

CV Micheál O'Connell / Mocksim

Statement

Micheál O'Connell a.k.a. Mocksim has been described as a systems interference artist.

Appropriation but also attempting to unearth the poetic in everyday, often dysfunctional, technologies, systems and bureaucracies are key. Since *Contra-Invention*, which culminated in 2010, involving the re-presentation of images from municipal council car parking contravention systems, many similar projects have been initiated. The original aim was to find items of data and digital artefacts, but physical articles connected with the overarching supply chain are also sought. The methods associated with this 'mild hacking' and other documentation are shared. In addition, elements from the investigations may be included in the short looping experimental films, or *simupoems*, which have been a consistent feature of the practice. As a reaction to the dry, digital, data-orientation, a corporeal dimension, live or participatory elements, or unusual substances may be incorporated into the work.

Courier company parcel tracking 'point of delivery' signatures were compiled into books; self-checkout machines were used to buy nothing, and a short instructional video was produced to demonstrate how. Money was sent flowing unnecessarily between bank accounts via daily standing order; a mobile phone handset was set up as speed camera, and symphonies were created through simultaneous use of sat-nav/maps-app devices. Much of the activity exposed the presence of mundane but, arguably, intrusive data and low-level surveillance information: the introduction of GDPR in Europe has resulted in changes in approach. Objects and readymades connected with digital systems and apps are more likely to be selected and presented as sculptural items. For instance, O'Connell was 'onboarded' as a Deliveroo rider and now exhibits the entire rider-kit supplied, in its pristine state. Estate agent 'Sold' signs were collected from outside suburban houses and shown as part of another initiative. A residency at the West Cork Art Centre, in 2019, resulted in new activity, connected with long-standing and latest features of the landscape such as golf courses and windfarms.

Summary Biography

Work has been shown in project spaces, online and in established locations such as the Whitechapel Art Gallery (London), Lighthouse (Brighton, UK) and Wandersford Quay Gallery (Cork City, Ireland). *Contra-Invention*, for example, was invited to *Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie d'Arles*, subsequently nominated for the *Deutsche Börse Photography Prize* and part of *From Here On* at Arts Santa Mónica, Barcelona. This resulted in being selected to join international grouping, *ABC Artists' Books Cooperative*. O'Connell is also part of *The London Group*, completed a practice-led PhD in 2017, and more recently, in 2019, was awarded a substantial *Develop Your Creative Practice* (DYCP) grant.

Art Education

2010-2017	Practice-led PhD, <i>Art as 'Artificial Stupidity'</i> , School of Media, Film and Music, Uni. of Sussex
2004-2006	MA Fine Art (Distinction), Uni. of Brighton
2001-2004	Portfolio, then Art & Design Foundation course, City College Brighton & Hove

Exhibitions, Screenings and Events

- 2020 *Isolation*, The London Group, Online
In the Dark, The Cello Factory, London
- 2019 *Printing Plant*, Looiersgracht60, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Out(Law), SEAS, Brighton, UK
West Cork Arts Centre/Uillinn, Ireland: https://www.westcorkartscentre.com/micheal-o_connell
Stuff Everywhere walk and talk, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland
Have a Great Time, Cool! Grand, Billboard, Bridge Street, Skibbereen, Ireland
Self-Service, Old Crypt, London
ABC Artists' Books Collective, *Offprint*, Tate Modern, London
Soft Power 3, 75A, Brighton, UK
- 2018 *Povera*, The Cello Factory, London (The London Group funded)
- 2017 *Failure in Chrome*, Online residency and event
- 2016 ABC Artists' Books Collective, *Offprint*, Tate Modern, London
#LowTechLabLondon2016, Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2015 *Delivering a Paper*, Impact, Lighthouse, Brighton, UK
- 2014 *Rearing*, Matt's Gallery, London
ABCEUM, *Offprint*, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France
Turtle Salon, Article Gallery, Birmingham
ABCEUM, Grand Parade Gallery, Brighton Photo Biennial, UK
Missing You & From Jacquard to JPEG, Macclesfield, UK (Arts Council England funded)
- 2013 *Visual Urbanism*, British Library, London
Contra-Invention, From Here On, Arts Santa Monica, Spain
- 2012 *Contra-Invention Plus, Over and Out*, Lincoln, UK
Boundary Work II, Wandersford Quay Gallery, Cork, Ireland (Cork Crawford/CiT funded)
Disruption II, Elysium Gallery, Swansea, Wales
Contra-Invention Plus, Marburae Gallery, Macclesfield, UK (Arts Council England funded)
Trainofthoughts, The Horse Hospital, London
Turtle Salon, Meter Room, Coventry, UK
Art of Architecture, The Public, West Bromwich, UK
- 2011 *Les Recontres D'Arles*, Atelier de Méchanique, France (Les Recontres D'Arles funded)
- 2010 *Contra-Invention*, Friese-Greene Gallery, Brighton, UK

Groups/Collectives (membership of)

- ABC Artists' Books Cooperative (international)
- APEC Artists' Studios (Hove, UK)
- The Art/Law Network
- The Cybernetics Society
- The London Group
- Soft Power (Brighton)
- Visual Artists Ireland