

Micheál O'Connell / Mocksim

Statement

I describe this as systems interference art.

Unearthing the poetic in everyday, imperfect, technologies and systems are key activities. The original aim was to find items of data and digital artefacts, but the interest extends beyond the computational network, to heavier machineries and physical infrastructures. Real movements of packages and multifarious vehicles appear on the roads for example, as a direct reflection of the invisible information flowing, and 'packet switching', on digital networks. I attempted to break the new lower speed limits being introduced in many urban areas (on foot), was 'onboarded' as a Deliveroo rider, and exhibited estate agent/auctioneer 'Sold' boards on their posts. There is a performative aspect to the interventions or presentation. Methods and documentation are openly shared. Elements from the investigations are often montaged in to the short looping films, or simupoems, which have been a consistent feature of the practice (and two of these are part of the late Michael Shamberg's *Turtle Salon* collection). Increasingly I have been looking at the technological and other uses of the landscape, and developing work arising from the thought experiment that golf courses could incorporate a wind turbine at every hole.

Summary Biography

Work has been shown in project spaces, established locations such as the Whitechapel Art Gallery (London), Lighthouse (Brighton, UK) and Wandersford Quay Gallery (Cork City, Ireland) and, long before the Covid-19 pandemic, using available and invented systems for streaming, distribution and feedback. An early project, *Contra-Invention*, had been invited to *Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie d'Arles*, was later part of *From Here On* at Arts Santa Mónica, Barcelona and more. O'Connell was subsequently invited to join international grouping *ABC Artists' Books Cooperative* and, since completing a practice-led PhD in 2016, has been actively intervening both independently, and as part of collectives, again. In 2019 a *Develop Your Creative Practice* (DYCP) grant was awarded, and then a *Commissions Award* by The Arts Council, Ireland to generate new work for a solo exhibition which will take place at Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre in 2022.

Writing about the work and sample references to it listed here: <https://www.mocksim.org/bio.htm>

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 Sample

2020	<i>ABC Proposals for Paris</i> , Le Plac'Art, Paris <i>Soft Power 4</i> , An exhibition in an (online) spreadsheet
2019	<i>Printing Plant</i> , 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 (LG 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, Wandesford 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
- 2009 *Makeshift*, Fusina, Venice (Camping Fusina funded)
- 2008 *Feed Lack Loop*, Lighthouse, Brighton and Second Life, online (Multiple funding sources)
- 2006 *Rearing*, at Whitechapel Gallery, London

Groups/Collectives

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