

James Beckett

Born in Harare, Zimbabwe (1977) and lives and works in Amsterdam.

Education and residency

2009

Künstlerhäuser Worpswede (DE)

2008

International-Residence at Recollets-Paris

2001-2002

Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

1996-1999

Technikon, Natal, BAFA (degree), South Africa

Solo Exhibitions

2010

Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL) Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life)

Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL) with Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life)

Stuk, Leuven (BE), Playground - openingsplay with Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life)

2009

T293, Bagnoli (and Italsider as extract-arrangement), Napoli (IT)

Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL) with 'Screens'

2008

Lüttgenmeijer, Berlin (D), 'Dalmine (and other extract-arrangements)'

Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam, Limburgerhof (The Agricultural Extract-Arrangements)

2007

Koelnischer Kunstverein, Koeln (D), 'Museum of Noise' (with Mark Bain)

T293, Napoli (IT), 'Living Registration'

2006

Buerofriedrich Berlin (D), 'Living Registration'

Natal Society of BArts, Durban (SA), Untitled Installation

2003

NICC, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerpen (B), 'Climb on Shoulders to Peep Over and Dismount with Lips in Hedge'

2002

PLUS Gallery, Dusseldorf (D), 'Extract Arrangements'

1999

Natal Society of Arts, Durban, (ZA), 'Home'

The Yard, B/W Photography, London (GB), 'Breathing Space'

Natal Society of Arts/ Palmer street studios, Durban (ZA), 'Breathing Space'

Group Exhibitions

2010

GAM Torino (IT), All the Memory of the World, with Dani Gal, Simon Fujiwara, Rossella Biscotti
 Patrizio di Massimo, Haris Epaminonda and Sean Snyder.

Fort Ruigenhoek Groenekan (NL), Kaap

Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam (NL), Capturing Metamorphosis with Rob Johannesma, Lawrence
 Malstaff, Barbara Philipp and Rebecca Sakoun

Museum Hilversum, Hilversum (NL), Doodgewoon

2009

ICA, London, w/ Plus Minus ensemble and Kammerklang

Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht(NL)

‘Open Source’, Amsterdam (NL) with Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla (USA/Cuba), Michael Beutler
 (GE), Hadassah Emmerich (NL), Thomas Hirschhorn (CH), Sanja Medic (SR) and others.

2008

CAC Vilnius, Foyer: language and space at the border | For the First and the Second Time, with Adel
 Abdessemed, Cyprien Gaillard, Konstantinas Bogdanas, Ulrich Ruckriem, Pierre Bismuth, Deimantas
 Narkevičius, Keith Wilson, Mario Garcia Torres

2007

The Kitchen New York (US) ‘Between Thought and Sound’,

Universal Studios, Beijing(C), ‘Chaos City 2’

Kucevo, Serbia, ‘Return of the Gastarbeiter’

2006

VHDG Leeuwarden (NL), Untitled (Façade)

2006

N-Collective in Mediamatic Amsterdam (NL), ‘Practicum 06a’

2005

SMART Project Space Amsterdam (NL,) Adam

De Appel, Amsterdam (NL), ‘Radio Days’ produced four radio programmes

De Balie, Amsterdam (NL), ‘Dutch Open’ premier screening of ‘Pioneer’

QArte Amsterdam (NL), ‘Low Tech’

2004

Istanbul, Platform Garanti and Smart Projects Istanbul (T), ‘Hit and Run’

11th Serbian Bienale Visual Arts, Pancevo, Serbia , ‘Values’

Nanjing Art Institute, DAI/ NAI Nanjing(CN)

2003

Jaarbeurs, ‘Vacuum’ Utrecht (NL)

Gem -Museum of Contemporary Art, Prix de Rome, ‘A Partial Museum of Noise’ Den Haag (NL)

Emmaus-Ölberg-Gemeinde, ‘Death’ Berlin (DE)

2002

Centre for Contemporary European Art, 'Rendevous' Xiamen (CN)
 Dokumenta, collaboration Narcisse Tordoir /Meschac Gaba Kassel (DE)
 Doula, Cameroon, 'Bessengue City', -set up radio station
 Spar Kassa, Dusseldorf (DE) 'Filiale Afrika'
 Cucosa Contemporary Art Space, 'Noise of Coincidence' Rotterdam(NL)
 Outline Project Space, 'A Haunted house of Art' Amsterdam (NL)
 2001
 Stichting V/H de Gemeente, 'Home Made' Leeuwarden (NL)
 Karl Hofer Society, with Khwezi Gule/ Robin Rhode, Berlin (DE)
 Centre Soeileil d'Afrique, 'CLICK' Bamako, Mali
 Las Palmas, 'Adrift' Rotterdam (NL)
 NSA, Rijksakademie R.A.I.N., 'Pulse' Durban (ZA)
 1999
 Civic Centre, Graduates of Natal Tech. Johannesburg (ZA)
 1998
 Palmer Street Studios, 'Black and Blue' Durban (ZA)
 1997
 Bat Centre, Collaboration with Sandberg Institute 'Stel Hotten Totten Ten Ten Toon,' Durban (ZA)

Fellowships / Awards/Commissions

2009

An installation for the Research Departments of Netherlands Cancer Institute /SKOR

2005

Basis Stipendium, Fonds Voor Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (NL)

2003

Winner Prix de Rome (NL)

2002

Stipend: Rijksakademie Beeldende Kunsten/ Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture/ Science (NL)

Grant: National Arts Council, Johannesburg (ZA)

2001

Grant: Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, Johannesburg (ZA)

Stipend: Rijksakademie Beeldende Kunsten/ Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture/ Science (NL)

1999

Emma-Smith scholarship, Durban (ZA)

Concert/ Lecture/ Performance/ Workshops

2007

'Circalles' Stage and Light, composition of Martijn Tellinga, Huis ad Werf (NL)

2006

'Lucier in Taiwan' concept and teacher of sound workshop Taipei (TW)

'Loss of meaning in Language', Delft Architecture Dept. Delft (NL)

2005

Nadine Project Space, performance/concert Brussels (BE)

2004

Nanjing University, lecture /sound w/s, Nanjing (CN)

2003

Baby, concert, 'Schoenberg /Gamelan imposition' Amsterdam (NL)

Lost and Found, Concert, 'Fridge' Amsterdam (NL)

Nederlands Architecture Institute, Concert Rotterdam (NL)

2002

Alliance Francais, Seminar, 'International Art practice' Yaoundé, Cameroon

Stubnitz.nl/NDSM-WERF, concert with Marijn Korff de Gidts Amsterdam (NL)

Rijksakademie, concert, 'Mantra for Motors' Amsterdam (NL)

Muntplein, concert 'Muntplein Transferal', Amsterdam (NL)

1999

National Art Gallery, Salt performance, Durban (ZA)

Curated Exhibitions

2007

'Here as the Centre of the World', in collaboration with Dutch Art institute, 50 artists -Netherlands, Turkey, Taiwan, Syria, Lebanon and Sudan, Enschede (NL)

'Sirens, an evolution from water, through water, to water' 66 -East, Architecture and Urban planning space, Amsterdam (NL)

2006

'Lucier in Taiwan', Artists from the Netherlands and Taiwan, (In an empty apartment block) Taipei, (Taiwan)
1997 'Thirty Seven Songs', 37 artists, Durban, (ZA)

Publication

2009

Younger than Jesus, Artist Directory, Phaidon

Monograph 1998-2008 James Beckett, Kehrer Verlag

Catalogue with an installation for the Research Departments of Netherlands Cancer Institute

2007

'Museum of Noise', Mark Bain and James Beckett, Koln (DE)

'A-for Alibi', Uqbar foundation, De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)

'Sirens', Catalogue of Curated Exhibition, Amsterdam (NL)

2005

'Radiodays', Stichtung De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)

'Open', SKOR, Amsterdam Amsterdam (NL)

2004

'Run', Smart projects in Istanbul Istanbul (Turkey)

'Values', Catalogue, 11th Serbian Bianale Pancevo, Serbia

Initiation: Gregg Smith, RAIN, 'Very Real Time' Cape Town (ZA)

2003

Initiation: goodwill, Catalogue, 'A Partial Museum of Noise' Amsterdam (NL)

Prix de Rome, Sculpture, Art and Public Space Amsterdam (NL)

2001

Stichting V/H de Gemeente, 'Home Made' Leeuwarden (NL)

2000

Initiation Greg Streak, RAIN, 'Pulse' Durban (ZA)

Articles/ Review

2009

Kunstbeeld, review Limburgerhof, (The Agricultural Extract-Arrangements), Esther Darley

2008

Art Review, review Dalmine (and other industry extract-arrangements), Astrid Mania

2007

review, T293, Naples Italy, Art Forum Italy, Eugenio Viola, IT

2006

review, James Beckett, "vonhundert" magazine Berlin, Astrid Mania, DE

review, "Zitty" city guide magazine Berlin, DE

review, 'Nebenwirkungen' - Koelischer Rundschau, DE

review, 'Das Brummen von 220 Volt' - Koelner Stadanzeiger, DE

review, ">>Museum of Noise<<" Roland Schappert Kunst forum, DE

review, mail and guardian, author: alex sudheim, ZA

review, arthro, author: dean henning, ZA

2005

Tubelight, Spotlight: James Beckett, Vinken en van Kampen

2003

Review of prize), Prix De Rome, Ina Boiten, Art and Public Space (NL)
Mark Kremer, NICC, Koninklijk Museum SK, Antwerpen (BE), review, "Scherpa"

James Beckett (b. 1977, Harare, Zimbabwe) graduated from the Technikon-Natal, Durban South Africa, after which he took part in a two-year residency in the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Coming from a background of installation, sound has come to develop a more central role in his work.

This has been a research based activity with output ranging from radio documentaries to mock ethnic bands, and museum displays documenting the cultural and physiological effects of noise. The evolution in specific areas of the industrial revolution have also played muse; such as the foundation of synthetic colour manufacture and its relationship to BASF, and the cultural implications of vacuum tubes for the Dutch firm Philips. Without humor his work would appear as mere cynism, - it is romance with an inherently rotten subject matter