

Simon Blackmore - Biography

Simon Blackmore gained a First Class honours degree in sculpture at The University of Wales Institute Cardiff in 1999. In 2001 he completed an MA in Creative Technology at Salford University.

He now lives and works in Manchester and works primarily with sound and custom-built technology. Recent projects have included;

'Weather Guitar' (a machine to play a guitar according to the weather), shown at Ikon, Birmingham in 2005.

'LSD Drive' , (a computer CD drive hacked to read light rather than data) shown in Perimeters Boundaries and Borders, part of f.city festival, Lancaster in 2006.

'Player Printer', a discarded computer printer adapted to function as a modern version of a player piano by reading holes punched in paper, commissioned by Access Space, Sheffield in 2006

The process of creating these works tends to be laborious and very hands-on. The sculptures often have a relatively lo-fi aesthetic drawing on influences from woodworking, hobby style electronics and open source software. The time consuming process of these works aims to question the role of the individual in relation to the mechanisms of a technologically driven society.

During the last two years Simon has worked on a number projects in schools exploring robotics, sound and open source software. These have largely been funded through Creative Partnerships and have aimed to bring more creative and experimental uses of technology into schools. The works produced have included;

'Surveillance Songs', In a collaboration between Ikon and Handsworth Grammar school, Birmingham. Camera data was used to manipulate audio recorded and sequenced by the students. The piece was then shown at the exhibition Audio Art Lab at the Turnpike gallery, Leigh in 2006.

Alongside his solo practice Simon also collaborates with Antony Hall and Steve Symons under the name Owl Project. Combining rustic woodworking, electronics and experimental music, pieces such as 'Sound Lathe', 'Log1ks' and 'ilogs' have been exhibited and demonstrated live nationally and internationally.