

Simon Puriňš BA (Hons), MA

February 2017

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I am a Visual Artist, Independent Filmmaker and Artist Educator-Enabler. I work 'cross-media' primarily with film and digital media, painting, drawing, design, hypermedia and augmented reality. I have a very wide-ranging skill-set and my work regularly requires that I learn new skills on a 'need to know' basis. Since 2000, I have worked extensively in the 3rd Sector, in education (primary, secondary and tertiary) in the community (where a particular focus has been with older, vulnerable people and those living with dementia) with charities, with 'hard-to-reach' groups and those with disabilities.

My key aim is to facilitate the creativity of the people I work with, helping them to discover and enhance their skills, to develop their confidence and to take pride in what they make and do. I actively encourage interaction between participants, enabling them to work together cohesively and happily, as a group.

Each individual and group is different and unique, with different requirements and needs and I approach each project as a fresh challenge. Trust, empathy, respect and the ability to listen, are key elements in my approach to this work and in fostering the well-being of my participants and co-creators.

I always aim to make my projects truly collaborative, involving all those who wish to contribute, including carers, care home staff, volunteers, family members, teachers, support staff etc., as appropriate and applicable.

Key Skills

Visual art mediums: Film, Digital and Interactive Media (Hypermedia, Augmented Reality) Painting, Drawing, Photography.

Filmmaking – Direction, camera, sound and editing.

Artist-educator in schools at levels KS 1 through 5.

Design, composition, use of colour and texture.

Aural history, documentary film and interviewing skills.

Trained reminiscence, dementia and inter-generational project worker.

Key creative digital media core software - Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Dreamweaver, Soundbooth, Audacity, Encore DVD, iDVD, Fireworks, Image Ready, InDesign, Flash, Director.

Equally conversant on Mac and PC platforms.

Web design and construction.

Programming tools - HTML, CSS, some Lingo and JavaScript

Experience with a wide range of Internet and new media technologies and with Information architecture, HCI (Human Computer Interface) and usability issues.

Wide-ranging knowledge of art and cultural history.

Strong written, research, archiving and analytical skills.

Working collaboratively to share experience, skills and ideas.

Empathy, trust, respect and listening as key communication skills.

Highlighted Recent Projects

Directly involving Young People

'Meeting in No Man's Land' (2016-2017): <http://www.eyesociation.org/MiNML/>

'Talk About Art' (2015 on-going): <http://www.talkaboutart.co.uk>

'Worcester Museums' (2014): <http://www.eyesociation.org/worcestermuseums/index.html>

Other

'Peeling Onions with Granny' (2016 on-going): <http://www.eyesociation.org/peelingonions/>

'MC Geezer & Dear Rave Crew' (2016 on-going)

'Can't Get Rid Of Us (Stop The System)' Music video for MC Geezer:

<https://www.facebook.com/matthew.j.taylor.543/videos/10156946513960012/>

Deaf Rave Crew perform at Lewisham People's Day (short documentary):

<https://youtu.be/KteqEuQYNVg>

'Sonic Vistas' (short documentary - 2015):

<http://www.eyesociation.org/sonicvistas/index.html>

'Children of The Great War' (2013-2015): <http://www.eyesociation.org/cotgw/index.html>

Career History

2000-present: Freelance Visual Artist, Independent Filmmaker & Artist Educator-Enabler. 3rd Sector and commercial clients and partners include:

Ability Media, Age Exchange, Age UK Bromley & Greenwich, Alexandra Palace, Art in Perpetuity Trust (APT), Artworks, Arts Council England, Barking & Dagenham Council, Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust, British Film Institute Southbank, Bromley Adoption Service, Cafe Gallery Projects, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Cooltan Arts, Creekside Education, Deaf Rave, Department of Health, Drake Music, Drapers' Livery Company, Dulwich Picture Gallery, East London Scouts, GE Healthcare (previously Amersham PLC) Graham Rinaldi (film historian), Greenwich & Bexley Hospice, Hackney City Farm, Historic Royal Palaces, Information Services International, Innisfree (Irish in Britain), InspireMe Education, Institute of Education, Ivan Riches (collaborating artist), Latvian National Council in Great Britain, Lingham Court Care Home, Lewisham Council EAZ (Education Action Zone), London Borough of Lewisham, London Borough of Southwark, London South Bank University, L&Q Housing, Mali Morris RA (painter), Mars Group, Merchant Taylors' Livery Company, Momentum Arts, Notting Hill Housing Trust, Positive Steps, Research Design Architects, Royal Festival Hall, St. Margaret's Church – Lee, Shape Arts, Sheila Vollmer (sculptor), South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Southbank Centre, Southwark City Learning Centre/ Southwark Education, Talk About Art, The Children's Society, The Hive Library, The Noel Coward Foundation, Trinity Laban, Urban Renaissance Lewisham, University of Essex, University of Oxford, University of Reading, University of Worcester, Vestry House Museum

1998-2000: The Financial Services Authority (now FCA) FT. IT infrastructure for Internet, Intranet, Knowledge Management and Communications.

1995-1998: The Securities and Futures Authority. FT/PT roles in IT to support study and artist practice

1987-1995: various FT/PT roles to support artist practice - inc. Tate Gallery (now Tate Britain) Publications & Retail, 1989-1993.

1987 to present: maintaining own artist practice

Education and Qualifications

MA Hypermedia Studies (Merit) 1996-98

Hypermedia Research Centre, School of Communication and Creative Industries, University of Westminster

Postgraduate Certificate in Fine Art 1993-94

Akademia Sztuk Pięknych w Warszawie (Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw) Poland

BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting (1st Class – with commendation in Art History) 1984-87

University of Gloucestershire (previously Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology)

B/TEC National Diploma in Art and Design 1983-84

North Devon College, Barnstaple

A-Levels 1981-83

English Language/Literature, Art, Sociology

North Devon College, Barnstaple

O-Levels 1976-81

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Economics, History, Art, German, Biology

The Park School, Barnstaple

Personal Information

D.O.B - 09.12.1964

Nationalities – British, Latvian

Marital Status - Partner and 2 children

UK driving licence – clean, no points

Current Enhanced DBS check – vulnerable adults & children

Other

Member of The Baltic Council in Great Britain, 2013-present

Selected Exhibitions/ Film Screenings

Peeling Onions with Granny – Legacies of Displacement (group exhibition, film and live performance – with Chris Dobrowolski, Elina Kalniņa, Teresa Murjas) University of Reading, December 2016

Meeting in No Man's Land (cinematographer for documentary) premiered at British Film Institute Southbank, London 8th July 2016; further screenings:

Munich and Rosenheim, Germany, November 2016

Clapham Picture House, London, February 2017

University of Oxford, March 2017

Children of the Great War (with Ivan Riches) Film Installation

Alexandra Palace, London Throughout 2015

Vestry House Museum, London February 2015

APT Gallery, London January 2015

British Film Institute Southbank, London October 2014

Bridewell Theatre, London August 2014

Simple Pleasures (with Ivan Riches) Boones Chapel, London November 2012

SHAPE Open (group) Film Installation (with Ivan Riches, Simon Geal) Portobello Gallery, London April-May 2012

Making Overload Short film screened at Ability Media, London February 2012 and British Film Institute Southbank, London December 2011

The People's Portrait (solo) Film Installation. Arch 402 Gallery, London November 2011

Make A Space A Place (with London Schools Project) Film Installation. Café Gallery, London February 2011

Across The Divide – Voices from the Heart of Leighton (with Age Exchange and Research design Architects) Film Installation. Vestry House Museum, Walthamstow, London January 2010

Run For It (with Age Exchange) Film Installation. Touring, London December 2009 - June 2010

A Tapestry of Tales (3 Artists) Painting & Digital Media. APT Gallery, London 2004

ImaGene (with Ivan Riches) Digital Media. Savoy Hotel, London 2002

MA Show Hypermedia Studies Digital Media (group) Tabernacle Gallery, Notting Hill, London 1998

Regeneration - Photographic art from the Baltic States (group) The Commercial Gallery, Spitalfields, London September-October 1996

Emerging Light (solo) Installation. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London April-May 1995

New Art in Poland - 30 Artistic Impressions (group) Painting. Hotel Marriot Gallery, Warsaw, Poland July-August 1994

Spacerowa (solo) Painting & Photography. Apartment 48, Bobrowiecka, Warsaw, Poland May 1994

Windsor Arts Centre – New Paintings & Drawings (solo) 1991

Behind The Scenes (group) Drawing. Morley Gallery, Morley College, London 1991

The New Wapping Art Show (group) Painting. The Collectors Gallery, London 1990

Whitechapel Open Studios (group) Painting & Drawing. Metropolitan Wharf, London 1990

New Work Week-long live painting event (with Ivan Riches) The Gallery, Gloucestershire College of Arts & Technology, Cheltenham 1989

New Work (4 Artists) Painting. Subscription Rooms, Stroud 1988