

Jonathan Allen CV



Overview

Jonathan Allen (UK, b. 1966) is a London-based artist, writer and educator whose work has featured in many exhibitions and publications in the UK and internationally since the early 1990s. He is best known for his work addressing the politics of enchantment and various magics at play within late modernity, and for his performance alter ego, the *faux* gospel magician Tommy Angel. Allen has taught widely within UK art schools since the early 1990s, including at the Royal College of Art, the Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art and the Architectural Association, as well as contributing regularly to specialist public lecture programs across the world.

As a curator at The Magic Circle Museum in London, Allen has collaborated on projects with many institutions including the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Irish Museum of Modern Art. In 2009 he initiated and co-curated the Hayward Gallery touring exhibition *Magic Show* that explored the shared imagination between contemporary art practices and theatrical magic. Allen is a regular contributor to the New York-based art and culture quarterly *Cabinet* for which he guest-edited a theme section dedicated to magic in 2007. His recent book *Lost Envoy* is published by Strange Attractor Press and distributed by MIT Press.

Education

2012-17 PhD Fine Art (practice-based), Kingston University, London

1988-89 MA Fine Art, Chelsea School of Art, London

1985-88 BA Fine Art, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham

Residencies and Fellowships

2007-8 Arts Council England Helen Chadwick Fellowship, British School in Rome, Italy
and Oxford University, UK

1991-93 Henry Moore Fellowship, Sheffield Hallam University, UK

Solo Exhibitions

2016 *Casting for the voice of Strength* Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston, London, UK

2016 *Twenty-First-Century Silks* Ryan Lee Gallery, New York

- 2007-8 *Kalanag* David Risley Gallery, London, UK
- 2006 *Tommy Angel* David Risley Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 *Feint* Deutsche Bank Lobby Gallery, New York, USA
- 1998 *Second Truths* Site Gallery Sheffield, UK
- 1997 *The Float in the Sight of Things* Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, UK
- 1993 *Hot Air* Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK
- 1991 *Landscapes of Risk* Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK

Selected Group Exhibitions / Projects

- 2017 *Fear* VIII Bienal de Jafre, Spain
The Act of Magic STUK, Belgium
Drawing 2017 The Drawing Room, London, UK
- 2016 *Explode Every Day* Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, USA
We are Publication 'Diagram of an Hour' vinyl record, Cubitt launch, London, UK
- 2015 *We are Publication* 'Diagram of an Hour' Resonance FM broadcast, London, UK
Drawing 2015, The Drawing Room, London, UK
- 2014 *We are Publication* film screening, Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston, London, UK
We are Publication 'The Haunted Matchbox', performance reading, ICA London, UK
- 2013 *Adventureland Golf* Gymnasium Gallery, Berwick; Arnolfini Bristol; Quad, Derby, UK
/seconds issue 13, www.slashseconds.org
- 2012 *Accidentally on Purpose* QUAD, Derby, UK
The Ancient Order of Illusion Banner Repeater, London, UK
- 2011 *The Anti-Library* Space Studios, London, UK
A Future Pump House Pump House Gallery, London, UK
Outrageous Fortune Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition, Focal Point Gallery, Southend, UK
- 2010 *Magic Show* Hayward Touring Exhibition (various UK venues), artist, initiator and co-curator
Party New Art Gallery, Walsall, UK
- 2009 *Wunderkammer* with Sirene Opern Theater, curated by Brigitte Felderer, Vienna, Austria
- 2008 *The Great Transformation – Art & Tactical Magic* Frankfurter Kunstverein, Germany,
& MARCO, Spain
The Director's Apartment British School at Rome (BSR), Italy
- 2007 *Bobby Reader* performance for Implicaspere, Cornerhouse, Manchester, UK
Citadel 1 Front Room: Killing Room David Risley Gallery, UK
Harry Smith Anthology Remixed Alt Gallery, Newcastle, UK
Dictionary of War Sophiensaele, Berlin, Germany
- 2006 *Belief* 1st Singapore Biennale, exhibition and performance, Singapore
Scarecrow Averoff-Evangelos Museum, Metsova, Greece
Tommy Angel performance, for 'Keep the Faith', Tate Britain, London, UK

- 2005 *Variety* De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, UK
So You're Afraid Of What? *Centrefold*, Redux Gallery, London, UK
Tommy Angel performance for Duckie, London, UK
- 2004 *Non-Human* David Risley Gallery, group exhibition, London, UK
Mesmer group exhibition, temporary/contemporary, London, UK
Tommy Angel performance (with Hayward Gallery for 'Eyes, Lies, Illusions') London, UK
- 2002 *Con Art* Site Gallery, Sheffield, and Glynn Vivian Gallery, UK
A Night of Performance Magic Tommy Angel at the Lantern Theatre, Sheffield, UK
- 1998 *Quirk* Serge Sorokko Gallery New York, USA

Books / Catalogues

- 2016 *Lost Envoy* – The Tarot Deck of Austin Osman Spare, author/editor, published by Strange Attractor Press, distributed by MIT Press.
- 2009 *Magic Show* exhibition catalogue for Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition, Quad, Derby / Grundy Gallery, Blackpool / Chapter, Cardiff / Tullie House, Carlisle / Pump House Gallery, London. Project initiator & co-curator / including catalogue essay 'From Bosch to Blackpool'
- 1998 *Second Truths* publication accompanying *Second Truths* exhibition, Site Gallery, Sheffield
- 1993 *Hot Air* publication accompanying *Hot Air* exhibition, Mappin Gallery, Sheffield

Selected Articles / Book Chapters

- 2017 '7th European Magic History Conference', review, *The Magic Circular*, issue: 1216
- 2016 'The Mansion House Tavern of Crossed Destinies', *Cabinet* issue 49: The North
- 2015 '6th European Magic History Conference', review, *The Magic Circular*, issue: 1192
- 2014 'Magic', book chapter for *Truth is Concrete – A Handbook for artistic strategies in real politics*, Sternberg Press
- 2013 'Where No Trickery Abounds', *Cabinet* issue 49: Death
 'Jubrique ♥ Cabinet', *Cabinet* issue 48: Trees
 'Song of the Open Road at 132 centimeters', *Architecture* issue 18, Architectural Association
 'Strategic Arborealism', *Cabinet* issue 48: Trees
 'All Done For Kindness', chapter for *Notes on The Magic of the State* Lisson Gallery, London
- 2012 'Pitufo Blues', *Cabinet* issue 44: 24 Hours
- 2011 'Fischli & Weiss', for *Microtate*, *Tate Etc*
- 2010 'Pop Art', *Cabinet* issue 38: Bubbles / book chapter in *Curiosity & Method: Ten Years of Cabinet*, Cabinet Books (2012)
 'Mark of Integrity', *Cabinet* issue 33: Deception

- 2007 'Deceptionists at War', *Cabinet* issue 26: Magic (guest-editor) / also book chapter in *Worterbuch des Krieges (Dictionary of War)*, Merve Verlag, Berlin (2008); and *The Great Transformation - Art & Tactical Magic* Frankfurter Kunstverein, Germany (2010)
- 2006 'Sleight of Light', *Cabinet* issue 24: Shadows
- 2004 'Gospel Magic', *Contemporary* issue: 68

Selected Public lectures

- 2016 'The Tarot Deck of Austin Osman Spare', paper for 'Trans-States – The Art of Crossing Over' conference at University of Northampton
- 2016 Lost Envoy – The Tarot Deck of Austin Osman Spare, a book launch and public lecture at Camden Arts Centre, London
- 2013 The collections of The Magic Circle – Collecting - Camden Arts Centre in response to the exhibition Dieter Roth Diaries, Camden Arts Centre, London
- 2011 FORMAT 1 Architectural Association Summer Lectures, curated by Shumon Basar, with Sam Jacob, London
- 2010 'Exonomia and The Poetics of Money', Zurich University, Dept. of Spatial Design, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009 'Magic Money', for Sirene Opertheater – Nachts: Wunderkammer series curated by Brigitte Felderer, Brotfabrick, Vienna
- 2007 'Magic ' for the Dictionary of War Berlin Edition, Sophiensaele, Berlin, Germany
- 2006 'Gospel Magic', Singapore Biennale Encounter 11 Singapore Public Library, Singapore

Other Recent Professional Experience

- 2009– Curator, The Magic Circle Museum, London
- 2010– Editorial board member for the Journal of Performance Magic Univ. of Huddersfield
- 2013– Reader / responder for book submissions for MIT Press, USA
- 2016 Film London, mentor (Karen Mirza and Brad Butler)
- 2014 Spill Festival, mentor (Tim Bromage)

Languages

Native: English / Conversant: French, Spanish and Catalan

Contact

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