

## Cynthia Schwertsik

Ephemeral public art, community engagement and work based on participation are the essence of my practice. I am concerned with the experience of physical presence and the environment shaped as a consequence of choices and movement. My practice is a sequence of questions that reflect on Anthropologist Tim Ingold's claim, that the world is shaped through the choices we make. I think about the way we inscribe ourselves into the world through our actions. In consequence I scrutinise my everyday behaviour and build artwork from the remnants of my mundane life. Through video and performative investigation I contemplate the built environment, such as bitumen and concrete and balance precariously on a journey via chairs through suburban deserts.

### EDUCATION

- 1987 Diploma of Textile Design, Ortweinschule, Graz, Austria
- 1990 Dance Diploma, TanzQuartier, Vienna
- 2016 Bachelor of Visual Arts, Adelaide Central School of Art with a high commendation by Rachel Kent (Curator MCA)

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *UTE-ilitarian, Phase I and Phase II*, video work and performance, The Guildhouse Collections Project 2019 with Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide
- 2017 and ongoing *POLY – UBIQUITOUS*, on Hordings mounted in the City of Sydney
- 2017 *Total Recall*, Performance, and public intervention, Museum der Unerhoerten Dinge, Berlin
- 2015 Werkstadt Graz, *Wider das Zuckerbergmonopol* | Performance & Display by CEMS  
GPL SPACE IV, Gallery, Vienna, *Running Theory Generation* | Performance & Display by CEMS
- 2013 MUSA Wien, *Referentieller Querverweis: Ich brauch Tapetenwechsel*; a CEMS Intervention/Installation
- 2011 Museum der Unerhörten Dinge, Berlin, *Definitiv: Kunst! Eine unerhörte Aktion*, Installation and intervention by CEMS
- 2010 *Right on the Rim*, Project Salon, and residency, Johannesburg, *Legends of Culture*

### Art in Public Space, community projects and residencies

Upcoming projects:

- 2020 January-March: Sauerbier House Residency and Exhibition, Port Noarlunga
- 2019 November: Land Arts of the Limestone Coast Retreat, produced by Country Arts SA in partnership with the Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier
- 2019 November: Becoming the Future: Environmental Justice seminar at the CAD-Factory, with Joni Adamson, Vic McEwan, Kirsten Wehner, Janet Laurence and George Main.
- 2019 October: *SUE – expect the unexpected*, public performances curated by OSCA <https://open-space.org.au/>
- 2019 "Palace of Production", residency on Kangaroo Island during April, Country Arts SA
- 2018 *WAYS of WALKING – Arts in Your Space*: interventions and signs, City of Unley
- 2018 Broken Hill Art Exchange Residency, *MY NAME – Mural and Workshop*
- 2018 *ZENTRIFUGE* (street-performance developed since 1995), La Strada, festival of street art, Graz, Austria
- 2018 La Grange Rhizom – residency, Public interventions and community engagement, curated by Jeanne Laurent, France
- 2017 *Walk the Chair*, Square Eye's, Public Art in the City of Marion
- 2017 City Library Residency, *GREEN – A Sustainable City*, participatory community art production, Adelaide
- 2013 AIR Cleland Wildlife Park Mount Lofty, Australia, drawing the public in public
- 2011 Hotel PUPIK – Residence program at Schratzenberg, Styria <http://www.hotelpupik.org>
- 2009/10 ITHUBA, three months residency, studio and teaching art in a township, Johannesburg, South Africa

## AWARDS

- 2019 HIDDEN ROOKWOOD FILM, Highly Commended Award, or *Peri Urban Progress passage #1*
- 2018 SALA - Moving Image Award, for *Peri Urban Progress*
- 2017 Prize for Creative Hoardings, City of Sydney; public art, for *POLY – UBIQUITOUS*
- 2017 Whyalla Art Prize 2017, Highly Commended Award, for *DOUBLE CHECK*

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *POLY- UBIQUITOUS III, Sky-scapes*, Hahndorf Academy Adelaide Hills Landscape Arts Prize 2019
- 2019 *I didn't see it coming!*, group show at Collective Haunt Inc., Adelaide, curated by Jane Skeer
- 2019 *POLY – UBIQUITOUS III water-scapes*, Desert Equinox, Broken Hill Art Exchange
- 2019 *Peri Urban Progress Passage #1*, finalist at HIDDEN Films 2019, HIDDEN Rookwood, Sydney
- 2019 *Definitely:Art!* - performance by CEMS, performed with Monte Masi, within the exhibition: *The Scene is the seen*, curated by Rayleen Forester and Ray Harris, at Holy Rollers studio, Adelaide
- 2019 *DOUBLE CHECK*, Portraits from Adelaide Festival Centre, Video screening
- 2018 *Landscape Stories – Mutton Cove*, by OSCA at FONTANELLE, Port Adelaide,
- 2018 *HER NAME*, curated by Andrew Purvis supported by Guildhouse at ACSA, Central Gallery
- 2018 *BEST AFTER* with Renate Nisi and Liz Butler, opening by Fulvia Mantelli at Praxis Artspace
- 2018 *#Tulln – Garten der Kuenstler*, curated by Wolfgang Giegler, Austria
- 2017 *Schönheit und Anspruch*, Stift Admont/Museum für Contemporary Art, 24. April bis 4. November
- 2017 *CEMS: Kuenstlerhaus Wien, Die Andere Geschichte(n)*, participatory project and performance curated by G. Oberhollenzer
- 2017 *Erotikreativ heute – 25 Years On.,* Galerie Wegscheidt, <http://www.eremitageamkamp.at>
- 2017 *DOUBLE CHECK* at Whyalla Art Prize 2017, exhibition in Whyalla and Adelaide Airport
- 2016 *LABYRINTH*, la Galerie du Génie de la Bastille 70011, Paris, curated by Jeanne Laurent
- 2015 Z Ward building Adelaide, *OTHERWORLD*, public intervention and participatory painting
- 2014 *Des machines et des Hommes*, La Saligue aux artiste, Avallon et Savigny, Bourgogne, France
- 2012 *MUTANT ATTACK*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna, curated by S.Perthold + G. Szekatsch
- 2011 *KULTURa*, Galerie Kontemporaer Graz, *Exhibition travelling* through Styria & Slovenia, curated by Veronika Dreier
- 2011 *Big Project*, Sala Terrena, Heiligenkreuzerhof – Academy of Arts, Vienna, curated by I. Czerwenka-Wenkstetten,
- 2010 *HALLO irrgast art goes science III , Uni –BOKU, Wien, Exhibition & Symposium*, curated by Gertrude Moser-Wagner
- 2006 *SUNDAY DRIVERS*, Sound-installation with *RED WHITE*, for *Spurwechsel*, Technical Museum Vienna
- 2006/08 *WISSEN SCHAFFT FRAGEN* a project by Cynthia Schwertsik consisting of 24 Dialogs between scientists & artists, in cooperation with Sonja Bettel - Ö1, Christiane Spatt, and Isabel Czerwenka-Wenkstetten. presentations at: MUSA, Museum auf Abruf, in the Library of Vienna University and in Kunsthalle, all in Vienna

COLLECTIONS: BMUK, Austria, Land Burgenland and private collections in Austria, South Africa and Australia