

m@greyisgood.eu

Artist
BA (Hons), MFA, PGCLTHE, AFHEA, FRSA

Archive
Mailing list
Instagram

Other work

grey.is
itakephotos
archive.itakehphotos
Stet
Merkske
Auch.ai
Nut & Nut
Enduring Projects

Martin John Callanan is an artist researching an individual's place within systems.

His work examines how we encounter and understand the world through the systems that organise it: money, language, time, information, institutions and technology. Working across photography, sculpture, print, artists' books, software and installation, he uses the materials and procedures of existing systems to explore what they reveal and what they leave out.

Recurring concerns include the desire to record everything, the relationship between an individual and a collective, and the distance between what can be measured and what can be experienced. In The Fundamental Units, the smallest denominations of currencies become large-scale images; in A Planetary Order, satellite observations become a physical globe; and in Each and Every Command, twelve years of digital editing become a printed record.

His work has been exhibited and published internationally. He received the Philip Leverhulme Prize and was artist in residence at the Bank of England.

Alongside his artistic practice, he has worked in higher education, technical direction, publishing, exhibition production and building renovation. He was a Teaching Fellow at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, and spent over ten years as technical director for an artist's studio in Berlin and Dunfermline.

Martin is a citizen of Ireland and the United Kingdom, and holds an e-Residency for Estonia. He lives and works in Scotland.

Martin has been alive 16,388 days, today is Thursday (26 November 2026).

Martin John Callanan estas artisto kiu esploras la lokadon de la individuo ene de sistemoj.

SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Martin John Callanan's artwork has been exhibited and published internationally; he has been awarded the triennial Philip Leverhulme Prize in Visual Art 2014–17, for outstanding research, during which he was artist in residence at the Bank of England. In September 2015 awarded Alumnus of the Year for Excellence in Arts by Birmingham City University.

Solo exhibitions include: Noshowspace, Horrach Moya, Casal Solleric, Baltic 39, and Or Gallery, Berlin. His work has been shown at, White Cube, Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, V2, Arts Santa Mònica, James Cohan Gallery, Es Baluard Modern and Contemporary Art Museum, Whitechapel Gallery, ZKM Karlsruhe, Ars Electronic Centre, ISEA, FutureEverything, Art Exchange, LIFT 2014, Battersea Arts Centre, Kunstverein Springhornhof, Riga Centre for New Media Culture, Whitstable Biennale, Imperial War Museum North, and published by Book Works.

Work is held in collections and archives including the Imperial War Museum, Tate Library Archive Collection, British Library, National Art Library at the V&A and UCL Art Museum.

Exhibition history — Publications and bibliography — Full collections list

INDEX AND ARCHIVE

Artwork index — an introduction to individual artworks, with links to their dedicated pages.
Complete index of greyisgood.eu — a more extensive record of the practice, bringing together work and material from across this website.
Notes and archive — an ongoing record of exhibitions, publications, writing, news and documentation.

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EXHIBITIONS

2026–2027
2026–2027, Drawing Is..., Bristol Materials Network, UWE Bristol (12 November 2026 – 12 January 2027)

Recent exhibitions
Over and Over and Over Again, The Handbag Factory
About Time, Redcar Contemporary Art Gallery
Bellum & Artes, House of European History, Brussels
Listening for Traces, Rizq Art Initiative, Abu Dhabi
Summer festival in Schloss Wiepersdorf
Drück nur auf die Klinke, Jägerschere, Germany
Instructions Follow, Feral File
Hic et nunc

2020
Selfish, Mécènes du sud Montpellier–Sète

2019
The Future Starts Here, ArkDes, Sweden
All Changes Saved, Casal Solleric, Mallorca
Data Cinema, Niio

2018
Interactions, EU House of European History, Brussels
The Future Starts Here, V&A, London
Scaling the Sublime, Nottingham Lakeside Arts
Moscow Shorts Film Festival
In Pursuit of Elusive Horizons, Parafin, London
13th Athens Animfest
Balkan Can Kino 2018, Greece
63rd International Short Film Festival Oberhausen

2017
RIXC Art Science Festival, Riga
Centrum, Berlin
Argentea Gallery, Birmingham
Actions, Galería Horrach Moya
Designing The One Minute, Het Nieuwe Instituut
Real Time, Lo Pati

2016
Data on View, La Terrasse Nanterre
Berlin Art Prize
Data in the 21st Century, V2, Rotterdam
Real Time, Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona
Each and Every Command, Baltic39, Newcastle

2015
International Film Festival Rotterdam
Vitsœ, New York City
How to Construct a Time Machine, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes
E-Flux Conversations
Media Art Futures, Murcia, Spain
Discursive Objects, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven
I'm Ten, IMT Gallery

2014
The Fifth Season, James Cohan Gallery, New York
A Planetary Order, Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, Berlin
After A War, LIFT Festival, Battersea Arts Center, London
Wars During My Lifetime, live broadcast, Whitstable Biennale Commission
Mapping Spaces, ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany
Make the Living Look Dead, 2nd Cannons, Los Angeles
Born Digital, Paddle8
Look Into the Net, Edith Russ Haus, Oldenburg, Germany

2013
Departure of All (solo) Noshowspace, London
Open Cube, White Cube, Mason's Yard, London
Along Some Sympathetic Lines (solo), Or Gallery, Berlin
Catalyst: Contemporary Art and War, Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
Wars During My Lifetime (performance), Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
Fakturen, & GfM, Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Reason and Emotion: Landscape and the contemporary Romantic, Kunstverein Springhornhof, Neuenkirchen
(Im)material Labour, Art Exchange, Colchester
Wars During My Lifetime, Canterbury

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2012

Text Trends newspaper, FutureEverything, Manchester
Global (solo), Casal Solleric, Palma de Mallorca
Martin John Callanan (solo), Horrach Moya Gallery, Palma de Mallorca
Whitstable Biennale
The London Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London
Deed Poll, Whitechapel Gallery, London
The Present is a Point Just Past, Stephen Lawrence Gallery, University of Greenwich, London
Text Trends newspaper series, The Open Data Institute, London
Time-Lapse, SITE Santa Fe, USA
Transactions, Centro Cultural de España en Guatemala, La Ciudad de Guatemala

2011

Extimacy, Es Baluard Modern and Contemporary Art Museum, Palma, Spain
Transactions, Horrach Moya Gallery, Palma, Spain
Live 2011 Grand Prix, Finland (honorary mention award best online project)
Regeneration.011, Istanbul, Turkey
Urbanea 2011, Inca, Mallorca, Spain
Several Interruptions, SCEMFA, University College London, UK
The MINI Museum of XXI Century Arts, Büro BDP, Berlin, Germany

2010

FutureEverything, Manchester, UK
The World in 100 Years, Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria
How We Became Metadata, IMCC, University of Westminster, London, UK
ISEA2010 RUHR, Dortmund, Germany
Screengrab Award, Townsville, Australia
Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Serbia
11 FILE, Brazil
File Prix Lux, Brazil (finalist)
Pin Board Project, London, UK
Collaborators 2, ROOM, London, UK
Field Broadcast
Rizom Grada, Belgrade, Serbia
Web Biennial 10, Istanbul Contemporary Art Museum, Turkey
NETescopio, MEIAC Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo, Spain

2009

FILE RIO 2009, Brazil
UCL Artists, London, UK
Jyväskylä Art Museum, Finland
Space is the Place, ISEA 2009, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland

2008

Screens Melbourne, Australia
Moscow International Film Festival, Russia
Encoding Experience, Hunter Street Centre for the Arts, Australia
Netaudio Festival, London, UK
ABPP loan exhibition, AKI Enschede, The Netherlands
FILE Hipersonica Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Whitstable Biennale Satellite, UK
Live Art Falmouth, UK
Residence Gallery, London, UK
IDFA DocLab
FILE Electronic Language International Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil

2007

Biennale 3000, Sao Paulo, Brazil
FILE Hipersonica Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Hz Journal #10, Fylkingen
Exploding Cinema, London, UK (screening)
UNESCO Virtual Residency, Saar, Germany
Art and Communication conference: Espionage Technologies and Art, Latvia
Dislocate, Ginza Art Laboratory, Japan
Velocity, Folly Festival of Digital Culture, Lancashire, UK
Trampoline, Year 10, Broadway, Nottingham, UK
TakeAway, Science Museum, London, UK
Sound:Space Symposium, South Hill Park, UK
8th Pixxelpoint festival, Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Convocatoria International Art Tech Media 07
Radio Tower Xchange (RTX), Riga, Latvia
Mapping, Bury Art Gallery, Bury, UK

2006

Adding Insult to Imagery?, Kipp Gallery, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Central Missouri State University, USA
FRAMED, Slade Centre for Electronic Media (part of Node.London festival), London, UK
Paraflows 06 Festival, Blumberg, Vienna, Austria
Trampoline/Radiator biennial Festival for New Technology Art, Nottingham, UK
NOMUSIC Festival X (24 hour performance)
Resonance 104.4fm, London
SightSonic, York International Digital Arts Festival, UK
Memefest 2006 – International Festival of Radical Communication, Slovenia
ArtConcept Festival, Saint-Petersburg, Russia
International Selection, 7th Seoul Film Festival, Korea
Concordia University Electroacoustics Series XXIV, Concordia University, Canada (performance)

Further exhibitions

Parallel Literature, P74 Gallery, Ljubljana
Al-Nahj International Film Festival, Iraq
The Laughter of Things, Piet Zwart Institute
Hearts & Minds, Hannah Maclure Centre, Dundee
M0N3Y AS AN 3RRR0R, M0N3Y.US
Clockwork Gallery, Berlin

AWARDS

2014–2017, Philip Leverhulme Prize in Visual and Performing Art (triennial)
2016, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)
2016, Berlin Art Prize (finalist)
2015, Alumni of the Year, Birmingham City University
2011, Live Grand Prix, Finland (honorary mention award best online project)
2011, Screengrab Award, Townsville, Australia (award)
2010, File Prix Lux (finalist)
2004, Next Level Vorsprung durch Technik Photography Awards (finalist)

RESIDENCIES

2015–2017, Artist at the Bank of England, Leverhulme Trust funded
2012, Artist in Residence, Center for Artists' Residencies and Exchanges, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
2009, Researcher in Residence, Simon Faithfull's Mobile Research Station, Berlin Sculpture Park, Germany
2008–09, Artist in Residence, UCL Environment Institute, London
2007, Artist in Residence, At Home In Europe, Riga Centre for New Media Culture RIXC, Latvia

PUBLICATIONS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books, artists' publications, newspapers, academic writing, contributions to other publications, and editorial and publishing work.

Books, artists' publications and printed editions

2021, Each and Every Command, expanded digital edition, Feral File. PDF (15,562 pages) and plain text; edition of 75.
2016, Each and Every Command, electronic book and printed archive. Kindle edition; electronic archive deposited at the British Library.
2015, I Cannot Not Communicate, Vitsœ, New York. UCL Discovery record.
2015, Pi to thirty-nine decimal places can be used to calculate the volume of our observable universe, accurate to the size of one hydrogen atom, printed edition. ISBN 9781907829208.
c. 2015, All the people who have ever lived, and will ever live, printed edition.
2014, Wars During My Lifetime, 1982–2014, third English edition, LIFT and Battersea Arts Centre. ISBN 9781907829185.
2013, Departure of All, noshowspace, London. Exhibition publication, edition of 500. Essay by Pau Waelder and interview by Domenico Quaranta. ISBN 9781907829840. PDF.
2013, Wars During My Lifetime, second English edition, International Peace Day, Canterbury. ISBN 9781907829161.
2013, Zu meinen Lebzeiten (Wars During My Lifetime), first German edition, Or Gallery, Berlin. ISBN 9781907829147.
2013, Certificate of Existence, noshowspace, London.
2012, Text Trends, newspaper series, Open Data Institute, London; four issues, 50 copies per issue.
2012, Text Trends, Merkske. Artwork documentation.
2012, Wars During My Lifetime, first English edition, Whitstable Biennale. ISBN 9781907829123.

2012, Guerres durant la meva vida (Wars During My Lifetime), first Catalan edition, Casal Solleric, Palma. ISBN 9781907829130.
2011, International Directory of Fictitious Telephone Numbers, artist's book. ISBN 9781907829116.
2009/2010, Data Soliloquies, with Richard Hamblyn, Slade Press / UCL Environment Institute. ISBN 9780903305044.
2007, Letters 2004–2006: Confirmation That You Still Exist; I Respect Your Authority; When Will It End; One London, Book Works, London. 48 pages; edition of 1,000; 240 × 175 mm. ISBN 9781870699983. Publisher's record.
Full record of the five newspaper editions of Wars During My Lifetime.

In preparation

Ten Thousand Days of Almost Seeing Someone, photographic book, 2004–2026.
I Could Start With the Truth. But I Won't., text publication.

Academic publications, essays and journal contributions

2018, Personal Genome Project UK (PGP-UK): a research and citizen science hybrid project in support of personalized medicine, BMC Medical Genomics, 11, article 108. Citizen science consortium member. PubMed.
2017, contribution to Failed States: A Journal of Indeterminate Geographies, issue 1: Island.
2012, A Planetary Order (Terrestrial Cloud Globe), Leonardo, MIT Press, vol. 45, no. 4, pp. 380–381. Journal issue.
2011, Future Climate Change, contribution from Data Soliloquies, with Richard Hamblyn. Edited by Mark Maslin and Samuel Randalls, Routledge. Further bibliographic details.
2011, Studies in Temporal Urbanism: The urbanTick Experiment, contribution from Data Soliloquies, edited by Fabian Neuhaus, Springer.
2009, Migrating Reality, Germany and Lithuania.
2008, An Ethnology of Solitude, At Home in Europe, Riga Centre for New Media Culture RIXC.
2007, An Ethnology of Solitude, presented at the 9th International Festival for New Media Culture, Latvia. Related artwork.

Contributions to books and other publications

2020, Pau Waelder, You Can Be a Wealthy/Cash-Strapped Art Collector in the Digital Age, Printer Fault Press. Visual contribution.
2013, Art and the Internet, Black Dog Publishing. Artwork reproduced.
c. 2009–2010, Skulpturenpark Berlin_Zentrum, Berlin.
2009, Grounds (Berliner Mauer), in You Are Here, Broken Dimanche Press, Berlin. Photographic contribution.
2008, Radio Tower Xchange (RTX), CD publication, Riga.
2007, UNESCO Virtual Residency, Germany.

Editorial, design and publishing work

2014, Pau Waelder, $8,793 Worth of [Art], Merkske. Publisher; digital edition of 100.
2013, Inspired!, edited by Susan Collins and Lala Rukh Selim, Slade Press, UCL. Book design.
2012, Slade Graduate Research 2012, Slade Press, UCL. Credited contributor. ISBN 9780903305099.
c. 2010–2012, Leonardo Electronic Almanac, junior editor.
2010–present, Merkske, independent publisher.

Selected exhibition publications and catalogues

Publications accompanying exhibitions in which the work has appeared, including monographic publications. See also writing about the work.

2016, Real Time, Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona.
2015, How to Construct a Time Machine, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes.
2014, Mapping Spaces: Networks of Knowledge in the Landscape Art of the 17th Century, ZKM Karlsruhe.
2014, A Planetary Order, Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, Berlin. Includes Scaling the Sublime by Lauren Reid.
2013, Departure of All, noshowspace, London (also listed under books).
2013, Catalyst: Contemporary Art and War, Imperial War Museum North.
2013, Verstand und Gefühl: Landschaft und die zeitgenössische Romantik, Kunstverein Springhornhof.
2012, Global, Casal Solleric, Palma. Exhibition publication.
2010, ISEA2010 RUHR, International Symposium on Electronic Art. Exhibition catalogue (PDF).

Library and bibliographic records

British Library catalogue — includes legal deposit records. The name search also returns unrelated authors.
Open British National Bibliography — Wars During My Lifetime; Departure of All; Slade Graduate Research 2012.
Centre for Fine Print Research, UWE Bristol — artists' books reference list.

UCL Discovery — institutional research record.
Leonardo/OLATS — bibliography of published articles.
ISEA Symposium Archives — artistic and professional records.
Feral File Archive — digital edition of Each and Every Command.
Collections and archives — Critical bibliography — Further documentation in Notes.

WRITING ABOUT THE WORK

Essays, interviews and research by curators, artists and writers.

Data Soliloquies — Thierry Fournier · Exhibition essay · 2017

Fournier connects the work through the desire to represent totalities, the way quantification shapes value, and the limits of human perception. He considers A Planetary Order, Text Trends and The Fundamental Units within a broader reading of Callanan's practice.

Read essay in English — En français

Tangible Algorithms of the Everyday — Marialaura Ghidini · Curatorial essay · 2015

Ghidini examines I Cannot Not Communicate, a library formed from Amazon's recommendations, through algorithmic profiling, collective behaviour and the organisation of knowledge. The installation makes the operation of a commercial recommendation system available to readers in physical form.

Read essay

A Map of the World — Pau Waelder · Exhibition essay · 2013

In his discussion of Departure of All, Waelder relates the worldwide flight departure board to the speed and scale of contemporary mobility, and to the systems of coordination in which passengers participate.

Read the published extract — Full essay — Exhibition publication (PDF), with an interview by Domenico Quaranta

The Agency of Error in Post-digital Print — Laura Rosser · Doctoral research · 2023

Rosser considers Each and Every Command in relation to mistakes, human agency and the preservation of digital information. The work informs her research into the interactions between print, computational processes and everyday reliance on automated systems.

Read research extract — University of Plymouth thesis record

Further reading, interviews and exhibition publications

Im Dialog mit Amazon, Brigitte Kramer (DE)
Actions, exhibition text by Pau Waelder, Galería Horrach Moyà (2017)
Pointing at what isn't there, Diane Sims, accompanying The Present is a Point Just Passed (2012)
On Systems and Processes, article and interview by Pau Waelder, art.es #53 (2013) — PDF
Exhibition publication from Noshowspace solo exhibition, includes A Map of the World by Pau Waelder and an interview with Domenico Quaranta
Exhibition publication from A Planetary Order, Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, includes Scaling the Sublime by Lauren Reid
Exhibition notes from Global, Casal Solleric
Exhibition publication from Landscape and the contemporary Romantic, Kunstverein Springhornhof
Real Time, Arts Santa Monica, exhibition catalogue

Further critical and academic bibliography

2021, Pau Waelder and Willa Köerner, Code Is All Around Us, Feral File, Instructions Follow.
2020, Pau Waelder, Planetary Thinking: On Data Visualization in the Work of Martin John Callanan, Accesos, Universidad Complutense de Madrid.
2020, Pau Waelder, You Can Be a Wealthy/Cash-Strapped Art Collector in the Digital Age, Printer Fault Press.
2017, Pau Waelder, Martin John Callanan: Actions, original text.
2010, Pau Waelder, Data Soliloquies, book review, Furtherfield.
More writing, reviews and documentation in Notes — Full publications and bibliography.

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POSITIONS

2007–2018, Teaching Fellow in Fine Art Media (Digital Media & Print), Slade School of Fine Art, University College London
Taught undergraduate and postgraduate students, supporting the development and safe production of complex artworks across digital media, photography, video, print, 3D scanning and fabrication. Member of the Slade Centre for Electronic Media in Fine Art (SCEMFA).

2010–present, Publisher, Merkske
Independent publishing of artists' books and limited-edition publications in print and digital formats.

2017–2025, Technical Director, Katie Paterson Studio, Dunfermline
Developed and produced complex artworks in collaboration with artists, designers, architects and specialist fabricators, including commissions for Apple. Managed the design and redevelopment of a 500 m² studio in a conservation area, including funding applications, construction and hands-on fabrication.

2010, Lecturer & Module Leader (Networked Cultures), University of East London
Led and taught the Networked Cultures module.

Visiting, guest lectures and artist's talks

Piet Zwart Institute; UCL History of Art; UCL Graduate School, Interdisciplinary Studies of Evidence; Research Skills Intercollegiate Network, London; Transart Institute; Es Baluard Modern and Contemporary Art Museum; Eye of the Storm (Arts Catalyst conference), Tate Britain; The Dublin Art and Technology Association, Irish Museum of Contemporary Art; The National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland; Lancaster University; May You Live in Interesting Times Festival of Creative Technology, Chapter Arts, Cardiff; Dartington College of Arts, University College Falmouth, UK; Choreodrome Lecture Series, The Place, London, UK; Walsall College, UK, 8th Pixxelpoint, Nova Gorica, Slovenia; University College for the Creative Arts, Maidstone, UK; 9th International Festival for New Media Culture, Latvia; Paraflows, Vienna, Austria

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2016, Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)
2009–2011, Postgraduate Certificate in Adult Learning and Professional Development, UCL CALT
2003–2005, MFA Fine Art Media, Slade School of Fine Art, University College London (AHRC funded)
2000–2003, BA (Hons) Visual Communication (Photography), Birmingham Institute of Art & Design, Birmingham City University

COLLECTIONS

Imperial War Museum
Open Data Institute
City of Hull
Hull NHS Primary Care Trust
Tate Library Archive Collection
Digital Lives (website archive collection), British Library
The British Library (legal deposit)
National Art Library, V&A
UCL Art Museum Collection
UCL Special Collections
Rhizome ArtBase
Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

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Martin John Callanan uses Mårten Nettelbladt's Miso typeface which conforms to ISO 3098-1:2015 in regard to technical lettering
Mailing list – Online CV