

Artist Statement/Bio

Thomas Smith is an Eora/Sydney based artist, musician, educator and researcher. His practice combines performance, video, electronic music, speculative fiction, websites, curatorial projects and critical writing. Thomas' work is concerned with the social effects of computational systems, the politics of creative economies, emerging digital subjectivities and electronic music as a mode critical-aesthetic inquiry. Thomas is also one half of production duo Utility, and runs an independent record label called Sumacrac with Jarred Beeler (DJ Plead) and Jon Watts.

Thomas' works have been exhibited and/or performed at institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), Sarai Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (SCSDS), Serendipity Arts Festival (Goa), Unsound Festival (Poland), Fondation Fimincio (Paris), Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (Melbourne), ADM+S Annual Symposium (Melbourne), Biennale of Sydney 2022, National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne), Central Academy of Fine Arts (Beijing), Nasjonalmuseet (Oslo), Floating Projects (Hong Kong), Avantwhatever Festival (Melbourne), Goldsmiths College (London), Firstdraft Gallery (Sydney), Queensland University Art Museum (Brisbane), Alaska Projects (Sydney) and Blindside Gallery (Melbourne). Thomas' writing has been published in Realtime Magazine, Runway Journal, Un Magazine and Chicago based Plates Journal.

Exhibitions/Works

2023: *Narrative 001: The Things We Like*, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa
2022: *Narrative 001: The Things We Like*, Disclaimer Journal, Liquid Architecture/Sarai, Melbourne/Delhi
2022: *Dispatch* (in collaboration with Snack Syndicate), Biennale of Sydney
2022/23: *Oh Deer!* (in collaboration with APHIDS), ACMI online, Rising Festival
2021: *Waking Life: The Dreamwork Model*, Fondation Fimincio, Paris
2020: *Top Ten*, Machine Listening Curriculum, Unsound Festival, Poland
2020: *Core Principles*, Avantwhatever Festival of Experimental Art, Melbourne
2019: *Poison & Cure*, Runway Journal Issue #40, Sydney
2018: *Topoi Koinoi*, Beijing Media Arts Biennale 2018, Beijing
2017: *Snowclones*, Failure in Chrome, Wrong Biennale, Digital Artist Residence, Online
2017: *Iron Star* (in collaboration with Pia Van Gelder) Sounding the Future, UTS Gallery, Sydney
2017: *Losing Farther, Losing Faster*, Alaska Projects, Sydney
2016: *VLC, Transaction, Image*, Gesture Manifest, Blindside Gallery, Melbourne
2015: *The New Spirit*, Capitalist Surrealism, NGV, Melbourne

Guest Speaking/Performance Lectures

2023: *Narrative 002*, Study-In on AI+Race+Art, Victorian College of the Arts in collaboration with Art & Australia Magazine
2023: *Quantitative Collapse*, Automation Culture: Intersections Between Automation, Art, and Living Systems, University of WA
2023: *Quantitative Collapse*, School of Architecture, Sydney University,
2023: *Quantitative Collapse*, Data Relations Summer School, ACCA Melbourne
2022: Logical Conclusions/Automation Effects: Artist and curators panel, ADM+S Symposium
2022: Guest Lecture, Media Cultures, RMIT Ho Chi Minh City
2022: Liquid Architecture Podcast, Capture All
2017: Guest Lecture, University of Sydney, School of Music
2016: *Performing the Generic*, Fringes, Outsides, Undergrounds Conference, Goldsmiths, London
2015 - 2017: Guest Lecture, Design History, Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, UTS, Sydney
2016: *The Communism of Production*, lecture performance, Minerva Gallery, Sydney
2015: Curriculum Development Advisor, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2014: Guest Lecture Series, University of Wollongong, Contemporary Music Studies

Selected Musical Releases (title/label)

2022: *Nexus Destiny Reworked*, Sumac
2019: *Nexus Destiny*, Sumac
2018: *Poison*, 12", Super Utu
2017: *Utility Catalogue*, Datpiff
2016: *The New Spirit*, Self Released.
2016: *Non-Times*, Self Released
2015: *Annum Contra*, 12". Plastic World
2015: *Crit Reflex*. Cassette, Junk Mnemonic
2015: *Drama Studies*. Cassette, Illuminated Paths
2014: *Localities*. Cassette, Room 40
2012: *Deccan Technicolour*, This Thing
2012: *Jewels*, New Weird Australia

Curatorial Projects

2022-2023: Audition, Events focusing on Sonic Practice, RMIT Sound Research Groups
2017: Everyday Machines #2, Alaska Projects, Sydney
2016: Everyday Machines #1, Alaska Projects, Sydney
2016: Exhibition Standard, 55 Sydenham Rd, Sydney
2016: Same Same. Firstdraft, Sydney
2015: Music Sydney: Australasia's International Music Fair, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair
2014: Real Life Human Resources. Curator. Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney

2013: Advanced Technology. Curator, ISEA2013/Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney
2012 - 2013: Night Depot. Curator, Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney
2012: Time Machine: Festival of Experimental Arts, Sound and music curator, Sydney
2009-2012: Serial Space (artist run space) Director and curator. Running from 2007 – 2013
2011-2013: Anyplace Projects, Studio manager and curator

Bibliography/Writing

2021: *This is the way: The Mandalorian, Art and Surplus*, (with Melody Paloma) Un Magazine
2020: *The Present, the Generic, and an Ambivalent Politics of Non-Production*, Plates Journal
2019: *Poison & Cure*, Runway Journal Issue #40
2019: Un Projects, Sophie Rose: Interview with Utility, Part 1 & 2
2017: Conor O'Shea, Thankyou for your email and your interest, but this won't be possible, Catalogue Essay
2016: Marian Tubbs' Contemporary Monsters, Catalogue Essay
2016: *The Critical Limits of Sound*, Realtime Magazine
2016: Roslyn Helper's 'Interventions in Live Chat, Catalogue Essay
2015: *Hearing Through Capital's Illusions*, Realtime Magazine, Performance Review

Collaborative Sound Design

2023: Aphids, *Oh Deer!*, Rising Festival, Melbourne
2023: Melody Paloma, *Kitsch Sites*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
2022: Peter Nelson, *A Book of Trees*, Videotage, Hong Kong
2020: Snack Syndicate, *Ghosts*, Bus Projects, Melbourne
2019: Peter Nelson, *When Artists Enter the Factory*, Brooklyn Army Terminal, NY
2019: Art as Fieldwork: Hot Spell on the Way, Clare Milledge, University of Queensland Museum, Brisbane
2019: Peter Nelson, *Crab Backup*, Wellington St Projects, Sydney
2018: Peter Nelson, *Data Stones*, Joyce and Asia Society, Hong Kong
2018: Brooke Stamp & Sidney McMahan, *Real Real #2*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
2017: Brooke Stamp & Sidney McMahon, *Spells of Temporal Stasis*, The Walls, Gold Coast
2017: Clare Milledge, *Strigiformes*. Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo
2016: Original composition in collaboration with Hissy Fit's MCA C3West project *Women of Fairfield*
2016: Kay Armstrong, Penrith City Council's *Waste Not Want Not* program
2015: Kay Armstrong, Catalyst Residency, Carriageworks/ Accessible Arts
2015: *Extraordinary/Ordinary*. Campbelltown Arts Centre.
2015: Original composition in collaboration with Marcus Whale for Claire Edwardes' *Sound of Burning Water*, Sydney Festival
2014: Original music for promotional vignettes, Adult Swim US
2013: Sound design, Fran Barrett's *12 Hour Revolution*, Sydney Guild
2013: Series of pieces commissioned by Alaska Projects for presentation at the Museum of Contemporary Art's 'Sounds on The Terrace' evenings
2012: Interpretation of John Cage's *Fontana Mix*, Alaska Projects
2012: Original soundtrack commissioned for broadcast on Fbi's 'Ears have Ears' program

Selected Performances

March 2024: 24th Biennale of Sydney (live)
January 2024: Phoenix Presents, Sydney (live)
December 2023: *Noise, noise, noise*, Goa (live) June 2023: Oil, Shenzhen (DJ)
June 2023: Zhoadai, Beijing (DJ)
June 2023: TAG, Chengdu (DJ)
June 2023: Chengdu Community Radio, Chengdu (DJ)
June 2023: Loopy, Hangzhou (DJ)
June 2023: All Club, Shanghai (DJ)
June 2023: Baihui Radio, Shanghai (DJ)
June 2023: Club Service, Vivid/Trackwork presents (DJ)
May 2023: DJ Plead Residency, Club 77, Sydney (DJ)
November 2022: Forest Limit, Tokyo, Kato Massacre (DJ)
November 2022: Phonox, London, Logic1000 Residency (DJ)
2022: Logical Conclusions/Automation Effects, Miscellania, ADM+S Symposium
2020: *Core Principles*, Avantwhatever Festival of Experimental Art, Melbourne
2019: *The Most Powerful Tools*, Monash Automated Culture Symposium, Melbourne
2019: *Raven Triad, F Minor, 128 BPM*, Clare Milledge, University of Queensland Museum, Brisbane
2019: Resident DJ, Lazerpig, Melbourne
2018: Beijing Media Arts Biennale 2018, Beijing
2018: PRECOG, Next Wave Festival, Melbourne
2018: *Topoi Koinoi*, Beijing Media Arts Biennale 2018, Beijing
2018: Tom Tom, Howler, Melbourne
2017: *Topoi Koinoi*, Black Box Series, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney
2017: *Nexus Destiny*, MCA Art Bar, Sydney (curated by primavera artists)
2017: M.E.S.H., Portugal Madeira Club, Sydney
2017: HELM & Croatian Amor, Marrickville Bowling Club, Sydney
2016: *V.L.C. Transaction, Image*, AudibleVisions AV Conference, Goldsmiths College, London
2016: *The New Spirit*, Noise: Noise: Noise, Floating Projects, Hong Kong
2016: Cashmere Radio, Berlin
2015: Liquid Architecture, Supporting Basic House, Melbourne
2015: Maasive Lates, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
2015: Conspiracy Performance lecture series, Minerva Gallery, Sydney

2015: Crit Reflex tape launch, Melbourne
2015: Now now Festival 2015, Sydney
2015: Plastic World Showcase, Vivid Sydney
2015: Underbelly Arts, Cockatoo Island, Sydney
2015: Double Vision, Verge Gallery, University of Sydney
2015: *The New Spirit*, Liquid Architecture, Capitalist Surrealism, NGV, Melbourne
2015: *The New Spirit*, Liquid Architecture, Capitalist Surrealism, Firstdraft, Sydney
2014: *Have You Seen The Price*, MCA Art Bar (curated by primavera artists)
2013: Firstdraft Annual Celebration, Firstdraft Depot, Sydney
2013: Room40 presents Imaginary Landscapes, Brisbane (with Marcus Whale)
2013: Alaska Orchestra residency, MCA, Sydney
2013: Underbelly Festival, Cockatoo Island, Sydney
2013: You Are Here Festival, Canberra Museum & Gallery, Canberra
2013: Kaldor Projects' 13 Rooms, Parlour 27, Sydney
2012: 100 years of John Cage, *Fontana Mix*, Alaska Projects, Sydney

Grants/Awards/Residencies

2024: School Research Output Grant, USNW
2022: Best Experimental Film, Geelong International Film Festival 2022 Film Awards
2021: Australia Council for The Arts, Capture All Research Grant
2019: APRA/AMC National Award for Excellence in Experimental Music (nominated)
2014/18: Australian Post-Graduate Award, Australian Research Council
2016/2017: Artist in Residence (12 month live-in residency) COS Live/Work Apartments
2016: Travel Grant, Graduate Research School UNSW
2013: Artist in Residence, Bundanon Trust
2012: Australia Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Board, Artist Run Initiative Grant
2012: Australia Council for the Arts, Music Board, Skills and Arts Development*
2012: Australia Council for the Arts, Skills and Arts Development
2012: ArtsNSW, Presentation and Promotion
2012: NAVA, Australian Artist Grant
2011: ArtsNSW, Presentation and Promotion
2010: Australia Council for the Arts – Community Partnerships Grant (Lion Mountain Studio)
2010: Australia Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Board, Artist Run Initiative Grant

Education

2014/18: PhD Art, Design and Media, UNSW Art & Design, University of New South Wales
2006: Bachelor of Arts, Communications (Honours), University of Technology
2003 to 2005: Bachelor of Media Arts, UNSW Art & Design, University of New South Wales

Teaching/Academic Positions

2023-present: Lecturer, School of Arts and Media, UNSW
2019-2023: Associate Lecturer, Faculty of Design and Social Context, RMIT
2008 to 2017: Sessional Academic, UNSW Art & Design / School of The Arts & Media, UNSW.
2012/2013: Sessional Academic, University of Sydney, Faculty of Architecture, Design & Planning.