

Matt Smart

Sculpture

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Affiliations

LAS. Ludlow Art Society, UK. Member, Committee member since 2016
OVADA. Oxfordshire Visual Arts Development Agency. Associate, 2019
Festival 23, UK. Veering Group member since 2016
CSA. Cotswold Sculptors Association, UK. Member since 2019

Curatorship

Institute of Psychiatry Gallery, Camberwell, London, UK. 2002-2004
Co-founder. First curator. Group and solo exhibitions of artists with diagnosed mental health conditions including Schizophrenia, Autism, mania, manic depression, and ADHD. Mental health renders artists often unable to represent consistently their interests and their work. Liaison with professional and emerging artists often included liaison with parents and carers. Approx 60 artists exhibited and represented, through 12 exhibitions, during two years as founding curator.

Member of the South London & Maudsley NHS Trust Arts Steering Group, 2001-04
Advisory Board, O3 Gallery, Oxford. 2004-2006

Group exhibitions

Oct-Nov19 'Reinvention', Turrill Sculpture Garden, Oxford UK
Apr-Sep19 Cotswold Sculpture Park, UK
Summer19 'La Grande Fracture', Paris, France
Apr19 'Chromantics', Cornerstone Gallery, Didcot, Oxfordshire
Nov18 'Present, Perfect, Continuous', Bermondsey, London
Sep-Nov18 'The Great Divide', OVADA, Oxford UK 60 artists from 12 countries
Jul18 'Upfest', Bristol. Europe's biggest street art festival
Apr17- Nomadic Community Gardens, Shoreditch
May16 Oxford Town Hall, Artweeks (most central of Artweeks' 300 venues)
May-Sep15 Borde Hill Sculpture Exhibition, East Sussex

Solo exhibitions

TBC 2019 Monty's Bar, Brick Lane, London. UK Street Art central
Aug-Sep18 Rough Trade Records UK flagship store, Shoreditch, London
Nov17 Botanical Gardens, Sheffield (10,000 counted visitors)

- Jun-Jul17 Ludlow Fringe Festival Artist in Residence. Installations included an aeroplane 4 metres tall (35,000 visitors)
- Jun16 The Turrill Sculpture Garden, Oxford
- Jun-Jul16 'The 5th Plinth', Ludlow. The town's only annual solo exhibition. Exhibited a Fist made of earth, 2 metres tall, bursting from the Parish Church graveyard

Music and Arts Festivals

- Aug-Sep19 Castle Perilous, UK
- Jul-Aug19 Art In The Park, Royal Leamington Spa, UK. The event includes >130 stallholding artists. Invited to participate as commissioned guest sculptor for the 2019 theme (Water), and give two talks in the Festival programme.
- TBC Jul19 Noisily Festival, UK
- Jun19 The Psychedelic Ball, Oxfordshire UK
- Jul18 CATCH 23, Notwork, Sheffield, UK
- Mar18 Rocket Recordings 20, Islington Garage, London
Record label's 20th Anniversary celebration with full performances by 23 of its 30 signed bands, plus extra side project performances. Commissioned to produce a wall sculpture of the label's logo for the event. In association with Baba Yaga's Hut promoters.
- Jul16 Festival 23, UK Steering Board member. Installations across the site, and artist talk. Advisor on outdoor arts installations and health and safety.
- Jun16 Low Carbon Oxford Week
- Aug15 Supernormal (1,500 attendance)
- Jun-Jul15 Ludlow Fringe Festival, Shropshire (20,000 visitors)
- Aug14 Shambala (15,000 attendance)
- Aug14 Supernormal (1,200 attendance)

Project commissions

- Mar17-Apr18 The Carbon Innovation Programme, University of Oxford
Carbon reduction project, including behaviour change evaluation and evidence to inform funding strategies for public arts interventions, with assistance of a consultancy organisation.

Prizes

- 'Change The World' competition, Poseytude Gallery, Oxford City Hall, 2016.
200 entrants. 40 entrants were exhibited. Won 3 of the 10 prizes, including the Grand Prize, from 2 sculptures (Other competitions entered: none.)

Social Enterprise

- Jan16 onwards Director, ITSUP C.I.C.
Founder of community interest company limited by guarantee. Objects of ITSUP:
"...improving awareness of the social aims and benefits of urban art; share and showcase developments in materials and techniques; enhance the local recognition and ability of art to communicate on collective issues and opportunities for social improvements; contribute to social cohesion through culture; and improve the respect and quality of the contributions of urban art."

Statement

Matt Smart is a sculptor and installation artist. He works in resins, molehills and other earths, metal, wood, polymers, and fabric.

His practice is informed through land use, environmental research and sustainability, human interactions with place, prehistoric cave art, street art, and archaeological excavations in which the land is a time-layered document. He was in the team that found two Saints and royal heirs (Anastasia and Alexei Romanov) in a Russian forest.

Technically, Matt works to develop new construction techniques and ways to use materials to achieve robust, lightweight sculpture. The purpose is to expand the possibilities of how and where public sculptures are installed, and to reduce the material input and carbon footprint of public sculpture. Expanding the materials and production methods may also facilitate broader expression in public art.

He has managed research portfolios in climate change and adaptation, national energy systems, and low-carbon economic planning. He has worked in animal tracking, traded in precious metals, and managed healthcare for performing artists. He is published in psychiatry. He is on arts and music festival committees and steering groups.

Matt Smart exhibits in public spaces, music festivals, parks and clubs. He makes works to be solid in concept and physically robust to resist high spirited interactions.

His artistic themes include collective responsibility, tribal heritage and land use, imprinted memory, the recognition of pioneering women, beliefs of protection and ritual, and the evolution of language.

The sculptures celebrate the earth and us.



Publication

Writer for the Ludlow Art Society LAS monthly 'Spotlight'

Examples: ['Artistic choices of addition and subtraction'](#) ['Celebrating the heroic'](#)

Occasional Arts writer for B4 magazine

Regular spot from April 2019. B4 is Oxfordshire's monthly magazine for all of Oxfordshire's business, infrastructure and networks, covering hospitality, law, property management, retail, governance, transport, employment, tourism, care work, services, arts, and all aspects of the business and customer community.