

KRISTAPS ANCĀNS

Kristaps Ancāns (*1990) is an artist and educator whose practice spans installation, sculpture, language, AR and moving images. Ancāns explores the confusion in the relationship between humanity, nature, and machines through an evolving conceptual game with its own artificial intelligence. His installations, which often contain a kinetic component, welcome questioning, inviting uncertainty in their relationship with the viewer. They set into motion a dynamic play between formal values, laws of physics, sensual references from nature – on the brink of undermining each other while holding together in a disconcerting harmony. Language and its materiality is an equally integral part of Ancans' practice, representing both a cerebral and retinal element in situ.

Ancāns has exhibited, lectured, and taught at venues internationally, including Time Square Arts, Publiek Park/ S.M.A.K Museum, The Latvian National Opera and Ballet, Riga International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Code Art Fair Copenhagen, Domobaal Gallery, 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.

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 'Purvitis Prize'(LV) as well as for the 'Arts Foundation Fellowship'(UK).

Ancāns is the Head of POST, interdisciplinary MA Program at the Art Academy of Latvia. He lives and works between London and Riga.

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

- 2023** Polar Rainbow, Mozaika, 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, Bucharest, Romania and visible across locations along the 26E meridian
Polar Rainbow, Foundation Bec Zmiana, Warsaw, Poland and visible across locations along 21E meridian
Polar Rainbow, Time 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, 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

- 2023** Cēsis Art Festival, Cēsis Contemporary Art Centre, upcoming
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, Ghent
- 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

- 2023** 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 Fischmaller

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIP

- 2023** VKKF Creative Work 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

- 2022** VKKF Creative Work Development 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** Monthly State Scholarship at Art Academy of Latvia (2010-2014)
Laureate of the competition 'Create Your Light, Latvia / Germany

PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2022** Co-curator, I came here to be alone / I also came here to be alone, Tallinn Art Hall
- 2021-** 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 (2020-23)

am NY (EN)

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

Art and Education (EN)

<https://www.artandeducation.net/schoolwatch/457731/sink-or-swim-discovering-new-strokes-in-education-at-post-in-riga/>

<https://www.artandeducation.net/classroom/480925/what-color-should-the-moon-be/>

Art Margins (EN)

<https://artmargins.com/entangled-roots/>

Arterritory (EN)

https://arterritory.com/en/visual_arts/topical_qa/25399-constructions_inspired_by_change/

A12 (LV)

<https://a12.lv/tag/kristapsancans/>

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/>

Daily Sun NY (JP)

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

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-pestes-bucures-ti-pentru-constientizarea-drepturilor-comunitatii-lgbt-nicio-politica-n-ar-trebuie-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/>

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/>