

Melissa Laing, Curriculum Vitae

OVERVIEW

Melissa Laing is a artist, theorist and curator living in West Auckland. Her practice spans film, dialogue, sculpture, conceptual writing and artist books. Her practice is situated in the intersections of visual language, critical theory, social history and politics. Previous works have focused on the construction of insecurity through the lens of immigration and aviation. More recently she has focussed on the structures that shape how knowledge is gained and shared. Through artworks, essays and conversation groups she has engaged with the ideologies of intellectual property, practises of education, and the role of science in New Zealand. Since 2012 Melissa has been the lead researcher for the Performance Ethics Working Group, an initiative of the University Without Conditions. She has a PhD from Sydney College of Arts, University of Sydney and her writing has been published in magazines, academic journals and galleries. Currently she is the director of the Urban Walking Festival.

EDUCATION

PhD, University of Sydney, Australia. 2008

One year of postgraduate study, Dutch Art Institute, The Netherlands. 2001

Bachelor of Visual Arts, Auckland Institute of Technology, New Zealand. 1998

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibitions

Sea water and mud, Audio Foundation, Auckland, New Zealand, 2023

Controlled Environment Laboratory, Corban Estate Arts Centre, Auckland, New Zealand, 2018 & Te Manawa, Palmerston North, New Zealand, 2019

Newsland, The Rumpus Room, Melbourne, Australia, 2013

a small metal pin, a piece of rubber, a section of metal pipe with securing nut, two red engine plugs and red ribbon, a reverse thruster hatch stopper bush, some down strapping, a signal horn, a piece of brake lining, a screwdriver, a broken omni directional threshold light, multiple bird, bat and turtle carcasses, a plastic water bottle, a block of wood, a beer can and a piece of paper, Blue Oyster, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2010

Melissa Laing : Thirty Two Heavy, SCA Gallery, Sydney, Australia, 2008

A video, a tent and accessories, Rm 103, Auckland, New Zealand, 2004

Harbouring I by Tentline, Damm4, Vienna, Austria, 2003

Shifted Rotating Door, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada, 2003

The City's Open Spaces, Einsichten Ausblicke, Display Window, Kastanienallee, Berlin, Germany, 2002

Epic(2), Physics Room, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2001

The Interior, The Trace, rm212, Auckland, New Zealand, 2000

Epic/Episch, Video Screening, Basis Wien, Vienna, Austria, 2000

He regarded the elements of fiction as the cards in the pack. They were always all there. There was no surprise; solitaire always came out if you cheated, Lift Space, High Street Project, Christchurch, New Zealand, 1999

Group Exhibitions

Sculpture on the Gulf, Waiheke, Auckland, New Zealand, 2022
Hither and Thither, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand, 2013
Make Something, A Collection of Collaboration, Saatchi Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand, 2011
Species of Space, Westspace, Melbourne, Australia, 2009
Underbelly, Carriageworks, Sydney, Australia, 2008
Limn file, High Street Project, Christchurch, New Zealand and China Heights, Sydney, Australia, 2007
Post it, Peloton Gallery, Sydney, Australia, 2006
JOC Jewelry Out Of Context, The Muse, Sydney, Australia, 2006
Tourist City, Kulturzentrum Schlachthof, Bremen, Germany, 2004
International Stopover, Pugh Pugh Barney McGrew Cuthbert Dibble Grubb, Berlin, Germany, 2003
Experimental, Museu de Arte Contemporânea do Ceará, Fortaleza Ceará, Brazil, 2003
Surviving Berlin, Jewelbox Projektraum, Berlin, Germany, 2003
Ritual Comforters, High St Project, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2002
Starting Now, Four gallery exhibition, Sixty4Steps, Toronto, Canada, 2002
Hide and Seek, Villa Weiner, Ochtrup, Germany, 2001
Goggle Box, Light Box, Auckland, New Zealand, 2001
Rezone: Our Generation, Central Post Office, Auckland, New Zealand, 2000
Up and Coming, Articule Gallery, Montreal, Canada, 2000
Fairytale, Centre for Metamedia-Plasy, Czech Republic, 1999
Inappropriate Occupations and Transient Preservations: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow, Public Art Project, Rezone, Auckland, New Zealand, 1999

Projects & Performances

Pooch Portrait Studio, Whau Arts Festival , Auckland, 2024
Standing at the edge, with Mustaq Missouri, Walking about, Te Uru, Auckland, 2020
The Stoat, the Kereru and the Karaka Berries, with Christina Houghton, Auckland Fringe Festival, 2019
Boat Date, Auckland Fringe Festival, 2018
Boat Dates, with Christina Houghton, Auckland waterways, 2016
dull, dull, dull. Interesting people talk about boring things, Auckland Fringe Festival, 2013
Happiness in two parts, Video with live monologue, Vive le Bonheur, Workshop Showroom, Sydney, Australia, 2007
A Turbulent Mind, Direction & Sound: Melissa Laing, Performance: Paul Gonzalez & Nick Nestorovski, Nighttime #1, a Night of Short Works, Performance Space, Sydney, Australia, 2007
Shopping Mall (2002), 2.30 min section of Track 2 from, Trip, remix your experience, a visual music-film with live performance which was shot over 4 years in 12 countries and incorporates 4 feature-length films, 36 directors and 14 musicians. Directed by Frank Otto and Bernt Koehler-Adams. Premiered Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Hamburg Film Festival 2005, European premiere, 59th Festival de Cannes, Marché du Film, 2006. Toured Germany 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Page Works, Artist Books, Conceptual Writing

- 'A Report on Progress', bookwork, 148 pp, 2018
- 'Untitled (for Victoria)', bookwork, 2017
- Boat Date, a poster and essay, 2016
- 'Reduction', video poem for Art West, 2015 <https://vimeo.com/142360327>
- 'Wrong In The World' vol I - IV, zine 2015 - 16
- 'Climate Laboratory Newsletter', zine, 2014
- 'These undesirable immigrants, lunatics, people on these boats. we do not want these people to come - and I make no apology for it', bookwork for Enjoy Public Art Gallery, 2013
- 'Commonly Occurring', a book of edited text from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau Aviation Safety Database, August 2010 to August 2011. 2012
- 'Manifestos for thinking and living', with Sarah Laing, 2011

Edited Books

- Christina Houghton, Melissa Laing and Becca Wood (eds) 2021, About Walking. 15 months of artist walks in Tāmaki Auckland, (Auckland: Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery)
- Negotiating Conversational Frequency, Performance Ethics Working Group Report July 2017, University Without Conditions, 2017
- 978-0-9864650-5-5, ST PAUL St Publishing, 2012

Podcasts

- Episode 1 - 9 Performance Ethics Working Group, University Without Conditions, Auckland, New Zealand. <https://universitywithoutconditions.ac.nz/research/performance-ethics-working-group/>, 2014

Selected Essays and Book Chapters

- 'Shaking the snow-globe and changing the city' Cameron Catiere and Leon Tan (eds.) Routledge Companion to Art in the Public Realm, Routledge, 2020
- 'Some parallel discussions' in Bruce E. Phillips (ed) Share/Cheat/Unite vol 4, Te Tuhi, 2018
- 'The (quieter) romance of suburban rail', Pantograph Punch, 02 March, 2017
- 'Being here, with you' in Bruce E. Phillips (ed) Unstuck in Time, Te Tuhi, 2015
- 'Out at Sea: On Taking a Year off and Building a Boat' Pantograph Punch, 4 June 2015
- 'Under a Flag', What do you mean, we? Te Tuhi, 2012
- 'Negotiating an ethical commons of expression' 978-0-9864650-5-5, ST PAUL St Publishing, 2012
- 'In My Empty House: Ruark Lewis with Loma Bridge', Studies in Material Thinking Vol. 5, 2011
- 'Into a void', Revolutions per Minute, Narrow Gauge, 2011

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Cities in a Climate of Change: Public Art, Environmental and Social Ecologies, IAPA Conference 2015, Auckland, New Zealand 2015
- Cultural Studies Association Australasia (CSAA) Conference 2014, Wollongong, Australia 2014
- Postcolonial Studies Research Network Conference, Citizenship in an Era of Global Crisis, University of Otago, Dunedin, 2011
- 6th European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, University of Iceland, 2011
- 32nd Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art (CIHA), Melbourne University, Australia, 2008
- Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference 2012, 2009, 2006

SELECTED CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Independent

Nikau Superette Art, Kelston, Auckland, 2023 - 2024

Urban Walking Festival, Tāmaki Auckland, 2019 - 2022, urbanwalking.nz

About walking, 15 months of walking artworks, co-curated by Christina Houghton and presented by Te Uru, Auckland, New Zealand, 2019 - 2020

Tasting Words, a Poetry and Food Walk on Great North Rd, New Lynn, Auckland, 2017, Whau Arts Broker

New Lynn Street Performance Series, Auckland, Winter 2016 & 2017, Whau Arts Broker

Waterview Connection, Dianne Smith, Alan Wood Reserve, Auckland, 2017, Whau Arts Broker

Sounding the Whau, sound walks in collaboration with Audio Foundation, Kelston, Auckland, 2016 & Green Bay, Auckland, 2017, Whau Arts Broker

Assembly, co-curated with Charlotte Huddleston and Vera Mey, 2012, St Paul St Gallery, AUT

Print Season 2011, a season of four curated exhibitions, a print fair, a symposium and a publication, St Paul St Gallery, AUT

In My Empty House, Ruark Lewis with Loma Bridge, 2010, St Paul St Gallery, AUT

Bricolage Disco, Wade Marynowsky, 2010, St Paul St Gallery, AUT

Sculpture Season 2010, a season of six curated exhibitions, St Paul St Gallery, AUT

New Work for Screen, commissioned video artworks for Air New Zealand's Inflight Entertainment, 2013

Blick-Box, window gallery Friedrichshain, Berlin, 2003

Einsichten Ausblicke, window gallery, Kastanienallee, Berlin, 2002

Rezone, pop up exhibitions across Auckland, 1998 - 2000

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

Stable Spaces, a Manatū Taonga funded investigation into space ownership in the arts. 2023 - 2024

Review of the Copyright Act, a one week focus on Copyright in response to the MBIE review of the Copyright Act, St Paul St Gallery, AUT, 2019

On Conversation, a research residency at Te Tuhi Gallery, Auckland, 2016

Henry Moore Institute Research Fellowship, Leeds, 2012

Trinity Grammar School, Artist in Residence, Sydney, 2007

Scholarship for Language and Cultural Exchange, Goethe Institute, Berlin, 2001

Huygens Scholarship, Postgraduate Study in the Netherlands, Dutch Art Institute, Enschede, 2001

Federal Chancellery of Austria & UNESCO-ASHBERG Bursaries for Artists, Vienna, 2000

Centre for Metamedia-Plasy Residency, Czech Republic, 1999

BOARDS, PANELS & MENTORING

Audio Foundation Trustee 2024 -

Mahia Atua Advisory Panel, Arts Regional Trust

Temp° Advisory Panel, a biennial outdoor art science climate change event

E-Press Advisory Panel, Unitec

Artists Alliance Mentor, 2016 & 2017