William is born in 1959. He is the first of two of their six children and the first of their four children to Ada (née Vogt) and Robert Robinson.

He shows artistic skill early on, as a primary school student at Junction Park Primary School at nearby Annerley. He concludes primary schooling at the Brisbane riverside suburb, with considerable interest in visual art, and then attends Brisbane State High School, South Brisbane. In 1950–53, he Attends Brisbane State High School, a leading school for the arts. He commences his education at St John’s College (QAG), which leaves a lasting impression on his art. He is appointed Senior Lecturer in Art at Kelvin Grove Technical College, Kelvin Grove CTC, and works part-time at the Queensland Teachers College at South Brisbane. In 1957, he is appointed Senior Lecturer in Art at Kelvin Grove Teachers College (CTC), and works part-time as an art lecturer at Kedron Park Training College, Kelvin Grove. The Robinson family move to a farmyard life becomes the main subject of his art from the late 1960s. He moves with his family to an 80-hectare farm at Beechmont on Brisbane’s outer north-west suburb of Brisbane, settling in Gaythorne, an inner north-west suburb of Brisbane. In 1975, he sees the exhibition of his work is shown at QUT. The William Robinson Gallery, QUT. Artist continues to live and work in Brisbane. William Robinson: The transfigured landscape

He moved to Toowoomba for six months to teach at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education (until 1981). In 1977, he holds a solo exhibition at QUT Australian Galleries, Melbourne. First solo exhibition of his work is shown at QUT. The William Robinson Gallery, QUT. Artist continues to live and work in Brisbane. William Robinson: The transfigured landscape

Begins to focus on landscapes of the Redland Bay district and Moreton Bay district and the adjacent hinterland. In 1995, he wins the Wynne Prize again for the second time, with The garden at Springbrook in the subtropical rainforest area. Begins making prints for the first time, visiting Greece, England, France, and Italy. In 1991–92, he wins the Archibald Prize for the second time, with Self portrait. Complete first collection of key portraits. Participation in the program of the Education Sphere.