

Kristaps Ancāns

Kristaps Ancāns, born in 1990, is an artist and educator whose practice focuses on installation, sculpture, text, and AR. In his explorations, he immerses himself in crafting the intricate relationships among humanity, material, nature, and machines through a conceptual game while looking at obvious connections between art and science across history, examining the form and structure of the elemental building blocks from which material or augmented reality could be created. The significance of language and its materiality is intrinsic to his practice. He is currently the Head of POST, an interdisciplinary MA program at the Art Academy of Latvia, and divides his time between London and Riga.

Ancāns has exhibited, lectured, and taught at venues internationally, including Times Square Arts, Das Weisse Haus, apex art NY, Publiek Park/ S.M.A.K Museum, The Latvian National Opera and Ballet, Riga International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Code Art Fair Copenhagen, domobaal, Tate Exchange/Tate Modern, Museum of London, Royal Academy of Arts London, Central Saint Martins/UAL, PEER, Vienna Contemporary, Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn Art Hall, Setouchi Triennale, Tokyo University of the Arts. Artist is part of Beyond Matter project (ZKM, Centre Pompidou Tirana Art Lab, Tallinn Art Hall, Aalto University, Ludwig Museum).

He was awarded the 'Cecil Lewis Sculpture Scholarship'(UK) and the 'Latvia State Culture Capital Foundation Scholarship'. He is a laureate of the 'Helen Scott Lidgett Studio Award 2016/2017'(UK) and the 'Pauls Puzinas Grant'(LV/USA) and was nominated for the 'Purvītis Prize'(LV) as well as for the 'Arts Foundation Fellowship'(UK).

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Education

2014-16 Central Saint Martins College, MA Distinction Fine Art, University of the Arts London

2015 Tokyo University of the Arts and Central Saint Martins Global Art, Joint Curriculum

2012-14 Art Academy of Latvia, BA Hons (1st) Painting

2010-12 Art Academy of Latvia, Environmental Art

SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

- 2025 Abacus, Art Station Dubulti, Jurmala, Latvia (with Pauls Rietums)
When the wind blows, domobaal, London
Public sculpture 'For Sale,' Krāslava Municipality, Latvia
Water Sprouts, Forest Plinth, Latvia (with Spare Vitola and Marta Ansone)
- 2024 Don't tell tall tales, outdoor installation in collaboration with Līvāni Jēkabs Graubiņš Music and Art School and Pauls Rietums, Līvāni
By Chance or Appointment, Forest Plinth, Latvia (with Pauls Rietums)
- 2023 Parts and Their Functions as part of Artefacts of the Present at Cēsis Art Festival, Cēsis Contemporary Art Centre (with Lina Lapelytė GHOST sound & video installation)
Polar Rainbow, European Quarter Edition, Brussels, Belgium and visible across locations along 4E meridian
Polar Rainbow, Mozaika Edition, Rīga, Latvia and visible across locations along 24E meridian
Reverse Homesickness, Das Weisse House, Vienna, Austria (with Dunhill and O'Brien)
- 2022 Polar Rainbow, World Cup Edition, Doha, Qatar and visible across locations along the 51E meridian
Why shouldn't we be afraid of the dark?, Livani (with Aija Smirnova)
Polar Rainbow, Accept Edition, Bucharest, Romania and visible across locations along the 26E meridian
Polar Rainbow, Foundation Bec Zmiana, Warsaw Edition, Poland and visible across locations along 21E meridian
Polar Rainbow, Times Square Arts, New York, USA and visible across locations along 74W meridian
A Gift for Russian Embassy in London, domobaal, London
Red square needs pink ponies, Soo 28-13, Tallinn
- 2021-22 What can't we just create (Nastya), Mark Rothko Art Center, Daugavpils
Why shouldn't we be afraid of the dark?, Staro Riga (with Aija Smirnova)
How much you would be willing to pay for a mystery of dark matter right now?, The Latvian National Opera and Ballet
Have we all learned how to be human at home?, domobaal, London
Not far from here you can find sculptures, performances, installations and paintings, Rožupe Culture House, Latvia
- 2020 Different reasons why your snowman looks dirty, The Smallest Gallery in Riga
- 2019 Two questions about squirrels in the Speakers'Corner London, Hyde Park-London
Lead Lights, Staro Rīga, (with Aija Smirnova)
- 2018 Two Cakes, Five Years, London (with James Taylor)
There is, Shoreditch Library, London
We have four dinosaurs at home and they all are different, Code Copenhagen
For Household Use, Careva Contemporary, Riga
Great Memories (sizewise), Art Station Dubulti, Jurmala, Latvia
- 2015 Re Deuce, Cenamaximale, London (with Sivan Lavie)
- 2013 Constructed, Gallery of Olga Makeeva, Kemerovo, Russia
Space for Mind Migration (Connecting Cities Network), Riga / Marseille
- 2012 Spectators', Light Festival 'Staro Rīga', Riga
- 2011 Seven Deadly Sins', Proud2b Space, Riga

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Metahorror_CH_2, The Good Rice, London
- 2024 Used Springs, PAIR, Pāvilosta
Summer Exhibition 2024, The Royal Academy of Arts, London
Dear figure, whom did you hang out with last night?, Mark Rothko Art Center, Daugavpils
Polar Rainbow at NEXT Exhibition, Kunstgewerbemuseum der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin as part of Berlin Design Week with Platvorm, Berlin
Metahorror, Both Gallery, London
Extracurricula, durational performance as part of Side Show at Lethaby Gallery, London
- 2023 Immerse, Tallinn Art Hall in partnership with ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Tallinn
Vestibule, Lethaby Gallery, London
- 2022 Bad Ideas Collective, Tallinn Art Hall, City Gallery

- Flora Fantastic: Eco-Critical Contemporary Botanical Art, apex art, New York, USA
Spring-22, Zuzeum Art Centre, Riga
- 2021 Bad Ideas Collective - Volumes 1 & 2 : An Afternoon of Parallel Reality, Lethaby Gallery, London
Publiek Park, Friends of S.M.A.K. museum, Ghent2
- 2020 The First Edition, BadIdeasCollective.com, platform/Five Years, London
The Second Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art
- 2017 Seep, PEER, London
And the Horizon was Dying Over the Tourist, Republic Gallery, London
Creekside Open 2017 (selected by Alison Wilding), A.P.T Gallery, London
Dept of Subjective Archeology; Annihilation Event, Lethaby Gallery, London
Performance 'Impositions', Tate Modern /Tate Exchange, Blavatnik Building
- 2016 The Ingram Collection Young Contemporary Talent Exhibition, Cello Factory
UKYA National Biennale: Derby 2016, Museum and Art Gallery
Industrialism, Contemporary Art Gallery Livani, Livani, Latvia
Inside/Outside, House on Patriarch Ponds, Moscow
Do, Undo, Redo, The Crossing; Lethaby Gallery, London
- 2015 This is Us, Museum of London
Something happened on the way from Mars, Futuro House, London
Temporary Arts Project, TAP Gallery, Southend
Remember Nature (with Gustav Metzger and Serpentine Gallery), The CSM Street
We All Draw, Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf, London
Complex Topography: The Garden, Shōkō Shōreikan, Takamatsu, Japan
Human Nature, Archive Gallery, London
30 of 30, Gallery of Artists' Union of Lithuania, Vilnius / 'Kuldīga Artists' Residence', Kuldīga, Latvia
Summer Exhibition 2015, Royal Academy of Arts, London
You're The Reason Our Kids Are Ugly, The Laundry E8, London
- 2014 Cruise of Tartu, NOOR Gallery, Tartu, Estonia
Cultural Heritage of Visual Arts, Hall of Art Academy of Latvia
- 2013 Chemin de fer, Hall of Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw / Ice-House, Valmiera
Place and Conveyance, Kanepe Culture Center, Riga
- 2012 ARS ex MACHINA, Dailes Theater, Riga

RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS, TALKS

- 2025 Artists Talk on Metahorror 2 Exhibition, The Good Rice, London
- 2024 Public Talk and Discussion, "Artist-Led Initiatives", Rothko Museum, Daugavpils
Public Lecture, "Understanding Context in Public Art", Art House, Rēzekne
Discussion "The Meaning and Importance of Context in Art Education and Artistic Practice", Zimmerli Art Museum, USA
Residency at PAiR, Pāvilosta, Latvia
Micro Residency / Workshop at Dolomiti Contemporanee, Dolomites, Italy
- 2023 Panel Discussion "Artist residencies in 2050: visions and directions", Zuzeum in collaboration with VV Foundation, Riga
Micro Residency / Workshop at The Experimental Station for Research on Art and Life, tranzit.ro, Bucharest
Discussion "Rainbow over Lasnamäe" at Tallinn Art Hall, Lasnamäe Pavilion
Residency at Das Weisse House, Vienna, Austria
Panel Discussion "Artists and Residencies" as part of cycle "where is a career in art" at Art Academy of Latvia, Riga
Panel Discussion "Talking about Bad Ideas" at Tallinn Art Hall, City Gallery
- 2022 Presentation and discussion "Florilegium : A Poetic Historiography of Plants", apex art, New York
Panel Discussion "Post-Curating and Curatorial Activism", Zimmerli Art Museum, USA
Presentation and discussion "Polar Rainbow" at Goethe-Institut Bukarest
Residency at The Grange Projects, United Kingdom
Online Conversation with Zach Blas as part of "Beyond Matter" at Tallinn Art Hall
Online Conversation Great Expectations: "Virtuality and Next Generation of Artists from the Baltics" at Tallinn Art Hall
Online Conversation with Shu Lea Cheng as part of "Beyond Matter" at Tallinn Art Hall
Online Conversation with Boris Groys as part of "Beyond Matter" at Tallinn Art Hall
- 2021 Panel Discussion "Matter, Non-Matter, Anti-Matter. Past Exhibitions as Digital Experiences", Tallinn
Discussion panel for RIBOCA2 film 'and suddenly it all blossoms' preview in Arts Club, London
- 2020 The Ingram Prize Alumni Online Conversation Series with Jo Baring
- 2017 Workshop 'This Is an Art School', Tate Modern/Tate Exchange, Blavatnik Building
- 2016 Residency at Warton House, Acme Residency & Awards Programme, London
- 2015 Residency 'Complex Topography: the Garden', Tokyo; Takamatsu, Japan
- 2014 Residency 'Cruise of Tartu', Tartu, Estonia
- 2013 Residency 'Constructed', Kemerovo, Russia
'Connecting Cities – Artist and Curator Workshop Marseille', Marseille
- 2012 Workshop 'New Media Workshop with Franz Fischaller

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

- 2024 Shortlisted for UK New Artists 4C Group Bursary 2024/25, UK
- 2023-24 VKKF Creative Work Grant, Latvia
- 2022 VKKF Creative Work and Travel Bursary, Latvia
- 2021 Nominated for Estonian Academy of Arts Creative Awards, Estonia
- 2020 Livāni District Annual Award in Culture, Latvia
- 2019 Nominated for Purvītis Prize 2019, Latvia
- 2018 Nominated for Arts Foundation Fellowship, UK
Nominated for Latvian Television and Radio Kilogram of Culture Award

- 2017 VKKF Creative Work Development Bursary, Latvia
- 2016 Helen Scott Lidgett Studio Award 2016/2017 Acme Studios' Residency & Awards, UK
Nominated for Clifford Chance Sculpture Prize 2017, UK
Finalist of The Ingram Collection Prize, United Kingdom
Nominated and shortlisted for Red Mansion Art Prize, China / UK
- 2014 Cecil Lewis Sculpture Scholarship, University of the Arts London
Pauls Puzinas Grant in Arts, Latvia / USA
VKKF Scholarship, Latvia
Vilhelms Purvitis Premium, Art Academy of Latvia
- 2013 European Union Programme 'Culture' funding for work Space for Minds Migration
Ludolfs Liberts Grant in Arts, Latvia / USA
- 2012 Laureate of the competition 'Create Your Light, Latvia / Germany

PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 Project Manager and Curator of Kengarags Public Art Projects in collaboration with the Riga City Council and the Art Academy of Latvia, Riga
Co-Curator, 'Rapids have working hours', Zuzeum Art Centre, Riga
Erasmus World Mobility at Rutgers University, USA
Visiting Special Lecturer at MA Fine Art, Central Saint Martins, University of Arts London
- 2023 Expert and Project Manager of the Riga Technical University student grant project 'Leave a Comment About Liepāja!' with the Latvian Culture Academy, Art Academy of Latvia and Riga Technical University, and Liepāja University.
- 2022 Co-curator, I came here to be alone / I also came here to be alone, Tallinn Art Hall
- 2021-24 Co-founder and Head of MA POST, Fine Art Faculty at Art Academy of Latvia
Docent at Art Academy of Latvia
Chairman of the Academic Arbitration Court, Art Academy of Latvia
Docent, Fine Art Faculty at Art Academy of Latvia
- 2021-22 Head of MA Contemporary Art, Fine Art Faculty at Estonian Art Academy
Curatorial Advisor for The Estonian Pavilion at 59th Venice
Advisor of Chief Architect of the Riga at City Monuments Council
- 2020-21 Co-head of MA Contemporary Art, Fine Art Faculty at Estonian Art Academy
Initiator and developer of ACADEMIA Awards, Art Academy of Latvia in partnerships with Central Saint Martins, Helen Scott Lidgett Studio Award and ACME Studios
- 2019-20 Leading role in developing and managing and teaching - joint public art programme 'Public Encounters' between Central Saint Martins (UAL), and Art Academy of Latvia
- 2018-19 Lecturer, Fine Art Faculty at Art Academy of Latvia

RECENT PRESS AND TEXTS (2020-24)

- am NY (EN)
<https://www.amny.com/news/new-lgbtq-immersive-art-experience-at-times-square/>
- E-Flux (EN)
<https://www.e-flux.com/announcements/481114/classroom-what-color-should-the-moon-be/>
- Art Margins (EN)
<https://artmargins.com/entangled-roots/>
- Berlin Art Link (EN)
<https://www.berlinartlink.com/2023/02/07/bad-ideas-collective-tallinn-art-hall-exhibition-review/>
- Blok Magazine: (EN)
<http://blokmagazine.com/before-and-after-the-rainbow-notes-on-kristaps-ancanss-digital-sculpture-polar-rainbow-in-warsaw/>
<https://blokmagazine.com/how-to-talk-about-what-cant-we-just-create-on-language-as-paradox-and-imaginary-in-the-works-of-kristaps-ancans/>
- Diena (LV)
<https://www.diena.lv/raksts/kd/maksla/par-ko-sapno-pozitrons-riboca2-apskatami-valda-celma-un-kristapa-ancana-darbi-14247350>
- Goethe Institute (EN)
<https://www.facebook.com/GoetheInstitutBucuresti/videos/polar-rainbow/589529032881611/>
- Libertatea (RO)
<https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/curcubeul-polar-pestre-bucuresti-pentru-constientizarea-drepturilor-comunitatii-lgbt-nicio-politica-n-ar-trebui-sa-fie-impotriva-fericirii-oricare-fiinte-umane-4263045>
- LSM (LV)
<https://lr1.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/kultura/rondo/paplasinatās-reālītes-makslas-darba-polarā-varavīksne-savieno-.a165166/>
- Newsweek polska: (PL)
https://www.newsweek.pl/kultura/polar-rainbow-polarna-tec-za-w-warszawie-od-1-lipca-do-1-wrzesnia/3yw4ztg?tpcc=fb_newsweek&utm_campaign=post&utm_content=59d2459f-c011-4035-abf3-5872d14d7356&utm_medium=social&utm_source=fb_newsweekPojawi
- Ocula (EN)
<https://ocula.com/magazine/conversations/kristaps-ancans-propaganda-of-our-time/>
- Time Out (EN)
<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/you-can-gaze-at-this-realistic-rainbow-that-reaches-across-times-square-this-month-060122>
https://www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do/things-to-do-in-nyc-this-weekend?fbclid=IwAR0n5MwmVqD2zKA2HH_4WZhZdDwcJPoun-KHDb3K7qExMVbNQRResvAFCfXw
- Times Square Chronicles: (EN)
<https://t2conline.com/polar-rainbow-comes-to-times-square/>
- TVNET
<https://klik.tvnet.lv/7783214/makslinieks-kristaps-ancans-latviesiem-loti-patik-klusums-un-tas-ir-bistami>
- Untapped New York: (EN)
<https://untappedcities.com/2022/06/01/polar-rainbow-public-art-times-square-pride/>

#PolarRainbow PRESS AND TEXTS

- Time Out:
<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/you-can-gaze-at-this-realistic-rainbow-that-reaches-across-times-square-this-month-060122>
https://www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do/things-to-do-in-nyc-this-weekend?fbclid=IwAR0n5MwmVqD2zKA2HH_4WZhZdDwcJPoun-KHDb3K7qExMVbNQRResvAFCfXw
- Untapped New York:
<https://untappedcities.com/2022/06/01/polar-rainbow-public-art-times-square-pride/>

New Jersey News:
<https://darik.news/newjersey/polar-rainbow-comes-to-times-square/202205619094.html>

amNY.com:
<https://www.amny.com/news/new-lgbtq-immersive-art-experience-at-times-square/>

Times Square Chronicles:
<https://t2conline.com/polar-rainbow-comes-to-times-square/>

OBSERVER:
<https://observer.com/list/pride-events-in-new-york-city/>

news.postuszero.com:
<https://news.postuszero.com/news/42494/Times-Square-in-New-York-now-has-a-giant-full-length-rainbow.html>

webtimes.uk:
<https://webtimes.uk/pride-events-new-york-city-this-june/>

fugues.com:
<https://www.fugues.com/2022/06/01/un-arc-en-ciel-au-dessus-de-nous/>

w42st.com:
<https://w42st.com/post/a-dazzling-polar-rainbow-in-times-square-heralds-an-event-packed-pride-month/>

Playbill.com:
<https://www.playbill.com/article/playbill-and-times-square-alliance-to-celebrate-pride-in-times-square>

Datainnovation.org:
<https://datainnovation.org/2022/06/10-bits-the-data-news-hotlist-365/>

secretnyc.co:
<https://secretnyc.co/pride-month-art-installations-nyc/>

Dailysunny.com:
<https://www.dailysunny.com/2022/06/03/nynews220603/>

Times Square Arts
<http://arts.timessquarenyc.org/times-square-arts/projects/at-the-crossroads/polar-rainbow/index.aspx>

agq.qc.ca
<http://agq.qc.ca/en/2022/06/01/a-virtual-rainbow-just-above-us/>

Newsweek polska:
https://www.newsweek.pl/kultura/polar-rainbow-polarna-tec-za-w-warszawie-od-1-lipca-do-1-wrzesnia/3yw4Ztg?tpcc=fb_newsweek&utm_campaign=post&utm_content=59d2459f-c011-4035-abf3-5872d14d7356&utm_medium=social&utm_source=fb_newsweekPojawi

Radio Eska:
<https://www.eska.pl/warszawa/polar-rainbow-w-warszawie-niezwykla-tecze-zobaczymy-za-pomoca-smartfonow-aa-ytkY-iCi9-uGhC.html>

Blok Magazine:
<http://blokmagazine.com/before-and-after-the-rainbow-notes-on-kristaps-ancanss-digital-sculpture-polar-rainbow-in-warsaw/>

The Bęc Zmiana Foundation
<https://beczmiana.pl/tecza-polarna-polar-rainbow/>

LGL - National LGBT Organisation
https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=26393&fbclid=IwAR3Yzas5ynEX8kWwtD5YPyfxu2Wbc3ZtYfmCjN1khwUvBYgyZwdMTu6_7ws

DELFI KULTURA
https://www.delfi.lv/kultura/news/art/maksinieks-kristaps-ancans-radijis-paplasinatas-realitates-darbu-polara-varaviksne.d?id=54608760&fbclid=IwAR24MmHfrdjpCW_GiJpiJCrdbuXaAymgh8sYIIROCR0g9-v-V8rXlaxzio

Latvijas Sabiedriskie Mediji
<https://lr1.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/kulturas-rondo/paplasinatas-realitates-makslas-darba-polara-varaviksne-savieno-a165166/LIEPAJNIEKIEM.LV>
<https://www.liepajniekiem.lv/zinas/kulturvide/kultura/virs-liepajas-verojama-digitala-skulptura-polara-varaviksne/>

Przegląd Bałtycki
<https://przegladbaltycki.pl/19689,tecza-polarna-polar-rainbow.html>

IGLOO.RO
<https://www.igloo.ro/curcubeul-polar-o-experienta-de-realitate-augmentata-si-drepturile-omului/>

rfi.ro
<https://m.rfi.ro/emisiunile-rfi-ro-148307-zebra-polar-rainbow-o-experienta-realitate-augmentata>

Libertatea
<https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/curcubeul-polar-pestre-bucuresti-pentru-constientizarea-drepturilor-comunitatii-lgbt-nicio-politica-n-ar-trebui-sa-fie-impotriva-fericirii-oricare-fiinte-umane-4263045>

IGLOO.RO
<https://www.igloo.ro/despre-experienta-curcubeului-polar-interviu-cu-artistul-kristaps-ancans-si-curatorul-corina-l-apostol/>

PROPAGARTA
<https://propagarta.ro/stiri/arte-vizuale/dublu-interviu-cu-kristaps-ancans-si-corina-apostol-initiatorii-proiectului-de-realitate-augmentata-care-duce-un-curcubeu-deasupra-bucurestiului-la-inceput-de-toamna/>

Zeppelin
<https://e-zeppelin.ro/curcubeul-polar-creat-de-artistul-leton-britanic-kristaps-ancans-intre-antipozii/>

RFI Romania
<https://www.rfi.ro/emisiunile-rfi-ro-148307-zebra-polar-rainbow-o-experienta-realitate-augmentata>

Echo Gone Wrong
<https://echogonewrong.com/orchidelirium-an-appetite-for-abundance-at-the-biennale-arte-2022/>

Radio Romania Cultural
<https://www.radioromaniacultural.ro/curcubeul-polar-o-experienta-de-realitate-augmentata-conceptuta-pentru-a-creste-gradul-de-constientizare-asupra-persoanelor-si-drepturilor-lgbtqia/>

Modernism
<https://www.modernism.ro/2022/09/02/polarrainbow-lucrarea-artistului-leton-britanic-kristaps-ancans-se-va-inalta-pestre-piata-constitutiei-din-bucuresti/>

Goethe Institute
<https://www.facebook.com/GoetheInstitutBucuresti/videos/polar-rainbow/58952903288161>