

KAT AUSTEN PH.D. FRSA

CURRICULUM VITAE

PORTFOLIO

<https://katausten.com>

BIO

Kat Austen's prizewinning artwork redefines and enriches human relationships to the environment, with a focus on climate change, environmental microplastic and biodiversity loss. Her sound-oriented artworks span performance, new media installation and participatory workshops. In her artistic research she collaborates with scientists, artists, students and communities. She incorporates DIY Science and Citizen Science as knowledge-making practices. Having gained a PhD in Chemistry, this science in particular informs Austen's work. Fundamental to her practice is the forging of links between people, disciplines and sectors both independently and within institutional contexts. Widely recognised in the international interdisciplinary community for her expertise in art-science and technology, transdisciplinary artistic research, participatory research and infrastructure design, Austen is an Honorary Associate Professor at UCL and has been guest lecturer at NYU Shanghai, Yonsei University, University of Galway, Abertay University and University of Cambridge and her studio supports project students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She advises institutions and government such as British Council and the European Commission on best practice and future directions in her fields of expertise.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 ~~Not Breaking ~~ This Wave Drowns Hate ~~ , Galway International Festival, IE
- 2024 Wing/nets, Oksang Factory, Seoul, KR
- 2023 This Land is Not Mine | Łuža, Cinematheque Leipzig, DE
- 2022 Stranger to the Trees, Water Tank Berlin, DE
- 2021 The Gravity of Trees, Mousonturm, Frankfurt-am-Main, DE
- 2019 Flow over water borders, Staatsoper, Berlin, DE
- 2018 The Matter of the Soul, Polar Museum, Cambridge, UK
- 2018 Coral Empathy Device, Lady Beck, Leeds, UK
- 2016 Coral Empathy Device, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, CN
- 2016 Snowglobe, Carter Road Promenade, Mumbai, IN,
- 2013 FLOWS/FLUJOS, Museo Diego Rivera, Mexico City, MX

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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Weather Premium, *19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia*, Arsenale, Venice, IT
- 2024 Weather Premium, Asian Cultural Centre, Gwangji, KR
- 2024 Stranger to the Trees, INDEX Biennale of Art and Technology, gnration, PT
- 2024 Time to Break Down (Echoes of the Palaeoplasticene) 2024 Cultural Olympics exhibition, Sea Gallery, KR
- 2023 When Plants Migrate, *Homo Migratio*, Jeju Museum of Art, KR
- 2023 How to Touch a Dragonfly, *Habitat 1.0*, S-Factory, KR
- 2023-4 Palaeoplasticene, *Weather Engines*, LABoral, Gijón, ES
- 2022 Seoul Rhythms, *Making Waves*, V&A Museum, London, UK
- 2022 Palaeoplasticene, *Kin(d) Relations*, Antre Peaux, FR
- 2022 Ouroboros with Fara Peluso, *RE:WORLD*, MEET Digital Cultural Center, Milan, IT
- 2022 Carbon Echoes Trilogy, *Studio(dys)topia*, Ars Electronica, AT
- 2022 Palaeoplasticene, *Colliding Epistemes*, Bozar Contemporary Art Centre, BE
- 2022 This Land is Not Mine, *Fossil Experience*, Prater Gallery, DE
- 2022 The Matter of the Soul, *What After / What For*, Contemporary Museum Wrocław, PL
- 2021 Stranger to the Trees, *19th Media Art Biennale WRO*, WRO Art Center, Wrocław, PL
- 2020 The Matter of the Soul, *Tomorrow is Already Here*, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, USA
- 2018 The Matter of the Soul, *Polar Encounters*, Bonhams Art Gallery, London, UK

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- Not Breaking at Love Tomorrow, Tomorrowlands Festival, 24 July 2025
- Empty Fields at Kiaf (Korea International Art Fair), Coex, Seoul, KR 4 & 7 Sept 2024
- Coexistence in the Post-Petro Wilderness, Spore Initiative, Berlin, DE 21 Jun 2024

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The Matter of the Soul, Technical Museum Dresden, DE 21 Mar 2024

The Matter of the Soul, Silbersalz Festival Halle, DE, 28 Oct 2023

This Land is Not Mine, dotolim, Seoul, KR 19 May 2023

Mapping Gender, The Place, London, UK, 28 Sept 2022

Mapping Gender, BALTIC Contemporary Art, UK, 2 July 2022

This Land is Not Mine, Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, AT, 7 Sept 2022

Matter of the Soul at ZK/U Berlin, 12th October 2019

The Matter of the Soul, COP24, Katowice, Poland, 1st December 2018

The Matter of the Soul, Howard Assembly Rooms, Opera North, Leeds, UK, 23rd October 2018

The Matter of the Soul at Music Tech Fest, Stockholm, 3rd Sept. 2018

The Matter of the Soul at Fusion Festival, Germany, 28th June 2018

PRIZES

Falling Walls Art & Science (Stranger to the Trees) - Winner 2024

Falling Walls Art & Science (Ouroboros with Fara Peluso) - Winner 2024

J+Art Award (How to Touch a Dragonfly) - Nominee 2024

Lumen Prize (How to Touch a Dragonfly) - Shortlist 2024

Aesthetica Art Prize (How to Touch a Dragonfly) - Longlist 2025

Digital Art Awards (How to Touch a Dragonfly) - Finalist 2025

GRANTS AND COMMISSIONS

STARTS4Water ii (Port of Galway)

ZER01NE Creator (How to Touch a Dragonfly)

Jeju Museum of Art (When Plants Migrate)

S+T+ARTS Repairing the Present (Circular Records)

STUDIOTOPIA (Ars Electronica)

Neustart Kultur Module D (Stranger to the Trees)

Berliner Kulturfonds (Flow Over Water Borders)

Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa (Planetary Listening)

Crespo Foundation (The Gravity of Trees)

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EDUCATION

CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS

London, UK — Metalwork for Sculpture 2010

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON AND DAVY FARADAY LABORATORY

London, UK — Ph.D. Chemistry 2006

Computer modelling of the Structure and Reactivity of Carbonate Minerals.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

London, UK — MSci Chemistry 2001

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

UCL Arts and Sciences, University College London

Sep 2025 - 2028

Supervision, grant preparation, lecturing and strategic representation of UCL in a global context.

SENIOR TEACHING FELLOW

Bachelors in Art and Science, University College London

Sep 2016 - June 2025

(FTE variable)

Lead, core module Citizen Science for Radical Change: Co- design, Art and Community. Contributor: Approaches to Knowledge, Interdisciplinary Research Methods Supervisor: BASC Final Year Dissertations.

ARTIST FELLOW

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam

Apr 2020 - July 2021

Elected as IASS Artist Fellow for the project *This Land is Not Mine*, an exploration of the changing identity of the region of Lusatia as it transitions from open cast lignite mining to sustainable industries.

ACCELERATOR LEAD, ACTION PROJECT (H2020)

Leibniz Institute for Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries Jul 2019 - Apr 2022

(0.5 FTE)

Research focus on inclusion of marginalised communities in citizen science projects, interface with art and science, interdisciplinary and participatory knowledge-making. Design of mentoring programme and research into best practice in participatory research.

CULTURAL FELLOW IN ART AND SCIENCE

Cultural Institute, University of Leeds (0.5 FTE)

Dec 2017 - Dec 2018

This fellowship was awarded under the Climate Change track for *The Matter of the Soul*, a project exploring the use of novel haptic and sound interfaces to generate empathy for the Arctic ecosystem. Developing cross-cutting collaborations across disciplines within the university.

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

University of Cambridge

Nov 2005 - Aug 2008

Computational chemical research on environmental systems within the eMinerals project as part of the Department of Earth Sciences.

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ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Waves of Change, Atlantic Technical University & Watershed Studios, Galway, Ireland 2025 (forthcoming)

iii instrument inventors, The Hague, Netherlands, 2025 (forthcoming)

Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, Waterloo, Belgium, 2024

EMAP / EMARE at WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland 2020-2021

Artist in Residence, Climate Change Residency, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, USA, 2018

Artist in the Arctic 2017, Friends of SPRI, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

Artist in Residence, University College London, March 2015-ongoing

Artist in Residence, NYU Shanghai Gallery and PCI, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, April 2016

Artist in Residence, Art Oxygen, Mumbai, February 2016

Digital Art Lead, LAs theatre, New Atlantis project, 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL / ADVISORY

- Jury European Union Prize for Citizen Science 2023
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Art
- bbk berlin (berufsverband bildender künstler*innen berlin) member
- Associate, Brandenburg Centre for Media Studies (ZeM)
- General Thinkers Network
- Future Shapers Network member, Forum for the Future, since 2014
- Watef Network member
- London Creative Network inaugural member
- Consultant for Water Resilience Advisory Group, OfWAT 2015-2016

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"The Constitution of the Sea" Austen, K. (2025) **Technoetic Arts: A Journal of Speculative Research** 2(2), 183-196

"The Rite for Future Beetles", Austen, K. in **Interspecies Performance** (2024) Performance Research Books & DAS Research, Amsterdam.

"DNA #34: Evidence Ensembles" (2024) Austen et. al, Spector Books, Eds. Haus der Kulturen der Welt

"The Art + Science + Policy Nexus" Austen, K., Publications Office of the European Union (2023).

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"The potential of citizen science to transform science: Lessons for a sustainable future", Austen et al. (2024), **People and Nature** 6(2), 435-445

"Co-designing Infrastructures: Community collaboration for liveable cities" Bell S., Johnson, C., Austen, K., Moore, G., Teh, T. (2023) UCL Press ISBN: 9781800082229

"Fossil Echoes", Austen, K (2022) ISBN: 9783000725371

"Microplastic inclusion in birch tree roots" Austen, K. et al.(2022) **Science of the Total Environment**, 808, 152085.

"Stranger to the Trees" Austen, K., in **The Next Renaissance** (2022) Odile Jacob Publishing, ISBN: 978-2415001995

"Sounding Dispersal as a Route to Empathy with the Changing Arctic" Austen, K. (2019) **Leonardo Music Journal**, 29, 3-7

"Mediating for Climate Change" Austen, K. (2017) **Oxford Artistic and Practice Based Research Platform**, 2, 69-78

"The Art of Health" Austen, K. (2016) **Wellcome Trust**

"Theory Choice in Chemistry: Attitudes to Computer Modelling in Chemistry" Austen, K. (2016), in **Theory Choice in the History of Chemical Practices**, Eds. E. Tobin and C. Ambrosio, SpringerBriefs

"What could derail the wearables revolution?" Austen, K. (2015), **Nature**, 525, 22–24

"Pollution Patrol" Austen, K.(2015) **Nature**, 517, 136-138