

Thomas Thwaites (b. 1980)

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Education

- MA. Design Interactions. Royal College of Art (2009)
- BSc. Human Sciences, (2:1 with Honours). University College London (2005)
- Foundation Diploma in Art & Design. The City Literary Institute (2002)
- Undergraduate Foundation Year, (Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence). University of Edinburgh (2001)

Awards, Residencies, Collections, Commissions

Commission. The University of Arizona Museum of Art, (forthcoming 2019).

Permanent Collection. Banque de France. Cite de L'Economie, Paris.

Commission. Abandon Normal Devices Biennial 2017, UK.

Commission. St. Etienne Design Biennial 2017. France.

Commission for "Designer Maker User" (Permanent Collection). The Design Museum, London. 2016

Ig Nobel Prize in Biology, 2016.

Residency. Asia Culture Centre, Gwangju, South Korea. November 2015-February 2016

'Emerging Design Studio of the Year', ICON Magazine Awards, 2014

Residency, Royal Society of Arts. London, July 2014

Arts Award, The Wellcome Trust. 2013 - 2015

Permanent Collection. Victoria & Albert Museum. London.

Designer In Residence. The Design Museum, London. 2013-14

Residency, Akademie Schloss Solitude. Germany 2011-2012

Commission. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. 2010

Arts Award, The Wellcome Trust. 2010

Prix Ars Electronica, Honorary Mention. 2010

Residency, Stanley Picker Gallery. London, March 2010

Intern. The Interactive Institute, Stockholm. 2009

Books

The Toaster Project: Or a Heroic Attempt to Build a Simple Electric Appliance from Scratch

Princeton Architectural Press (2011 first edition. Second and third editions 2012, 2013). Korean and Japanese translations.

Goatman: How I Took a Holiday from Being Human

Princeton Architectural Press (May 2016 first edition. Second edition August 2016). Norwegian, Korean and Japanese translations.

Selected Teaching & Academia

Currently: Visiting Assistant Professor of Industrial Design at Rhode Island School of Design

2019 (forthcoming in January)

Lecture: "Revolutionary Technologies", The University of Arizona

Artists Talk: University of Cincinnati

2018

Visiting Critic: Designed Objects, School of the Art Institute of Chicago. 16 May 2018

Visiting Critic: Department of Architecture, Technical University Munich, Germany. 16 January 2018

Artists Talk: Material Futures MA, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London. 17 January 2018

Workshop: "Design Narratives" 3D Design, Bath Spa University, London. 10 January 2018

2017

5 Day Workshop School of Architecture Alicante University, Spain

2016

Workshop: "Post-Rational Double Blind Connected Digraph Gifts" MA. Design Products Royal College of Art

Workshop (Undergraduates): "The Futures Collection" The Design Museum, London
Guest Critic and Tutor MA. Design Interactions Royal College of Art

Guest Tutor, Designed Objects School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Symposium Presentation "(In)comprehensible (un)design" Undesign Symposium University of Applied Arts Vienna

Lecture, "Materials Innovation" Chelsea College of Art, London

Mitchell Lecture School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Symposium Presentation, at "The Object Agency" NESTA Futures Day Victoria & Albert Museum, UK

Lecture, "Who's Better?"
Better World Conference
Brown University / Rhode Island
School of Design

Lecture, "Designing across disciplines"
History of Science Department
Sorbonne University

Visiting Lecturer,
Industrial Design Dept.
University of Hertfordshire
Judge

"DESIGN FACTORY" Competition
The Design Museum, London

Lecture
"The Expanded Designer"
Camberwell College,
University of the Arts, London
Symposium Panel Discussion
"We Have Never Been Speculative
Enough" at Central St Martins,
University of the Arts, London

Symposium Presentation
"The Sensorium of Animals." Critical
Media Lab, Academy of Art and
Design, Basel

2015

5 Day Workshop: *Product Triage: A
system for dealing with unwanted goods.*
London College of Communication
University of the Arts, London

Guest Critic and Tutor
BA. Jewellery Design
Central St Martins

Visiting Tutor
MA. Interaction Design Research
Goldsmiths University, London

Commencement Lecture
Dept. of Design
Camberwell College
University of the Arts, London

Guest Tutor
MA. Design Interactions
Royal College of Art

Artist's Talk:
Rhode Island School of Design.

Selected Exhibitions

2019 (forthcoming)

Triennale di Milano: *XXII Broken
Nature*, Milan

Cooper Hewitt Museum: *Design
Triennial*, New York

Visiting Lecturer, Industrial Design
Dept. University of Hertfordshire

Visiting Lecturer
Camberwell College,
University of the Arts, London

2014

Module Leader "Speculative Design"
(BA Communication Design)
Design Academy Kolding, Denmark

Workshop: "Designing Backwards
from the Future"
University for the Creative Arts at
Epsom

Visiting Lecturer
MA. Innovation Design Engineering
Royal College of Art

Visiting Lecturer
Central School of Speech & Drama

Visiting Tutor
BA. 3D Design
Brighton University

Guest Critic
MA. Innovation Design Engineering
Royal College of Art

Visiting Tutor
Camberwell College,
University of the Arts, London

Symposium Presentation
"Wearable Tech.", Institute of Making
University College London

Visiting Tutor
MA. Interaction Design Research
Goldsmiths University, London

2013

Guest Critic
Unit 6 (Unknown Fields)
Architecture Association

Guest Tutor
Technical University, Dresden

Guest Tutor: "Designing Process"

2018

Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design
Vitra Design Museum, Germany

Creatures Made to Measure,
Marta Herford Gallery, Germany

School of the Art Institute of Chicago
5 Day Workshop
"Product Transformations"
London College of Communication
University of the Arts, London

2012

1 Day Workshop
"Production Stories"
Industrial Design Dept.
Rhode Island School of Design.

Visiting Tutor
Dirty Art Department, Sandberg
Institute, Amsterdam

Visiting Lecturer
Materials Science Dept.
Ohio State University

Visiting Lecturer
Green Mountain College, New York

Commencement Address
Olin College, New York

Visiting Tutor, Visual Arts,
University of Oklahoma

Visiting Tutor, Design Dept,
Bath Spa University

2011 and prior

Visiting Tutor,
MA Sustainable Design
Goldsmiths University

Guest Critic and Tutor
MA. Design Interactions
Royal College of Art

Visiting Lecturer
Sheffield Hallam University

Visiting Lecturer
Oxford Brookes University

Visiting Tutor,
Design Dept.
Edinburgh College of Art

Guest Critic and Tutor
MA. Design Products
Royal College of Art

Design and Decrease
Centre d'Innovation et de Design
Belgium

Bio Art & Design Award Exhibition
MU Museum, Eindhoven

Change the System
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2017

New Alchemists (Touring)
Flinders University City Gallery,
Australia
&
Devenport Regional Gallery, Australia

The Futures of the Past,
Gwangju Design Biennale, Gwangju,
South Korea

Apparatus Serendipity
Minority Project Space, Beijing, China

Artist Social Reproduction
Kyoto City University of Arts Gallery,
Japan

Saint Etienne Design Biennale
Saint Etienne, France

2016

Permanent Collection: 21st C. Gallery.
Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

BLESS
Lothringer 13 Halle, Munich, Germany

The Life Fair
Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam
New Alchemists
Salamanca Arts Centre Australia
(Touring)

Reset Modernity
ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

Plastic Myths
Asia Culture Centre, South Korea

Thoughts From New Associates
Eastwards Prospectus Gallery,
Bucharest, Romania

*The Body in the Age of Digital
Technology*
Frankfurter Kunstverein,
Frankfurt, Germany

2015

Solo Show
Studio 1.1 Gallery, London

Domestic Futures
Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden..

Objectology
Museum of Modern and
Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

sensenonsense
Van Abbemuseum / Design Academy
Eindhoven, Netherlands.

2014

Mastering Design
MUDAC, Switzerland

Designing Scarcity
Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam

2013

Designers in Residence
The Design Museum, London

Make Active Choices
Museum fuer Neue Kunst, Freiburg
Germany.

INVISIBLE DESIGN
Logotel Gallery, Milan Design Week

2012

ZERO1 Biennial
Zero1 Gallery, San Jose, USA.

Micro Impact
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen,
Rotterdam

2011

Time and the Long Now
The Science Museum, London

What If...
National Museum of China, Beijing

Transnatural
De Verdieping, Amsterdam

2010

Museum of the Future
Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria

Demain C'est Aujourd'hui
Biennial Design St-Étienne, France.

Designed Disorder
Abandon Normal Devices Festival

CyberArts Exhibition 2010
Ars Electronica, Austria

Post Fossil.
21:21 Design Sight, Tokyo.

Wellcome Windows
Wellcome Trust, London

IMPACT!
Royal College of Art, London

Louder than Bombs
Stanley Picker Gallery, London

WHAT IF?
The Science Gallery, Dublin

Disruptive Thinking
100% Design, London.

Selected Commercial Presentations & Consultancy

Continuum Consulting, Boston. Invited Speaker. September 2016

Converse, Trend and Concept Summit, Boston. Invited Speaker. September 2016

Molonglo Property Group, Melbourne, Australia. Consultancy. Future homes and alternative hospitality. September 2015

Dyson, UK. Invited Speaker. March 2015

Metropolitan Police Association, New Scotland Yard. Invited Speaker. December 2013

Proctor & Gamble, Cincinnati USA. Invited Speaker. October 2013

Worth Global Style Network, London. Invited Speaker. May 2012

Adidas, Nuremberg. Invited Speaker. March 2011

TATA Steel, Invited Speaker. December 2010

Ogilvy & Mather, London. Invited Speaker. October 2010

It's Nice That, British Council, London. Invited Speaker. October 2010

PSFK Conference 2010, London. Invited Speaker. September 2010

Trend Briefing The Future Laboratory, London. Invited Speaker. November 2009

The Future Laboratory, London. Consultancy. 'Prohibition Culture' project. November 2009

Selected International Conference Presentations

General Rehearsal '18: 'The Rebellion of Objects', Barcelona Design Week, June 22 2018
Methodologies of Making, BARD Graduate Centre New York, May 11 2018
Narratives of a Near Future, 10th anniversary International Conference, HEAD, Geneva, Switzerland 2018
Change the System Lecture and Q&A, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 13 January 2018
The Ig Informal Lectures, Massachusetts Institute Technology. Sep 16, 2017
KIKK Festival 2016, Belgium
London Literature Festival 2016
"Becoming Animal" How To Academy, London 2016
"After the Apocalypse" Cheltenham Science Festival 2016
The Next Web Conference, Amsterdam 2016
PINC Conference, The Netherlands 2016
ACCTektonics Festival, South Korea 2015
i2 Institute Conference, Saudi Arabia. February 2014
Edinburgh International Science Festival, UK. October 2013
Design East Conference, Japan. September 2012
Aspen Environmental Forum, USA. June 2012
Inspiring Matter, Royal College of Art, UK. May 2012
American Craft Council Conference, Baltimore, USA. February 2012
Pop Tech 2011, Maine, USA. October 2011
Clerkenwell Design Week, UK. May 2011
TED 2010, UK. November 2010
Design Indaba Conference, South Africa. 25 February 2010

Press

My work and practice have been featured and discussed widely in the design and general press, in national newspapers such as the New York Times, The Financial Times, Sued Deutsch, The New Yorker, AXIS Japan, The Architect's Newspaper, WIRED etc. I've been interviewed on TV and Radio many times, including on the Colbert Report (USA), The Today Program (BBC Radio 4), NPR, Freakonomics Radio, BBC Breakfast etc. I've also presented my own four part television series about materials and making for Discovery Channel.