

CURRICULUM VITAE

- BIOGRAPHY** Sumugan Sivanesan is an anti-disciplinary artist and researcher whose texts, videos, installations, performances, interventions and events serve as a platform for discussion and collaboration.
- EXHIBITIONS** He has produced work for art spaces such as *Oqbo: space for image word sound* (Berlin 2016), *Art Laboratory Berlin* (2015) *Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts* (2014), 55 Sydenham Rd (Sydney 2013), *The Reading Room* (Bangkok 2013), *Poetikum* (Berlin 2013), *Performance Space* (Sydney 2013), *Tin Sheds Gallery* (Sydney, 2012), *Momentum Berlin* (2012), *Yautepec Gallery* (Mexico City 2011), *4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art* (Sydney 2011, 2010), *Gang Festival*, (Indonesia–Australia, 2008, 2005-6) among others.
- RESIDENCIES/ WORKSHOPS** Sumugan has undertaken residencies such as *Time_Place_Space*, Victoria (2015), a writers residency at the University of Peradeniya, Faculty of Arts, Sri Lanka (2014–15), a collaborative residency with Tessa Zettel at ZK/U Centre for Art and Urbanistics, Berlin (2015, 2014), the Summer School for Applied Autonomy, Berlin (2013), SOMA, Mexico City (2011) *Broken Hill Art Exchange* (2009), *Serial Space*, Sydney (2009), *Black&Blue Gallery*, Sydney (2009), *Performance Space*, Sydney (2009), *Frasers Studios Residency*, Sydney (2008), the *Bundanon Trust* (2008) as part of *Gang: Australian–Indonesian exchange*; as well as the artist run *Sounds Unusual: Northern Territory Festival New Music and Art*, 2007 and *Transit Lounge*, Berlin–Australia (2008, 2006). He participated in *Impulse Theatre Festival Learning Plays* pedagogical-theatre workshop with *Chto Delat?*, Germany 2016 and the *Forcible Frames* summer intensive on expanded cinema, performance and theory at no.w.here London, 2013.
- GRANTS/AWARDS** He has received grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, 2015), Australia Council for the Arts Literature (2014), Australia Council for the Arts Emerging and Experimental Arts (2013), National Association for Visual Arts (2015, 2013, 2012), Arts NSW (2014, 2013, 2010), Australia Council for the Arts Music Board (2008, 2005). He was a finalist for the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Exhibition in 2010.
- CURATORIAL** In 2012 Sumugan co-curated the exhibition *Crisis Complex* (with Laura McLean) at Tin Sheds Gallery at the University of Sydney, which was awarded the gallery's *Innovate/Curate* grant. He was co-director of *Electrofringe* in 2005–6, an annual skills and development festival of experimental digital culture for young and emerging practitioners.
- CONFERENCES** He has delivered papers and performative lectures at *Performance Climates*, Performance Studies international, University of Melbourne, 2016; *Neolife*, SymbioticA, University of Western Australia, 2015; *Aesthetics After Finitude*, National Institute of Experimental Arts, University of New South Wales, 2015; *Postcolonial Justice*, University of Potsdam, 2014; *Indian Ocean Futures*, Curtin University 2014, *Displacements: Forced Migration and the Arts*, Aarhus University, 2013; *Sonic Ontologies*, University of Technology Sydney 2012; *Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide* University of California, Riverside 2011, *Under Construction: Gateways and Walls* European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Bogazici University, 2011; and *Parimaanam: Images, Embodiments and Contestations* Tamil Studies Conference the University of Toronto, 2011.
- PUBLICATIONS** Sumugan has contributed critical texts to the contemporary arts publications *Runway*, *Idle Talk*, *Das Superpaper* and *un Magazine*. He has also published academic essays in *PORTAL: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*, *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *A Peer Review Journal About: Excessive Research* and *Law Text Culture*. He self-publishes 'zines and blogs at: theoreticallytamil.net
shadowofthefuture.org
planbienen.net
- OTHER** He was a core member of *theweathergroup_U*, an experimental documentary collective formed for the Biennale of Sydney 2008 to address indigenous and environmental issues via processes of shared anthropology. In 2010 they produced the work *Koongarra* in collaboration with Traditional Owner Jeffrey Lee for *In the Balance: Art for a Changing World*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Sydney.
- Sumugan was active with media/art gang *boat-people.org* whose projections, installations and interventions have been curated into a range of major exhibitions, including *Terra Nullius: Contemporary Art from Australia* (ACC Gallerie, Germany 2009), *The Independence Project* (Galeri Petronas, Malaysia 2007) and *2004* (Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, 2004).

SELECT PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

- 2016 *Theoretically Tamil, Shadow of the Future, Plan Bienen.*
Plan Bienen: Stadt Imkerei Austausch (with Tessa Zettel)
- A selection of 'zines curated into the exhibition, *The secret encounters of Kusama Khalthoumi*, conceptualised as a temporary 'unavowable community.' Oqbo: space for image word sound, Berlin. Curator: Jayce Salloum and Mireille Kassar.
- Notgeld* and other paraphernalia from our Berlin honey-exchange network featured in the exhibition and postcard project, *Animaladies* accompanying the Human Animal Research Network conference at the University of Sydney. Curators: Madeleine Boyd, Melissa Boyde and Yvette Watt. Interlude Gallery, Sydney.
- 2015 *Plan Bienen: Statements of Profit and Loss / Rates of Exchange, a discursive Sonntagsbrunch* (with Tessa Zettel)
Exhibition and public program
- An exhibition of research materials and limited edition risograph-printed *notgeld*, or emergency money, documenting a series of non-monetary exchanges between local bees, beekeepers and community members. The exhibition concluded with a discursive meal and collective mapping event *Rates of Exchange*. Art Laboratory Berlin. Directors: Regine Rapp and Christian de Lutz
- 2014 *Plan Bienen* (with Tessa Zettel)
Research residency and honey exchange network
URL: www.planbienen.net
- A three month research residency investigating the renewed interest in urban beekeeping in Berlin, with reference to the dual crises of disappearing bees (Colony Collapse Disorder) and financial collapse. The project developed as a non-monetary exchange network in which participants traded their time, goods and labour in exchange for raw local honey.
- Alex & I: Moving Pictures*
Performance-lecture
URL: www.sivanesan.net/pages/alex.html
- A 'visual' performance-lecture, drawing on a public inventory of images to narrate the passage of migration of Tamil asylum seeker, Sanjeev 'Alex' Kuhendarajah. Varying versions have been delivered at Perth Institute for Contemporary Arts, University of Potsdam and The Reading Room, Bangkok among others.
- 2013 *Songs for Sanjeev / A Dream of Sanjeev*
Installation, song writing workshops and work group discussion
URL: www.sivanesan.net/pages/alex.html
- A large document that constitutes the asylum seeker Sanjeev 'Alex' Kuhendarajah's application for resettlement is interpreted across collaborative song writing processes. My re-narration of Sanjeev's passage of migration facilitates a discussion on the relationship between labour, migration and artistic production. Included in the group show *Oddfellows* at Gallery VV, Sydney. Curator: Iakovos Amperidis.
- The Ethics and Politics of Starvation*
Curated conversation
URL: www.lostlimbs.wordpress.com/2013/03/20/the-ethics-and-politics-of-starvation/
- In response to the actions of asylum seekers in immigration processing centres on Nuaru and Manus Islands this panel was convened to consider the use of hunger as a political tool and as a method of managing populations. With Mark Goudkemp, Dr Kiran Grewal and Aychara Ram Sivan. As part of the season *Matters of Life and Death*, Performance Space Sydney. Curator: Bec Dean.
- 2012 *The Anticolonials*
Performance-lecture
URL: www.sivanesan.net/pages/anticolonials.htm
- Traces the steps of an iconic Aboriginal activist in interwar Black London this one-night only performance offered an achronistic reading of anticolonial histories and politics, via liberationist acts of radical nudity. Momentum Berlin. Curator: Dr. Rachel Rits-Volloch.
- 2011 *El Beso Negro (The Black Kiss)*
Tattoo performance / social media event
URL: <http://narcopolitics.blogspot.com/2013/01/the-politics-of-ass.html>
- In which two teenage hitmen who have had their faces tattooed in prison, in turn have their faces tattooed on the ass of a prominent young contemporary art collector. Yau-tepec gallery Mexico City. Directors: Brett W Schultz and Daniela Elbahara.
- 2010 *A Children's Book of War*
Mixed Media
URL: <http://childrensbookofwar.blogspot.com.au/>
- A Children's Book of War* addresses the issue of contesting sovereignties in Australia. *Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship Finalists Exhibition*, Artspace Sydney.