of Marin County," *Financial Times*, February 24, 2023
- Le, Anh-Minh. "Ch-ch-changes: A Gallery Moves, Bakery Pops Up and More," *Nob Hill Gazette*, February 1, 2023.
- Holender, Samantha. "Beauty Around the Clock: Julianne Moore," *Marie Claire*, January 18, 2023.
- Larsen, Christian. "Of Hieroglyphs, Petroglyphs and Mexican Churches," *TL Magazine*, January 11, 2023.
- 2022 Boyle, Meka. "The First Exhibition of JB Blunk's Jewelry, at Kasmin Gallery in New York, Offers an Intimate Look into the Late Sculptor's World," *Artnet News* (November 23, 2022).
- Lee, Sophie. "Known for his Organic Wood Sculptures, a Private Practice of JB Blunk is Revealed for the First Time—Jewelry." *Cultured*, November 10, 2022.
- Cooper, Ashton. "Three Landscapes: JB Blunk, Anna and Lawrence Halprin." *Artforum*, October 2022.
- Holland, Mina. "Mariah Nielson: TOAST Portraits." *TOAST Magazine*, February 2, 2022.
- Blanchard, Tamsin. "Home & Heart." *Hole & Corner*, Issue 22: Family, January 2022.
- 2021 Card, Nell. "Art at their heart: homes that have become museums." *The Guardian*, October 17, 2021.
- "Gallery Spotlight: Blunk Space." *Studio AHEAD*, September 29, 2021.
- "Sculpt out of Nature: JB Blunk Estate." *Elle Decor China*, September 2021.
- Wechsler, Jennifer. "Mariah Nielson on JB Blunk and the new Blunk Space in Point Reyes." *Marin Arts*,

August 2, 2021.

*AnOther*, July 2020.

*Totokaelo*, July 2020.

*Cereal*, July 2020.

Helsen, Natalie. "Kunst uit de kettingzaag." *Sabato*, March 13, 2021.

Yerebakan, Osman Can. "Highlights from R & Company's Ambitious Design Exhibition 'Objects: USA 2020.'" *Interiordesign.net*, February 16, 2021.

Daprey, Carole. "JB Blunk, the rustic modernist." *Milk Decoration #35*, February 5, 2021.

Cavanagh, Alice. "The Muse." *Readcereal.com*, February 2021.

"Editors' Picks: 17 Events for Your Art Calendar This Week, from a New Deitch-Gagosian Collaboration to a Look at the Us Presidency." *Artnet News*, January 18, 2021.

Williamson, Leslie. "The Lost Chapter." *Leslie Williamson*, 2021.

2020 Russeth, Andrew. "The mischievous and mysterious art of J. B. Blunk." *Apollo*, October 30, 2020.

McGrath, Katherine. "California Artist JB Blunk's Posthumous Second Act." *Cultured*, October 30, 2020. "Connected to Place." *Design Miami*, October 28, 2020.

Madlener, Adrian. "A capsule retrospective of the renowned sculptor's discipline-defying oeuvre." *The Design Edit*, October 26, 2020.

Nielson, Mariah. "Chip off the block – lessons from my father, JB Blunk." *Financial Times*, September 10, 2020

Modi, Jaya. "Back to the Land with JB Blunk." *Hole & Corner*, August 2020.

Demers, W.A. "Q&A: Mariah Nielson." *Antiques and the Arts Weekly*, June 23, 2020.

Lloyd-Smith, Harriet. "Redwood giant: a monograph explores the life and work of sculptor JB Blunk." *Wallpaper\**, June 16, 2020.

Adler, Ted. "The Essence of Tradition: A Review of the JB Blunk Monograph." *Studio Potter*, May 18, 2020.

Rutter, Samuel. "The T List: Five Things We Recommend This Week - A Look at an Artist Inspired by the Natural World." *T Magazine*, May 14, 2020.

2019 Guadagnino, Kate. "T Suggests: English Roses, a Lost Film by Claire Denis and More." *T Magazine*, June 7, 2019.

2018 Pallenberg, Barbara. "Weathered Out West." *World of Interiors*, November 2018, pp. 108-115.

"J. B. Blunk: Taking on the Immediate Natural World – Jude Cowan Montague." *Artlyst*, October 15, 2019.

Adamson, Glenn. "Earth, Wind & Fire: Rediscovering the Elemental Art of JB Blunk." *Frieze*, September 3, 2018.

Cheng, DeWitt. "OMCA Displays JB Blunk's Works." *Alameda Magazine*, July 30, 2018.

Romeyn, Kathryn. "Inside the Sublime World of Late Sculptor JB Blunk." *Architectural Digest*, July 30, 2018.

Desmarais, Charles. "JB Blunk's 'Everyday Life' of Art and Nature at Oakland Museum." *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 31, 2018.

Chandler, Elizabeth Khuri. "The Outsider." *C Magazine*, May 2018, pp. 79-80.

*San Francisco Magazine*, April 2018.

*The New Order*, Volume 18, Spring/ Summer 2018.

Tran, Khanh T.L. "Master Class." *LALA Magazine*, Spring 2018, pp. 82-83.

- Jansen, Charlotte. "A 'Blind Date' Between Two Californian Artists Reveals Surprising Shared Sensibilities." *Wallpaper*, February 4, 2018.
- Rus, Mayer. "Palm Springs Art Museum Spotlights Alma Allen and J.B. Blunk." *Architectural Digest*, February 2, 2018.
- La Garconne*, February 2018.
- 2017 *Mohawk Maker Quarterly*, Issue 11, 2017.
- Adams, Carin. "Curator's Eye: JB Blunk's The Planet." *Modern Magazine*, December 19, 2017.
- Kahn, Eve. "Blunk House: Inside a Master's Sculptural Homestead, Hewn by Hand, in Northern California." *Remodelista*, December 18, 2017.
- Wright, Reed. "Nature Lessons." *Marin Magazine*, December 15, 2017.
- Nielson, Mariah. "The House My Father Build." *MacGuffin: The Life of Things* 4, Spring/Summer 2017, pp. 163-180.
- Nielson, Christine & Mariah. "The Life, Art and Legacy of JB Blunk." *her. Magazine*, no. 4, Spring/Summer 2017, pp. 112-123.
- Mckean, Cameron Allan. "JB Blunk." *Art Agenda*, January 12, 2017.
- Knezic, Sophie. "JB Blunk." *Frieze*, January 3, 2017.
- 2016 *Apartamento*, Issue 18, Autumn/ Winter 2016-17.
- Fortini, Amanda. "A Little House in the Big Woods." *T Magazine*, November 17, 2016.
- Rawsthorn, Alice. "Blunk House." *Maharam*, October 2016.
- Russell, Charlie. "House of the Day: House by JB Blunk." *The Modern House*, April 2016.
- Rus, Mayer. "California Dealer Gerard O'Brien on His New Art Gallery." *Architectural Digest*, February 8, 2016.
- 2015 Drohojowska-Philip, Hunter. "JB Blunk and Aaron Curry." *KCRW Art Talk*, December 17, 2015.
- Williams, Maxwell. "Master Craft." *Cultured*, Winter 2015, p. 208.
- Wu, Su. "A New Place to Celebrate Cool California Design." *T Magazine*, November 12, 2015.
- Bernstein, Fred A. "Art and Architecture at the Calder Foundation in Manhattan." *Architectural Digest*, vol. 72, no. 4, April 2015, pp. 58-62.
- 2013 *Man of the World*, No. 4, Summer 2013.
- 2012 *Casa/ Brutus*, August 2012.
- Scheuer, Bettina. "Aus Gutem Holz." *Architectural Digest Germany*, no. 3, March 2012.
- Reid, James. "Out of the Woods." *Wallpaper*, no. 154, January 2012, pp. 182-189.
- Tully, Judd. "Judicial Resale-Rights Scuffle." *Art + Auction*, vol. 35, no. 5, January 2012, pp. 45-46.
- 2011 *Apartamento*, Issue 08, August/ Winter 2011-12.
- 2010 Okamoto, Hitoshi. "A House Filled With Life and Creativity." *Casa Brutus*, no. 128, November 2010, pp. 178-185.
- Zeiger, Mimi. "Outsider Interior." *Dwell*, vol. 11, no. 1, November 2010, pp. 80-81.
- "Blum & Poe Presents First Major Gallery Exhibition of JB Blunk's Work." *Artdaily*, May 15, 2010.
- Lovelace, Joyce. "Two California Masters in Retrospective." *American Craft Magazine*, April 23, 2010.
- "Making the Cut." *California Home+Design*, April 2010, p. 50.
- Miles, Christopher. "Mark Grotjahn and JB Blunk at Blum and Poe." *LA Weekly*, March 25, 2010.
- Leher-Graiwer, Sarah. "Blunk, Blunker, Blunkest." *Artslant*, March 22, 2010.
- Rus, Mayer. "Cultured." *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, March 2010, p. 30.

- 2009 Doran, Cat. "Point Blunk." *California Style*, May 2009, pp. 88-97 and 126.
- 2008 Geremia, Kaitlyn. "The Woodworker." *California Home + Design Magazine*, July 2008, p. 152.
- 2007 *American Craft*, Volume 67, October / November 2007.
- 2000 Pallenberg, Barbara. "Salvage Messiah." *World of Interiors Magazine*, vol. 20, no. 6, June 2000, pp. 125-131.
- 1999 Adamson, Glenn. "California Spirit: Rediscovering the Furniture of JB Blunk." *Woodwork*, no. 59, October 1999, pp. 22-31.
- 1973 Johnson, Edna. "Blunk, Bennett, Bauer & Barbara: The Four Bs are Designing People." *Los Angeles Times*, November 18, 1973
- Javobs, Mimi. "A Sculptor's Quest." *Pacific Sun Arts*, June 21-27, 1973, pp. 9-10. .

## Public Collections

Experiment in International Living, Brattleboro, VT  
 Greens Restaurant, San Francisco, CA  
 Grubb & Ellis, Oakland, CA  
 Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, CA  
 Leonard Park, Mount Kisco, NY  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
 M+ Museum, West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong  
 Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY  
 Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA  
 Orientation Center for the Blind, Albany, CA  
 Palms Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA  
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
 San Francisco Zen Center, San Francisco, CA  
 Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.  
 Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
 Stevenson College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA  
 Tassajara Mountain Zen Center, Carmel Valley, CA  
 Weyerhaeuser Company, Tacoma, WA