

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. Ancāns is a co-founder of POST, an interdisciplinary MA program at the Art Academy of Latvia. He currently divides his time between London, Riga and Latgale region.

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 Literally a Very Small Celebration, Jūrmala (with Pauls Rietums), *upcoming*
 When the Wind Blows, domobaal, London, *upcoming*
 For Sale, Latvia's eastern border, *upcoming*

2024 If a Picture Paints a Thousand Words, New York Public Library, New York
 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 HAUS, Vienna(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 Rīga (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, Jūrmala, 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 Water Sprouts, Forest Plinth, Latvia, *upcoming*
 MetaCargo: Craft in Motion, Performative Walk as part of World Bank and European Commission organised Baltics CURI Forum, Daugavpils Fortress
 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', Kuldiga, 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

PUBLIC TALKS AND LECTURES

2025	Presentation and discussion "Culture as a driver for cooperation", World Bank and European Commission organised Baltics CURI Forum, Daugavpils
	Panel Discussion "Art's Place in Latgale", Crossroads Forum, Rēzekne
	Talk and Discussion "From Studies to Practice: Bridging Education and Career", Central Saint Martins, Archway Campus, London
	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,
2023	Panel Discussion "Artist residencies in 2050: visions and directions", Zuzeum in collaboration with VV Foundation, Riga
	Discussion "Rainbow over Lasnamäe" at Tallinn Art Hall, Lasnamäe Pavilion
	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
	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

RESIDENCIES, WORKSHOPS

2024	Residency at PAiR, Pāvilosta, Latvia
	Micro Residency / Workshop at Dolomiti Contemporanee, Dolomites, Italy
2023	Micro Residency / Workshop at The Experimental Station for Research on Art and Life, tranzit.ro, Bucharest
	Residency at DAS WEISSE HAUS, Vienna, Austria
2022	Residency at The Grange Projects, United Kingdom
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 Fischnaller

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

2025	VKKF Creative Work Bursary, Latvia C School Staff Development Fund for Pinokio Apparatus/ Metahorror Research Development with Marc Hulson at Central Saint Martins, UAL, UK
2024	Shortlisted for UK New Artists 4C Group Bursary 2024/25, UK
2023-24	VKKF Creative Practice Grant , Latvia
2022	VKKF Creative Work and Travel Bursary, Latvia
2021	Nominated for Estonian Academy of Arts Creative Awards, Estonia
2020	Līvāni 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 Purvītis 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

2025	Initiator and developer of SPOT Exchange Award, Art Academy of Latvia in partnerships with DAS WEISSE HAUS, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Art Centre Zuzeum Co-founder and Member of the Board of MUD LAB (Latgale Art Biennale)
2024	Project Manager and Curator of Kengarags Public Art Projects in collaboration with the Riga City Council and the Art Academy of Latvia, Riga Curator of the project "Remember When I Said — I Will Answer in a Week" at Zuzeum Art Centre Greenhouse, in collaboration with the Zuzāns Art Collection, Riga Co-Curating , '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 (2020-25)

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-oricarei-fiinte-umane-4263045>

LSM (LV)
<https://lr1.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/kulturas-rondo/paplasinatas-realitates-makslas-darba-polara-varaviksne-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/>

TVNET
<https://klik.tvnet.lv/7783214/makslinieks-kristaps-ancans-latviesiem-loti-patik-klusums-un-tas-ir-bistami>

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-KHDb3K7qExMVbNQRsvAFCfXw

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

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-KHDb3K7qExMVbNQRsvAFCfXw

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

LGL - National LGBT Organisation
https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=26393&fbclid=IwAR3Yzas5ynEX8kWwtD5YPyfxu2Wbc3ZiYfmCjN1khwUvBYgyZwdMTu6_7ws

DELFI KULTURA
https://www.delfi.lv/kultura/news/art/makslinieks-kristaps-ancans-radijis-paplasinatas-realitates-darbu-polara-varaviksne.d?id=54608760&fbclid=IwAR24MmHfrdjnpCW_GiJpiUCrdbuXaAymgh8sYIIROCR0g9-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-trebu-sa-fie-impotriva-fericirii-oricarei-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-aduce-un-curcubeu-deasupra-bucurestiului-la-inceput-de-toamna/>

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

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-lgbtqja/ \](https://www.radioromaniacultural.ro/curcubeul-polar-o-experienta-de-realitate-augmentata-conceptuta-pentru-a-creste-gradul-de-constientizare-asupra-persoanelor-si-drepturilor-lgbtqja/)

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>