

JESSE C THOMPSON

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HIGHLIGHTS

Web Developer. Beyond The Breakdown, an AI-assisted world building online art project for Sundance Film Festival with Lauren McCarthy, Tony Patrick, Grace Lee. 2021.

Assistant Editor. p5.js Contributors Zine 1.0. 2020.

Pokémon Scholar. Pokémon Company Scholarship inaugural recipient. 2019.

EDUCATION

MA Information Experience Design. Royal College of Art. 2017-2019.

MBA. Piedmont College. 2005-2008.

BA English Literature. Rollins College. 2002-2005.

TALKS & TEACHING

- Visiting Lecturer at the Royal College of Art. 2019-2020.
- Art & Research presentation for the Pokémon CEO and board of trustees at Tokyo headquarters. 2019.
- Blue{shift} Creative Code Instructor. 2018-2019.
- P5.js coding workshop lead at Royal College of Art. 2018.
- Artist presentation and talk at Flagler College. 2016.
- Sound workshop at The University of the South. 2015.
- St. Benedict's Prep Resident Tutor and Advocate. 2012-2013.
- Link Charter School Middle School Classroom Teacher. 2012-2013.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Adobe CS, Sketch App, Figma, Risograph Duplicator printing, Processing, E-Fabrication, Laser Cutting, Arduino, Python, Ableton Live, Reaper, Audacity, Wordpress, Squarespace CMS.

EXPERIENCE

Critical Media Project at the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy

Web Developer, Sound Producer. October 2020-Present.

With faculty from the University of Southern California, I design and develop multimedia platforms and tools including a web-based art gallery and instructional videos for students in the LA County school system. Critical Media Project (CMP) is a free media literacy web resource for educators and students (ages 8-21) that enhances young people's critical thinking and empathy, and builds on their capacities to advocate for change around questions of identity.

Web Development, Freelance

Frontend web developer and designer. March 2020-Present.

Design and develop websites and web applications for nonprofits, civic projects, art projects with the Wordpress & Squarespace CMS and headless CMS via Netlify. HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP.

Loomia Technologies

Consultant / lab assistant. March 2021-June 2021

Fabricate e-textiles for initial SparkFun Electronics inventory. Assist the CTO in daily lab operations.

The Young

Freelance copywriter. October 2019-February 2020.

Based in Rotterdam, NL, The Young is a micro global agency helping brands with immersive research, tangible strategy, storytelling, and imaginative design. It specializes in Smart Mobility, Retail innovation, and Sustainable Transition with clients such as BMW, Jaguar, and Gazelle.

Processing Foundation

Director of Innovation. 2016-2017

Based in Los Angeles and NYC, the Foundation promotes software literacy within the arts by developing and distributing a group of related software projects, which includes Processing (Java), p5.js (JavaScript), and Processing.py (Python), and facilitating partnerships and collaborations with allied organizations and individuals, to build a more diverse community around software and the arts. During my time there, I conducted the first community survey and launched the online membership drive and website redesign in collaboration with Folder Studios. I was a co-mentor, along with Lauren McCarthy, for an afterschool and summer camp program called DIY Girls. The artist-led partnership created a code-based curriculum for future community initiatives. With board members, Casey Reas, Ben Fry, Daniel Shiffman, and Lauren McCarthy, I organized and helped select Processing Foundation Fellowships, which are annual awards for ambitious software development and community projects with funding and guidance from the Foundation.

David Lynch Foundation

Program Strategist / Assistant Director of Los Angeles. 2013-2016.

Based in NYC and Los Angeles, the nonprofit organization aims to reduce stress and the side effects of trauma to support cognitive and emotional well-being through meditation programs. Over the three years I was with the organization, I led Los Angeles outreach efforts and participated in numerous projects. With the help of school leadership, teachers, and parents, I launched and led the Quiet Time Program (the specific title for school initiatives) in South Los Angeles at Frederick Douglass Middle School. I tracked statistical and subjective outcomes such as attendance, behavior, and performance to strategize and optimize future initiatives. For Los Angeles fundraising events, I provided production assistance for The Music of David Lynch at The Theatre at Ace Hotel, 2015; Lifetime of Peace & Love Concert feat. Ringo Starr, 2014; Lifetime of Harmony Gala feat. Rick Rubin, 2014.

EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

Heaven to the Cloud / Royal College of Art

My final MA research project presented as an exhibition and live performance exploring digital rituals as culturally familiar forms of ceremony in an attempt to better illuminate the complexities of the commodified internet and the algorithmic integrity of artificial intelligence. 2019.

Amid / Dyson Gallery RCA

With Inés Cámara Leret, Amid was a real-time sonification of air in response to minute-to-minute changes of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone gases. These gases are most commonly associated with air pollution. The aim of the project was to recontextualize the experience of climate change by creating a new experience that transcends political biases. Each gas is assigned specific tones and notes. As detected levels increase and decrease in the space, the musicality follows an up and down scale. 2018.

Rrose Selavy's Dada Extravaganza / Royal Academy of Arts

A group installation, live performance and production for RA Lates celebrating the Salvador Dalí / Marcel Duchamp exhibition. London, 2017.

Not Just A / 202 Gallery at Central Saint Martins

A multimedia piece synthesizing personal text messages into sound and pixels, transforming a virtual exchange into a new kind of sensory experience – live with Processing software. The harmonics between the human and computer voice are extracted as midi tracks and serve as a score for the mystery of the virtual realm. London, 2017.

Sirens in the Blank / Hockney Gallery

Voice synthesis sound installation with Judith Deschamps + Yaprak Goker. London, 2017.

May The Light Come Back / La Tôlerie Gallery

Voice synthesis sound installation with Judith Deschamps + Yaprak Goker. Clermont-Ferrand, France, 2017.

Tectonic Apperception / Crisp-Ellert Art Museum at Flagler College

An interactive sound installation conceived as a sonic organism with microtonal movements, shifting itself across the architecture as sound installation. Tectonic movement within the space of the body — human or architectural — conveys the sonic field as a fully present, fluid, interactive object with physical (sculptural) properties that shape our reality. Using a light sensor and Arduino microcontroller, the installation processes and responds to real-time variations in sunlight, evolving as a spatially aware, sonic consciousness within its environment. Florida, 2016. *

Flat Earth Folded / Big Medium Gallery

A multimedia, immersive sound installation using transducers to activate various materials as speakers. The exhibition is both site and sense-specific. The arrangement of objects and sound in the work creates a reframing and re-describing of our temporal and spatial experience. A sonic transducer transforms the material to which it is attached into the device that conveys pulses of energy into audible sound. This transformation of energy to sound to spatial/sculptural arrangement defines the structure for each of these projects. Flat Earth Folded explores the conceived relationship between space and object by utilizing sound as witness and the primary agent of inquiry of physical space. This approach is both ancient and modern. Electronic media and computer music programming are combined with an experience of sound that is defined by the material and spatial arrangement of the landscape constructed within the gallery. Austin, TX, 2015. *

Flat Earth Unfolded / University Gallery at The University of the South

A multimedia sound, sculpture, and interactive video exhibition using ceramic and steel objects, transmitting deconstructed sound designed with Ableton Live and Pure Data software in response to their material and shape. The result is an acoustic sculpture that is musical and spatially articulated while drawing attention to the physicality of sound and its narrative power. Sewanee, TN, 2014. *

* with Greg Pond *

MULTIMEDIA

Britbot Chatbot / Sky Arts

Production assistant (research, data scraping, website front-end development) for commissioned Machine Learning project with Artist + Quantum Physicist Libby Heaney. 2018.

Tadra

A sonically guided drawing experience created with Processing software, which explores the relationship between drawing, communication, and sound. As a participant draws, audio frequency changes occur along the X-axis and amplitude changes occur along the Y-axis. Our documented research included a test where individuals draw primitive geometric shapes and are then asked to listen to the next participant draw the same shapes to see if they can detect them via sound. 2017.

Vogue Paris

Music for videos of Fashion Week Milan and Paris and Chanel's 100th Anniversary Cruise to Singapore. 2013-2014.

Supporting Paragliding in Malawi, Africa / Cloudbase Foundation + Keen Footwear

Documentary score. 2014.

Performance Highlights

All Tomorrow's Parties Curated by Animal Collective, UK Δ J. Paul Getty Museum, LA Δ Isle of Wight Festival, UK Δ Midi Festival, France Δ Festival Internacional de Benicàssim, Spain Δ Sasquatch! Music Festival, Washington State Δ Parklife Festival, Milan Δ Bestival, UK Δ End of the Road Festival, UK Δ SXSW, Austin TX Δ

Discography

Traditions, Vol. II compilation: "Avatar Feels" je5c feat. El Mir, Memory No. 36 Recordings. 2016.~
A Cool Kind of Love: Tommy Toussaint, Chill Mega Chill Records. 2015.~
#cc10 mixtape: "I Don't Wanna Cry" Tommy Toussaint, Creative Commons + Bad Panda Records. 2013.~
Traditions, Vol. I compilation: "Floating Islands" Tommy Toussaint, Memory No. 36 Records. 2013.~
Portals Summer II mixtape: "Summer of Love" Tommy Toussaint, Portals, Chill Mega Chill. 2013.~
Computer Snacks EP: Tommy Toussaint, Bad Panda Records. 2013.~
Summer USA EP: Tommy Toussaint, Make Mine Records. 2011.~
Cosmic Caverns EP: Tommy Toussaint, Cats Purring Collective. 2010.~
The Good Feeling Music of Dent May and His Magnificent Ukulele: Paw Tracks Records. 2009. Δ

Δ with Dent May
~ wrote, recorded, and performed