

OVERVIEW

Dr Sumugan Sivanesan is an artist, researcher and writer whose interests span minority politics, activist media, artist infrastructures and more-than-human rights. He earned a Doctorate from the Transforming Cultures Research Centre, University of Technology Sydney in 2014. He is currently in residence at the Jan van Eyck Post-Academy, Maastricht.

Over 2020–21 Sumugan was a recipient of a Kone Foundation fellowship to pursue artistic research into migrant media activism and music in Helsinki, in partnership with Pixelache. His project, *fugitive radio*, was selected for the Saari International Artist Residence programme, Finland, September–October 2021. He was the Australia Council for the Arts resident at Helsinki International Artist Programme (February–May 2022), where he continued to develop *fugitive radio*'s modes of "performance–radio". *fugitive radio* participated in documenta fifteen (2022), curated by Jakarta-based collective ruangrupa. Over October and November 2022, *fugitive radio* embarked on *radio em fuga*, a series of residencies in Brazil during the presidential elections. Here Sumugan worked with community/urban research initiatives Lanchonete.org (São Paulo) and Instituto Procomum (Santos), and undertook a production residency at Residência São João (Rio de Janeiro) funded by Australia Council for the Arts. <http://fugitive-radio.net>

In July 2022 Sumugan was selected for the third Digital Naturalism Conference (Dinacon), hosted by DreamSpace Academy in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. In collaboration with Lucinda Dayhew and Brendy Hale he organised a workshop series *Thaalam Riddim Reapers* to develop digital music production skills using free/livre and open source tools with the Academy's Music Lab: <https://linktr.ee/thaalamriddimreapers>

In June 2016 he completed a six month residency at the Institute for English and American Studies (Cultural Studies), University of Potsdam supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, 2015) to research "Urban Eco-politics of the Anthropocene". <http://shadowofthefuture.org>

In 2014 Sumugan undertook a two month residency with the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, funded by the Australia Council for the Arts Literature (2014) and Arts NSW (2014) where he initiated a micro-publishing project, *Theoretically Tamil*. <http://theoreticallytamil.net>

SELECT EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

documentafifteen (Kassel, 2022), Helsinki International Artist Programme (2022), Pixelache Helsinki Festival (2021), Mustarinda (Finland 2020), Tehai (Dhaka, Bangladesh 2020), Frame Contemporary Art (Helsinki, 2019), The Floating Berlin (2021, 2019), EX-EMBASSY (Berlin 2018), BE.BoP 2018: Black Europe Body Politics, Maxim Gorki Theatre (Berlin, 2018), Nida Art Colony Inter-format Symposium (Lithuania, 2018), Art Laboratory Berlin (2015), ZK/U Centre for Art & Urbanistics, Berlin (2015, 2014), Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (2014), The Reading Room (Bangkok 2013), Performance Space (Sydney 2013), Yautepec Gallery (Mexico City 2011), OK Video (Jakarta 2009) and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Sydney 2011, 2010) among others.

GRANTS

Australia Council for the Arts Individual Projects (2022), Kone Foundation, Finland (2021, 2020), CreateNSW (Australia 2020, 2017), Australia Council for the Arts Literature (2014), Australia Council for the Arts Emerging & Experimental Arts (2013), Arts NSW (2014, 2010), National Association for Visual Arts (2015, 2013, 2012), Australia Council for the Arts Music Board (2008, 2005) among others.

PUBLICATIONS

SELECT ACADEMIC

'Movements of Minorities: AusLankans Struggle for Transnational Justice', (book chapter). In Kandasamy, N., Perera, N., Ratnam, C. (eds) *A Sense of Viidu: The (re)creation of 'home' by the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora in Australia*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

'Alex & I: Narrative and Network Resistance.' *Social Identities*, August 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504630.2018.1514161>

'Eco-politics, for teh Lulz: Transmedia Civil Disobedience in the Age of Fossil-Fuelled Information Capitalism' *Critical Habitations: Pluralising Practices*, December 2016 <https://criticalhabitations.wordpress.com/debate/pluralising-practices/sumugan-sivanesan-ecopolitics-for-teh-lulz-transmedia-civil-disobedience-in-the-age-of-fossil-fuelled-information-capitalism/>

Sumugan's journalism and cultural criticism are collected at: <http://www.slowtheory.org/>

SELECT ART PROJECTS

- 2022 *fugitive radio, documenta fifteen, lumbung radio / Station of Commons*
podcasts and live performance-radio
<https://lumbunradio.stationofcommons.org/>
- Programmed by Station of Commons *lumbung radio* followed *fugitive radio* as it travels from Kassel to Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Australia before returning to *documenta fifteen* for a special live broadcast event. Curators: ruangrupa
- 2021 *Was Ist Zu Tune?*
songwriting live-art market installation
<https://solo-solo.eu/solo-markt/>
- The proposition is that everyone has a song inside them and I will help them get it out. A performative workshop for the programme *SOLO Markt* held in several local markets in Berlin. Curators: Johanna Landscheit and Lola Göller.
- fugitive radio, Pixelache Helsinki Festival #BURN___2021*
live performance-radio
www.fugitive-radio.net
- For eight consecutive days *fugitive radio* broadcast live from Oodi central library. Curators: Andrew Gryf Paterson and Laura Gustafsson.
- The T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society: 'Hello World!' Satellite Launch and inaugural Space-Lichen Transmission.*
with Tessa Zettel
live hybrid platform performance
www.welikelichen.space
- The Society's inaugural satellite transmission for its Metta Verse Mutual Aid Space Program at *Strange/Letters*, Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture, 4 February (online).
- 2020 *fugitive radio: Radio Wok Helsinki*
with Irina Mutt, Suva Das and Sophea Lerner
live hybrid platform performance
www.fugitive-radio.net
- A live "radio fanzine" comprised of migrant experiences in Finland. Made for *Nepantlas: Infrastructures for World-building #4*, Akademie Schloss Solitude and broadcast on {openradio}. Curator: Daphne Dragona
- The T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society: 2088 Lichen Fest Revival*
with Tessa Zettel
Hybrid radio play and guided meditation
www.welikelichen.space
- Commissioned for the tenth anniversary and *Lichen Fest* of Mustarinda, an experimental arts and science research association located on the edge of the old growth Paljakka Nature Reserve, Finland.
- Poethics & Publishing: a writing collective*
writing and performance workshop
- A workshop organised "behind closed doors" amongst the queer community of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Through writing, drawing and discussion we shared experiences and stories that developed into a puppet show. Images and texts were shared amongst networks as a digital zine.
- 2019 *K2K2K2...Commuter Salon & Speakeasy*
with Irina Mutt
Performance & public interventions
<https://frame-finland.fi/en/ohjelma/rehearsing-hospitalities/>
- Commissioned for Frame Contemporary Art Finland's Autumn *Gathering for Rehearsing Hospitalities*. Offering hand massages, manicures and palm readings are a means to initiate contact, intimacy and queer modes of care among strangers commuting between different venues. Curators: Jussi Koitela & Yvonne Billimore.
- 2018 *Lunch Against Work: Almoço Contra o Trabalho*
with Diego Andrade
Social kitchen, publications and street actions
www.blogagainstwork.life
- An urban artistic-research project organised around a series of plant-based meals. Procomum LABxSantos, Brazil.
Director: Georgia Nicolau.
- Ex-Pat Cash*
with Carl Gerber and Simone van Dijken
Dialectical tennis match and musical game
www.ex-embassy.com
- An absurdist musical game played on the landmark tennis courts of the former Australian Embassy to the German Democratic Republic, Berlin. For the programme *EX-EMBASSY* Curators: Sonja Hornung and Rachel O'Reilly.
- The 2086 T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society Annual Field Trip and Picnic*
with Tessa Zettel
Performative picnic
www.welikelichen.space
- An SF-storytelling-picnic on the biocultural landscape of the Curonian Spit. Nida Art Colony's Inter-format Symposium *On Rites & Terrabytes*. Curators: Vytautas Michelkevicius and Andrew Gryf Paterson.

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2022 **'Disordering Humans'** a visual lecture concerned with different genres of human and practices of worlding that trouble the notion of the anthropocene. *After Tomorrow*, Bremen Theatre, *Critical Uninhabitations*, University of Rostock, Cultural Studies.
- 2021 **'Hello World!' Satellite Launch and inaugural Space-Lichen Transmission.**
The T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society inaugural satellite transmission, as part of its Metta Verse Mutual Aid Space Program. *Strange/Letters*, Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture, February (online).
- 2019 **The T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society Annual Convention 2017**
Society co-convenors Tessa Zettel and Dr. Sumugan Sivanesan delivered the official Opening Address of the Society's Annual Convention. Due to some confusion in the venue was double booked by the Centre for Intermedial and Multimodal Studies. *Multispecies Storytelling in Intermedial Practices* Linnaeus University, Sweden, January.
- 2017 **Alex & I: Profiling**
In recent years refugees have been required to submit iris scans to the UNHCR as part of their biometric identification procedures. This paper discusses the vulnerabilities of the refugee as a 'data body' across a range of digital archives. *Overflow*, Performance Studies international #23, University of Hamburg, June; *Digital Media on Site: Infrastructures, Mobilities, and Practices across Asia and Beyond*, Lingnan University, Hong Kong.
- 2016 **Alex & I: Rhetoric and Reception**
A critical reflection on my use of photo-media and portraiture in my ongoing artist-research collaboration with the refugee and media figure, Sanjeev 'Alex' Kuhendarajah. *War and Visual Technologies*, convened by Professor Suvendrini Perera, School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, Curtin University, September.
- Choreography of Disobedience**
A discussion and preliminary critique of the art-activism of *Climate Games* held during the United Nations COP21, Paris 2015. *Performance Climates*, Performance Studies international #22, University of Melbourne, July.
- Mass Action Media**
A discussion of the use of media and aesthetics by popular German anti-coal movement, *Ende Gelände*. *Pluralising Practices*, Institute for Visual Art and Cultures, University for Art and Design Linz, June.
- Plan Bienen: Sharing (in) the more-than-human city**
Part of a rolling panel of overlapping papers gathered around the topic 'excessive research.' *Transmediale: conversationpiece*, House of World Cultures, Berlin, February.
- 2015 **Disappearing Humans**
Responded to the notion of 'Neolife' as a change in human consciousness due to climate change, the Anthropocene geological proposition and the rapid loss of biodiversity marking the current period of the Sixth Great Extinction. *Neolife*, Society of Literature Science and the Arts, University of Western Australia, October.
- Disappearing Bees (with Tessa Zettel)**
A performative conference paper and ficto-critical text that speculates on the mass disappearance of honey bees as a political act. It is an outcome of the research project *Plan Bienen*. *Aesthetics After Finitude*, National Institute of Experimental Art, University of New South Wales.

SELECT RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

2022	Constant: Techno-Cul-de-Sac, Brussels Belgium.	A week long intensive work session concerned with the infrastructural and governmental capacities of networks in Brussels, using radio as a mode of investigation.
	fugitive radio: <i>radio em fuga em brasil</i> , Lanchonete.org, São Paulo; Instituto Procomum, Santos; Residência São João, Rio de Janeiro.	A series of self-organised residencies that coincided with the Brazilian presidential elections. Outcomes included a community radio festival, <i>Rádio Santos Dumont</i> , workshops, podcasts and digital music.
	Digital Naturalism Conference (Dinacon) 3, DreamSpace Academy, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.	Month long 'unconference'/hackathon gathering biologists, technologists, artists and designers from around the world to experiment in specific ecologies. Hosted by grassroots social enterprise and peace-building organisation, DreamSpace Academy.
	Helsinki International Artist Programme (HIAP).	Three month studio residency awarded by the Australia Council for the Arts. Here I developed live broadcast events for <i>fugitive radio</i> including a 'silent disco'/online club and karaoke therapy clinic.
2021	Saari Residence, Hietamäki, Finland.	Two month residency to archive and prepare papers and publications for my Kone Foundation funded project <i>fugitive radio</i> : www.fugitive-radio.net .
2018	Constant: Alchorisma, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture, Hasselt, Belgium.	Week long worksession about integrating cosmogenetic views with the charisma surrounding technology. Led by the artist-run experimental media art organisation Constant.
	Instituto Procomum LabXSantos, Brazil.	Month long residency where I initiated <i>Lunch Against Work: Almoço Contra o Trabalho</i> , a social kitchen and laboratory for exchanging knowledge about plants, poverty, foraging and food systems.
	Nida Art Colony Residency and Inter-format Symposium: 'On Rites and Terrabytes' with Tessa Zettel.	Two month residency in the build up to the Colony's annual inter-format symposium for which we founded <i>The T. Rudzinskaitė Memorial Amateur Lichenologists Society</i> .
2017	Closer: Interactive, Simultaneous, Multi-user VR Experiences, School of Machines, Making and Make-Believe, Berlin.	Four week, full-time program approaching Virtual Reality as a creative platform to address social issues and new forms of social engagement.
	Arts / Politics / Action, ART + CLIMATE = CHANGE, Festival, Melbourne.	Week long symposium on the intersection of contemporary art and activism organised by A Centre for Everything and CLIMARTE.
2016	<i>Learning Plays</i> , Impulse Theatre Festival, Ruhr, Germany.	Week-long pedaegogical-theatre intensive mentored by Russian theatre collective <i>Chto Delat?</i>
	Institute for English and American Studies, University of Potsdam / German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	Six month research residency supported by the DAAD to research 'Urban Eco-politics in the Anthropocene'.
2015	<i>Time_Place_Space: Nomad</i> . Artshouse Melbourne and Performance Space Sydney.	Two week travelling laboratory program in regional Victoria to consider issues of economic downturn, scarcity and an everchanging environment.