

BEN BYRNE – CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME:	Ben Byrne
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NATIONALITY:	Australian
CURRENT APPOINTMENT:	Technical Officer/Festival Director
ADDRESS:	95 Gladstone Ave, Northcote VIC 3070
LANGUAGES:	English, some Mandarin, some Indonesian.

Education:

University of Technology, Sydney

2008 - Current Doctor of Philosophy

2005 Bachelor of Communications (Media Arts) - Honours First Class with University Medal

Employment:

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

2008 ABC Pool Digital Education Project & Community Development Coordinator

University of Technology, Sydney

2007 - 2008 UTS Music.Sound.Design Project Coordinator

2006 Consultant for HSS Scoping Study, UTS Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2004 - 2005 Faculty Admin Assistant, UTS Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Sydney Conservatorium of Music

2005 - 2007 Music Technology Officer, Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Electrofringe Festival of Electronic Arts

2006 – 2007 Director

2003 Production Manager

2002 – 2004 Technical Officer

Liquid Architecture Festival of Sound Arts

2005 - 2007 Director

Other Professional Experience:

Curator/Organizer/Director

In the last five years I have worked extensively as a curator/organizer/director of various music/sound and electronic arts events, initially co-founding and organizing the *Disorientation* series of performance evenings in Sydney before moving on to curate a number of gallery shows and direct both the *Liquid Architecture Festival of Sound Arts* in Sydney for the last three years and the *Electrofringe Festival of Electronic Arts* in Newcastle for the last two years, as well as oversee the first phase of development of the UTS Music.Sound.Design Project. As a result of this activity I possess an exhaustive knowledge of music/sound culture in Australia, and to some extent worldwide. Also I have developed a wide variety of organizational and logistical skills, particularly in my time working on *Electrofringe*, including artist/staff liaison, budget management, incorporation processes, timetabling and scheduling, data management, marketing, production management, risk assessment and all other aspects of delivering complex programs successfully on time and within budget.

Selected projects Include:

- 2008 *Tracts*, Next Wave 2008 (Exhibition)
- 2008 *Robin Fox I RAUM*, UTS Interactivation Studio (Exhibition)
- 2007 *Patchwork*, Electrofringe 2007 (Exhibition)
- 2006 *Electrofringe 2007 Festival of Electronic Arts*
- 2007 *Terminal*, Carriageworks (Exhibition)
- 2007 *Liquid Architecture 8 Festival of Sound Arts*, Carriageworks
- 2006 *Potent*, First Draft Gallery (Exhibition)
- 2006 *Electrofringe 2006 Festival of Electronic Arts*
- 2006 *Liquid Architecture 7 Festival of Sound Arts*, Performance Space
- 2005 *Finding The Signal In The Noise*, Radio National (Live-To-Air Event)
- 2005 *Liquid Architecture 6 Festival of Sound Arts*, Performance Space
- 2003 – 2005 *Disorientation*, Lanfranchis Memorial Discotheque & Abercombe Hotel

Electronic Musician and Improviser

As an electronic musician and improviser focused on using electronics in live performance, I have performed in a wide variety of contexts around Australia and internationally both solo and in various ensembles and improvised groups with musicians including Robbie Avenaim, Peter Blamey, Jim Denley, Robin Fox, Ivan Lisyak, Shannon O'Neill, Dean Roberts, Clayton Thomas and more. Apart from my own solo work which tends to focus on quite minimal compositions designed to include psychoacoustic effects, I have extensive experience improvising with acoustic musicians using electronics and have a highly developed knowledge of electronic music software and control systems, in particular programming/patcher paradigm software such as Audiomulch, Max/MSP and Pure Data. Most recently I have played at a number of series and festivals in Sydney and Melbourne as well in Tokyo, Helsinki, Berlin and New York

Selected performances include:

- 2008 *Electrofringe 2008 Festival of Electronic Arts* – Cambridge Hotel, Newcastle
- 2008 *Liquid Architecture 9 Festival of Sound Arts* – Sydney & Melbourne
- 2008 *Maximum Arousal* – the Toff in Town, Melbourne
- 2008 *Melbourne International Biennale of Exploratory Music* – The Corner Hotel, Melbourne
- 2007 *Share*, Reboot Bar - New York
- 2007 *Salon Bruit*, Salon Bruit – Licht Blicht Kino, Berlin
- 2007 *ImprovHelsinki*, - Royal College Of The Arts, Helsinki
- 2007 *Mashout*, - The Toff in Town, Melbourne
- 2007 - 2008 *Make It Up Club* – Bar Open, Melbourne
- 2007 *Asia Pacific Festival* – Happy, Wellington
- 2007 *A Night Of Music...*, - The Wine Cellar, Auckland
- 2006 *Electrofringe 2006 Festival of Electronic Arts* - Cambridge Hotel, Newcastle
- 2006 *Liquid Architecture 7* – Powerhouse, Brisbane
- 2005 *Radio National's Finding The Signal In The Noise* - ABC Studio 22, Sydney
- 2005 *Liquid Architecture 6* - Performance Space, Sydney
- 2005 – 2008 *If You Like Improvised Music We Like You/The Now Now Series* - Sydney
- 2005 - 2008 *Now Now Festival Of Improvised Music* - Sydney
- 2004 - 2008 *¼ Inch* – Sydney & Wollongong
- 2004 - *Electrofringe 2004 Festival of Electronic Arts* - Cambridge Hotel, Newcastle
- 2003 - 2005 *Disorientation* - Sydney

Radio Producer/Presenter

I have presented/produced radio programs on a variety of stations, principally 2SER, 2MBS and Radio National, and in a range of formats. After initially beginning my work in radio on the student radio program *Generation HECS* producing talks pieces and interviews around issues affecting tertiary students, I have gone on to present a number of programs, from the magazine style *Wednesday Overdrive* on 2SER to specialist music programs such as *Furthermore*, *Methodology* and my current program *Playlist*, all of which focused on presenting new and experimental musics. Also I have worked with Radio National's radio arts department on a number of occasions, specifically producing content or curating and organizing live radio events for their Sunday night program, *The Night Air*. As a result of my experience working on these programs and others I have extensive skills and knowledge in areas including scripting, interviewing and presenting for radio, conducting background research on interview subjects, editing and pre-production techniques for radio and recording and broadcasting live music.

Selected programs include:

2007 *Playlist*, 2SER 107.3 FM

2006 – 2007 *Methodology*, 2SER 107.3 FM

2004 *The Night Air*, Radio National

2003-2005 *Furthermore*, 2MBS 102.5 FM

2003-2004 *Wednesday Overdrive*, 2SER 107.3 FM

2001-2002 *Generation HECS*, 2SER 107.3 FM

Artist

I have exhibited solo installation works at several exhibitions in Sydney and Melbourne. I believe strongly in producing works with the space they will inhabit in mind and so although all my works involve the use of sound in some form they are as much installations and visual art pieces as any kind of sound art. Recent works include *Tremors*, *Necessary Protection* and *Self-Portrait*.

Selected exhibitions include:

2008 *The Business of Being an Artist*, Serial Space

2008 *It's All Been Done Before*, First Draft Gallery

2008 *Tracts*, Blindside Gallery (2008 Next Wave Festival)

Writer

During my studies at UTS as an undergraduate in the Media Arts & Production Department I became quite interested in post-digital aesthetics and sound theory and so began to write around the subject, responding to theories presented to me and incorporating my experience as an artist working with sound and digital technologies. Subsequently I completed Honours at UTS by writing a thesis entitled *Digital Sound: Technology, Infidelity & Potential*, which examined post-digital aesthetics in detail and attempted to construct a more considered theory of the nature of digital sound. Since completing my Honours studies I have written a number of articles, including one published in *Realtime* and another in *Runway*, and I have just begun work towards a doctorate at UTS addressing the history of research into the nature of sound as an attempt to ontologise sound and seeking to understand sound instead as fundamentally potential and unknowable. Apart from my own work, I have an extensive knowledge and understanding of technology and sound theory and have experience writing in a wide variety of formats aside from academic papers, including writing grant applications and acquittals, research findings, subject documentation and project management records.

Selected writing includes:

- 2008 *Sound in Contemporary Art: Aspiring to the Condition of Music*, *Runway* #11 'Conversation'
- 2008 *Tracts: Brief Notes On Designing The Gallery*, *Tracts* Catalogue (Exhibition Catalogue Essay)
- 2006 *Potent: Sound, Technology and Potential*, *Potent* Catalogue (Exhibition Catalogue Essay)
- 2006 *Exhuming The Dead: Traversing Sound Art, Music And Performance*, *Realtime* #74 (Article)
- 2005 *Digital Sound: Technology, Infidelity & Potential*, Available Online (Honours Thesis)
- 2005 *The iPod: Development or Digestion?*, Available Online (Honours Paper)
- 2005 *The Space In Between: Electronic Music's Occupation of Warehouse Space In Sydney*, Available Online (Honours Paper)

Referees:

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