

John Tonkin

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Born in Adelaide in 1963

Post-secondary education

2016 MFA, School of Art & Design, UNSW

1981-83 studied Science, University of Adelaide (not completed)

Other education

2012 Data Visualisation Workshop, UNSW

2006 Principles and Practices of University Teaching and Learning, The University of Sydney

1998 Train the Trainer Workshop, Metro Screen

Selected awards, grants, residencies & commissions

2011-17 Public art commission for the Adelaide City Council (\$350k)

2014-15 Public art commission for Urbanest, located at Sydney University (\$115k)

2008-09 Public art commission, Southport Broadwater Parklands redevelopment, Gold Coast City Council (\$240k)

2008 short-listed, Premiere of Queensland's National New Media Art Award

2006 Travel grant to attend ISEA 06, San Jose – University of Sydney Overseas Travel Grant

2002 Artist in residence, Ngapartji Multimedia Centre, Adelaide. Arts SA, Returning Artists Scheme

1999-2000 Australia Council Fellowship, New Media Arts Board (\$80k)

1998 Winner, National Digital Art Award - IMA Brisbane

1996 Australia Council, New Media Arts Fund

Achievement in Innovation Award - St Kilda Film Festival (*air, water parts 1, 2 & 3*)

1995 Australian Film Commission - Travel grant to attend ISEA 95, Montreal Canada

Winner, National Digital Art Award (*air, water parts 1, 2 & 3*)

1994 Honourable mention - Prix Ars Electronica, Austria (*these are the days*)

Artist in residence, Centre for Innovation in the Arts, Queensland University of Technology

1992 Production investment - Australian Film Commission, Film Development (\$60k)

Travel grant to attend Ars Electronica, Austria & Siggraph, USA - Arts SA

1991 Production assistance, Film South, Creative Development Fund

1990 Australian Film Commission, New Image Research

1989 Winner, Ausgraph 89 National Computer Animation Competition (*squares and checks*)

1987 Australia Council, Artists and New Technology Program, residency in the Department of Computer Science, University of Adelaide

1986 Australian Film Commission, No Frills Fund

Solo exhibitions

- 2013 *Experiments in Proximity*, ISEA2013, BREENSPACE Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 *A Biology of Cognition*, BREENSPACE Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *45. Vinculum* (with Robyn Backen), Artspace, Sydney
Strange Weather (v1.0 beta), Sherman Galleries, Sydney
these are the days, Sherman Artbox, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
- 2003 *Strange Weather (prototype v0.1)*, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide
- 2002 *meniscus*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne
these are the days, Frankston Arts Centre - Cube 37, Victoria
- 2001 *Personal Eugenics*, Ipswich Art Gallery, Queensland
Personal Eugenics, Centenary of Faces, Queensland Art Gallery
- 2000 *Personal Eugenics*, Artspace, Sydney
Personal Eugenics, Experimenta, Linden Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 *Personal Eugenics*, Metis - National Science Week, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 1997 *Elective Physiognomies*, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
Elective Physiognomies, The Performance Space, Sydney
- 1995 *Elective Physiognomies*, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide
these are the days, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art

Selected group exhibitions

- 2017 Red Green Blue: A History of Australian Video Art, Griffith University Art Museum
- 2015-17 Scanlines touring survey exhibition, dLux mediaArts. Artspace McKay, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Riddoch Gallery, Logan Art Gallery, Burnie Regional Gallery, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Deakin University Art Gallery, Orange Regional Art Gallery, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery
- 2013 Group Show 2013, BREENSPACE Gallery, Sydney
Redlands Art Prize Exhibition, NAS Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 ISEA 2011, *Uncontainable: Robot Incubator*, Istanbul
Group Show 2011, BREENSPACE Gallery, Sydney
dLux edition, dLux Media arts, Sydney
- 2010-11 *Face To Face*, Asia link touring program, Bangkok, Singapore, Manilla, Seoul
- 2010 *Nightshifters*, Performance Space, Sydney
Move: the exhibition. Kaldor Art Projects. Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) QLD
Group Show 2010, BREENSPACE Gallery, Sydney
- 2010-08 *Face To Face*, dLux Media Arts touring program: Newcastle Regional Gallery, Hazelhurst Gallery, Tweed River Art Gallery, Cairns Regional Gallery, QUT Gallery, Bundaberg Art Centre, Gosford Regional Gallery
- 2009 Loop Space, Newcastle NSW
RiAus Art and Science Exhibition, Adelaide
- 2008 *Mirror States*, Moving Image Centre, Auckland NZ and Campbelltown Arts Centre, NSW
National New Media Art Award Exhibition, Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) QLD
- 2007 *Workin' Down Under*, Wood Street Galleries, Pittsburgh USA
The Trouble with the Weather: a southern response, UTS Gallery Sydney

- MOVE: Video Art in Schools*, Kaldor Art Projects
- 2006 *Interactive Cities*, International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA) San Jose, USA
Art Movement, UTS Gallery, UTS Gallery Sydney
locate.au an online exhibition curated by Melinda Rackham
- 2005 *Open Letter*, Asia-Australia Arts Centre, gallery 4a, Sydney
- 2004 *Digital Sublime - New Masters of Universe*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei
FESTIVUS04 - One Of, Sherman Galleries, Sydney
Cardio Morphologies (with George Khut) Performance Space, Sydney
- 2003 *Ozone*, Centre Pompidou, Paris
Cyborganic, MOP Sydney
Wild Boys, Phat Space, Sydney
- 2002 *Moist*, MAAP (Multimedia Art Asia Pacific), Beijing
Media City Seoul - 2nd Seoul International Media Art Biennale, Seoul Museum of Art, Korea
Vidarte Festival, Mexico
Converge – Archive Project, Adelaide Festival of Arts, SA Art Gallery
Elastic Planet, Country Arts SA touring program (Mt Gambier, Berri, Pt Augusta, Pt Lincoln)
curator, *All Star Data Mappers*, Artspace, as part of *data-terra*, a dLux Media Arts event
- 2000-02 *Cyber Cultures Touring Program*, Casula, Adelaide, Brisbane, Ipswich, Perth, Auckland,
Alice Springs, Newcastle
- 2001 *Under_Score*, online exhibition for *Down Under*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York
Waste, Experimenta Media Lounge @ Blackbox, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne
D>Gest @ Feast Festival, Adelaide
- 2000 *Chemistry: Art in South Australia 1990-2000*, Art Gallery of South Australia
Memory in the Mirror, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Elastic Masculinities, National Portrait Gallery online portrait of the month (November)
- 1999 *Viper Festival*, Lucerne Switzerland
sexBot: dirty talk for the terminally shy, Mardi Gras Visual Art Event, Sydney
- 1998 *Digital Art Award Exhibition*, Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane
State of the Heart, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney. Curator
- 1997 *ISEA 97 web gallery*, International Symposium on Electronic Art, Chicago
Techne, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art
Aliens.au, VideoPositive, UK
CyberCultures, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney
Pulse Friction, Plimsoll Gallery, Centre for the Arts, Hobart
Body of information: Australian video and interactive artwork. Gallery Connexion, Canada
- 1996 *Perception & Perspective*, Next Wave Festival, National Gallery of Victoria
Out of Adelaide, Experimental Art Foundation, Adelaide
Reference Points IV, Queensland Art Gallery
Re-collection, Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane City Gallery
Digital Arts Festival, Canberra School of Art Gallery
- 1995 *ISEA 95 group show*, Montreal Canada
- 1994 *Bitmap 101*, Next Wave Festival, Melbourne
artists thinking about Science, Australian Network for Art & Technology (ANAT)
Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane
- 1993 *ISEA 93*, group show, Minneapolis USA
- 1990 *Virtual Landscapes*, Artspace, Sydney

Selected screenings

- 2013 A-Z of contemporary Art, ABC TV
- 2009 *Computer Baroque*, Tate Modern, London
- 2007 Launch screening, *MOVE: Video Art in Schools*, Kaldor Art Projects, AGNSW Sydney
- 2000 *Sick and Dizzy*, Microwave Festival Hong Kong
- 1999 MAAP 99, 3rd Asia Pacific Triennial
- 1998 Eat Carpet, SBS Television
- 1997 *Elastic Light*, Sydney Intermedia Network (SIN) touring program
Altered States, Experimenta touring program
Video Positive 97: Escaping Gravity. Liverpool UK
Matinaze, SIN, Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Rage - ABC Television & touring program
- 1996 Microwave Video Festival, Hong Kong
St Kilda Film Festival
Elastic Light, SIN, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1995 Videofest 95, Berlin Film Festival
Space & Sound, Electronic Media Arts, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 1994 Prix Ars Electronica, Austria, festival screening and international touring program
Experimenta, Modern Image Makers Association (MIMA), Melbourne
- 1993 Perspecta Film and Video Screening, Art Gallery of NSW
Electronic Theatre, Siggraph 93, USA
Electronic Theatre, ISEA 93, Minneapolis USA
- 1991 *Screen Space*, Perspecta film and video screening, Art Gallery of NSW
- 1990 The Australian Video Festival, Sydney
- 1989 *Attitude* - Film and Video Event, Sydney
Recent Animation in Australia, MIMA, Melbourne

Public collections

- 2013 Artbank
- 2007 Kaldor Art Projects
- 1995 Queensland Art Gallery
- 1994 Griffith Art Works

Selected teaching experience

- 2008-17 Associate Lecturer, Digital Cultures Program, Department of Media and Communication, The University of Sydney
- 2005-08 3-year contract, lecturer, Digital Cultures Program, The University of Sydney
- 2003-05 casual lecturer & tutor, Digital Cultures Program, The University of Sydney
- 2002-04 Tutor, Visual Communication, University of Technology Sydney
- 2000 Tutor for Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) , Alchemy International Master-class, Brisbane Powerhouse

- 1999 Tutor for me·dia te the ANAT National School for New Media Art Curation
Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, Metro Screen, Sydney
- 1998 Lecturer, multimedia, Metro Screen
Coordinator / tutor, Metro Screen & Australian Centre for Photography summer & winter schools
- 1997-98 Lecturer, multimedia, Randwick TAFE
- 1997 Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, QUT, Fremantle Media Centre
- 1996 Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, ANU, Canberra
External lecturer for *Introduction to 3D Modelling and Animation*, AFTRS
- 1995 Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, QUT, Brisbane
Visiting lecturer, computer animation, Australian Centre for the Arts & Technology (ACAT), ANU
- 1994 Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, Curtin University, Perth
- 1991 Tutor for ANAT National Summer School, Regency Park Tafe, Adelaide

Relevant professional experience

- 2002-12 Consultant artist / interaction designer / programmer, Historic Houses Trust
Sydney Timemap, Museum of Sydney
Susannah Place Museum Interactive Database
Police Stations Interactive Database, Justice & Police Museum
Postcards + Statistics, Museum of Sydney
Herald Front Page Interactive Database, Museum of Sydney
Bond Store Tales, Museum of Sydney
Witnesses, Museum of Sydney
Bridging Sydney, Museum of Sydney
Sydney Visionaries, Museum of Sydney
SinCity, Justice and Police Museum
Convict Sydney, Hyde Park Barracks
- 2007-08 Consultant visualisation programmer for fisheries resource modelling software
- 2001-02 Systems architect / programmer, Code Zebra, project by Sara Diamond, Banff
- 2000-01 Programmer, "the building that speaks", project by Robyn Backen at Brisbane Powerhouse
- 1999 Technical consultant / facilitator for "Space Invaders", Artspace web based project
- 1997-98 Digital media officer, Australian Centre for Photography
- 1997 Java graphics programming, "Harbourings" project (Perspecta 97), Museum of Sydney
- 1996 3d computer graphics & animation, VNS Matrix CD Rom game, "Bad Code"
- 1993-95 Creative & technical consultant in multimedia, Advanced Technology Education Service, TAFE, Adelaide
- 1989-93 Visualisation consultant, South Australian Department of Fisheries
- 1990 Computer animation for "Amerika Amerika", experimental animation directed by Tony Kastanos
- 1988 Cinematographer for "The Ferrara Poems", experimental 16mm directed by Jenni Robertson

Selected publications and media coverage

- 2017 Matthew Perkins, Catalogue essay for RED GREEN BLUE, A History of Australian Video Art, Griffith University Art Museum
- 2013 Jacqueline Milner, Catalogue essay for solo show Experiments in Proximity, Breenspace

- Andrew Frost, The A-Z of Contemporary Art, ABC TV
[\(http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/az-of-contemporary-art/\)](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/programs/az-of-contemporary-art/)
- 2011 Mike Leggart, *responsive video*, RealTime issue #105 Oct-Nov 2011 p 28
- 2010 Bec Dean, *The Cloak of Darkness*, Nightshifters Catalogue, Performance Space
 Tanya Petersen, *somnambulant sensing*, RealTime issue #100, Dec-Jan 2010
- 2009 Richard Wright, Catalogue essay for *Computer Baroque: Computer animation 1982-1995*, Tate Modern
- 2008 Amanda Slack-Smith, *Playful gestures, ghostly remains*, catalogue essay for National New Media Art Award
 Alison Kubler, *Premier's National New Media Art Award winners on show*, Courier Mail, Nov 4 2008
 Keith Gallasch, *the name of the game: media arts now*, realtime 87, Oct-Nov 2008
 Tony Bond, Kathy Cleland, Madeline K Snow, Catalogue essays for Face to Face
 Tania Doropoulos, catalogue essay for Mirror States
- 2007 Lisa Slade & Sean O'Keeffe, booklet for *Move, Video Art in Schools*: Kaldor Art Projects
 Ann Finegan, *Databases: Recombinant Interactives*, Artlink Vol 27 no 3, 2007
- 2006 Michelle Stockley, *Art Detective 2nd Edition* (2006), Pearson Heinemann (Australia)
 Mike Leggett, *Time sliced, perception shifted*, realtime 75, Oct-Nov 2006 p.35
 Gabrielle Finnane, *River Sections*, catalogue essay for Art Movement
 "the art life", review of Art Movement, (<http://artlife.blogspot.com/2006/07/oh-you-crazy-artists.html>)
 Laura Murray Cree, *Twenty, Sherman Galleries 1986-2006*, Craftsman House
- 2005 Ann Finegan, catalogue essay. Robyn Backen and John Tonkin: Vinculum. Artspace Projects 2005.
 Darren Tofts (2005) *Interzone*, Thames & Hudson Australia
 Ann Finegan, catalogue essay for *Strange Weather*, Sherman Galleries July 2005
- 2004 David Gauntlett and Ross Horsley (eds) (2004), *Web.Studies*, 2nd edition, Arnold Publication
 Ross Gibson, 'Painting by numbers' *Pol Oxygen* vol 6 2003-2004
- 2003 Richard Vine, 'Cyber City ... a report from Seoul' *Art in America*, February 2003
 Teri Hoskin, 'da Rimini and Tonkin: the viewer at work' *RealTime* vol 54, April - May 2003 p. 23
 Mike Leggett, 'Software Imaging Synthesis' *Photofile* vol 68: Futures, April 2003
 James Strickland, Culture Jamming. dB Magazine, 19 March
- 2002 Julianne Pierce, 'John Tonkin: www.johnt.org' *broadsheet* vol 31 no 2, 2002
 Stephen Wilson (2002), *Information Arts*, MIT Press
 Kim Machan, MAAP in Beijing 2002, Catalogue, 2002
Mirror with a Memory, Photographic Portraiture in Australia, Catalogue, National Portrait Gallery
 Cormack, J., Dorin, A. (2001), *Art, emergence, and the computational sublime*, Monash University
- 2001 Linda Carroli, Working the Screen: special issue for BAM's Under_score Australian new media arts. *RealTime*
 Anna Munster, Collaboration, Intersection or Hybridisation? Interfacing Art, Science and New Media, Artlink Vol 21 no 3,
 Linda Carroli, 'John Tonkin: identity Tourism' *RealTime* vol 43, June - July 2001
- 2000 Jennifer Sexton, 'screengems.com' *Review | Arts*, The Weekend Australian, September 9-10
 Keith Gallasch, 'Positively Infectious' interview with curator Kathy Cleland, *RealTime* vol 39
 Jaqueline Milner, 'Fooling Around with Evolution' catalogue essay, Artspace
 Kathy Cleland, 'John Tonkin: Personal Eugenics' *Photofile* vol 60 : Tekhne, August
 Nikee Seah, review of Personal Eugenics, Fine Art Forum, December
 Jenny Sinclair, The new you: just hit execute. The Age, May 23.
 Linda Carroli, A virtual region: MAAP99 and the virtual Triennial [review]. *Art Asia Pacific* vol 27
- 1999 Bruce James, 'Pope Alice overcomes strong penis challenge', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 March
 Clare Williamson, 'Digitalis Australis : The Recent Hybrid in Australian Photography',
History of Photography Summer 1999
 Elizabeth Wilson, 'disreputable science' catalogue essay for *metis*, National Science Week, Canberra

- 1997 Anna Johnson, 'art's new wave, 20 young artists to watch', *Sydney Morning Herald Magazine* April 26
 Paul Andrew, 'click & TUCK', blue magazine #11
 Jane Goodall, Possessing the new imagination. *RealTime* vol 16. December-January 1996/97
 Vicky Sowry, John Tonkin: man or morph. *RealTime* vol 18. April – May
- 1996 Zara Stanhope, Mapping the Code - Artists Conceiving Data-Bodies, *Mesh* #10
- 1994 John McConchie, review, *FilmNews*
 Cecelia Cmielewski, review, broadsheet, CACSA
- 1989 Roland Tellzen, Winner emphasises art over technology. *The Australian*, July 18, p.40

Academic publications, presentations and panels

Tonkin, J (2016). Experiments in proximity: on the 'bodiliness' of vision and relational modes of interactivity. [Unpublished master's thesis]. <http://handle.unsw.edu.au/1959.4/57837>

Tonkin, J. (2013). On Building a Perceptual Apparatus - Experiments in Proximity. In Andy Dong, John Conomos, Brad Buckley (Eds.), *Ecologies of Invention*, (pp. 78-89). Sydney, Australia: Sydney University Press.

Tonkin, J. (2011) Computers as metaphor, minds as computers; notes towards a dysfunctional robotics [Conference Paper]. 17th International Symposium on Electronic Art ISEA2011 Istanbul 2011
<https://isea2011.sabanciuniv.edu/paper/computers-metaphor-minds-computers-notes-towards-dysfunctional-robotics>

Signs of Life: Human-Robot Intersubjectivities [panel] ISEA2011 Istanbul 14-21 September 2011

Tonkin, J. (2011) Cybernetics within us; notes towards a dysfunctional robotics [conference paper] REWIRE Media Art Histories conference, Liverpool

Tonkin, J. (2011) thinking about thinking and thinking about making: art making as extended mind. [Presentation] NIEA Experimental Arts Conference, UNSW

Crowe, C., Tonkin, J. (2006) Fifteen megabytes of fame: blogging, learning and assessment. *Synergy*, issue 24, Institute for Teaching and Learning, University of Sydney.

Crowe, C., Tonkin, J. (2005) Blogging, learning and assessment. [presentation] Best Practice in Assessment and Student Feedback Forum, University of Sydney.

Tonkin J. (2002) The Art of Cartography, Catalogue Essay, data terra, Grycewicz L. (Ed.) futureScreen02 conference, dLux Media Arts, Sydney, pp 10-12

Sluczanski, P.R.W., Lewis, R.K., Prince, J.D., Tonkin, J. (1992). Interactive graphics computer models for fisheries management. (World Fisheries Congress, Athens, 3 May-8 May 1992).

Day, R., McNaught, C., Tonkin, J. & Sluczanski, P. (1992) Teaching population dynamics at Tertiary Level, in Chia, B, Pennell, R. & Sims, R. (eds) ASCILITE 92. A promised future. Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education conference, Sydney, pp. 53-63.

Prince, J.D., Sluczanski, P.R.W., Tonkin, J. (1991) *AbaSim: A graphic fishery*. South Australian Department of Fisheries, Adelaide. ISBN 0 7038 1899 3 Software and Manual

Service to discipline

- 1999 Australia Council, New Media Arts Fund, peer assessor
- 1996-98 dLux Media Arts, board member
- 1990-94 Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) board member
- 1988-92 Media Resource Centre (MRC) board member

Selected artist talks and lectures

- 2012 National Art School Gallery, Redlands Art Prize exhibition
- 2009 Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
Dorkbot, Sydney
RiAus, Adelaide
- 2008 Gallery of Modern art (GOMA), Brisbane
Newcastle Regional Gallery
Campbelltown Arts Centre
- 2007 fullscreen07: experimentation + play. National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Art Gallery of New South Wales, launch of Move: Video Art in Schools
- 2006 University of Technology Sydney
- 2005 Sydney College of the Arts
- 2004 Sydney Film Festival
- 2002 Elastic - Adelaide Festival Fringe
conVerge: art and science symposium - Adelaide Festival
Ngapartji, multimedia centre, Adelaide
- 2001 Digibodies - Budapest, Hungary
Banff New Media Institute, Canada – conferences *Unforgiving Memory* and *Emotional Architectures*
Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada - Interactive Screen Conference
Queensland Art Gallery
Second Iteration - Monash University, Melbourne
- 2000 Coding for a New Media Practice -Metro Screen, Sydney
- 1999 Metis, National Science Week - Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
- 1997 CyberCultures - Casula Powerhouse
- 1996 ANAT Forum - Canberra School of Art, Canberra
Artech Symposium - Next Wave Festival, Melbourne
- 1995 Institute of the Arts - Australian National University, Canberra
Multimedia Forum - Media Resource Centre, Adelaide
- 1994 Academy of the Arts - Queensland University of Technology
- 1993 Art and Technology Seminar - Australian Computer Aided Design Society, Adelaide
- 1992 The Investigator Science & Technology Centre, Adelaide
- 1991 Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier SA
- 1990 Art, Design and Technology Seminar - ANAT, Adelaide
- 1989 Filmmaker's Forum, abstract experimental cinema - Media Resource Centre, Adelaide
- 1988 Department of Computer Science - University of Adelaide