

Dr THEMBI SODELL, PhD - ABRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE

SOUND ARTIST COMPOSER RESEARCHER

W: <https://thembisoddell.com> E: thembi@thembisoddell.com



Thambi Soddell (b. 1980) is a multi award-winning sound artist, composer and practice-based researcher whose key interest lies in the unsettling nature of abstract, acousmatic sound and its potential for generating new understandings of madness and trauma. Using large PAs or structural multi speaker installations, they offer audiences emotionally intense experiential encounters with the psychological impact of sound and darkness. Thambi is non-binary and of Polish and Anglo-Celtic heritage, born and living on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, 'Australia.'

EDUCATION

PhD (practice-based), RMIT University, 2019. *A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound.*

Bachelor of Arts (Visual Communications) (Honours), RMIT University, 2005. First-class honours.

Bachelor of Arts (Media Arts), RMIT University, 2002. Graduated with distinction.

INSTALLATIONS

Who Is Doing What to Whom? (Object Impermanence), 2022. In "Archives of Feeling: Sensation, Connection, Community" curated by Andrew Tetzlaff, Grace McQuilten, Helen Rayment, Jill Bennett and Renata Kokanovic for The Big Anxiety Festival, RMIT Design Hub Gallery, Melbourne.

Held Down, Expanding, 2018. MONA FOMA, curated by Brian Ritchie, Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, 2018; Polyphonic Social, curated by Liquid Architecture, Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne, 2018; Booktown Festival, Clunes, 2018. **Finalist for the 2019 APRA-AMCOS Art Music Award for Excellence in Experimental Music.**

The Absence of Inclination, 2013. Melbourne Now: Now Hear This (Electroacoustic Composition), curated by Thambi Soddell, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2013.

A Shut in Place, 2012. Audiosphere: Sound Experimentation 1980-2020, curated by Francisco López, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain, 2020.

Window, 2008. "Tracts," curated by Ben Byrne, Next Wave Festival, Blindside Gallery, 2008; "Sound Full: Sound in Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art," curated by Caleb Kelly and Aaron Kreisler, Wellington City Gallery, 2013; Dunedin Public Art Gallery, 2012, New Zealand.

Intimacy, 2003. 360 Degrees: Women in Sound curated by Sianna Lee and Arnya Tehira, Liquid Architecture Festival, Melbourne, 2003.

Violation, 2002. Variable Resistance: Ten Hours of Sound from Australia, curated by Philip Samartzis, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The Sound of Your Name is a Song, 2000. Collaboration with Bruce Mowson, Sianna Lee, Andie Reynolds and Polly Stanton, Melbourne Fringe Festival, First-Site Gallery Melbourne. **Winner of the Melbourne Fringe Festival Visual Arts Award.**

COMMISSIONS

- Nothing (don't remember)*, 2021. 8-channel work commissioned by Liquid Architecture for 'Unheard Relations', part of Site & Sound: Sonic Art as Ecological Practice, McClelland Gallery, Melbourne.
- LET GO OF CONTROL*, 2020. Visual score commissioned by Decibel New Music for their series, 2-Minutes from Home. Online.
- Anger as Consequence (Part One)*, 2020. 8-channel work commissioned by M.E.S.S presented at The SUBSTATION, Newport.
- Stealing*, 2019. Commissioned by the BOLT Ensemble for the JOLT Sonic Festival, Footscray.
- Object Permanence*, 2015. Acousmatic diffusion. ROOM40 OPENFRAME festival, Sweden.
- Your Sickness is Felt in My Body*, 2014. Piece commissioned by Decibel New Music Ensemble for their *After Julia* concert program. **After Julia Program Finalist for the 2016 APRA-AMCOS Art Music Award for Excellence in Experimental Music.**

SELECTED CONCERTS & LIVE PERFORMANCE

- UnKnowing Madness*, 2022. Concert and Lecture. The Big Anxiety Festival Lived Experience Forum, curated by Jill Bennett and Rebecca Moran, Storey Hall, RMIT University, Melbourne; +Concepts, RMIT Design Hub Gallery, Melbourne.
- Nothing (don't remember)*, 8-channel concert. A Room that Echoes Festival, Audio Foundation, Auckland 2021; Audible Edge Festival of Sound, Old Customs House, Perth 2021.
- Love Songs* album launch, live performance. Festival of Live Arts, The SUBSTATION, Melbourne, 2018. **Winner of the 2019 Green Room Award for Contemporary Sound Performance.**
- Love Songs* album preview, live performance. Mengi, Reykjavik, 2018; Ausland, Berlin, 2017.
- Glue and Return*, live performance. Avantwhatever Festival, curated by Ben Byrne, RRR Performance Space, Melbourne, 2016.
- Untitled*, live performance. Listening at a Knife's Edge, curated by Liquid Architecture, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, 2016; NEW16 Symposium, curated by Julian Day, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 2016.
- A Shut in Place*, 5.1 concert. Listening Visions, curated by Gail Priest. Rencontres, Bourges, France, 2014.

SELECTED FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES & TOURS

- The NOW Now festival*. Duo with Nigel Brown. Red Rattler, Sydney 2015; Duo with Anthea Caddy. Red Rattler, Sydney 2013; Solo performance. Red Rattler, Sydney, 2012; Duo with Tony Buck. The Factory, Enmore, 2007; Duo with Anthea Caddy. The Newtown, Sydney, 2006.
- High Reflections Festival*. Solo performance. Red Rattler, Sydney, 2011.
- Liquid Architecture Festival of Sound Arts*. Duo with Anthea Caddy. Cairns, Melbourne and Castlemaine, 2009; Solo performance. Audio Foundation, New Zealand, 2006; Solo performance. Performance Space, Sydney, 2005; Solo performance, RMIT Kaleide Theatre, Melbourne, 2001.
- The Melbourne International Biennale of Exploratory Music*. Quartet with Jerome Noetinger (FR), Max Kohane and Xavier Nichols, curated by Robin Fox and Anthony Pateras. Horse Bazaar, Melbourne, 2008.
- What is Music? Festival*. Live performance with Philip Samartzis, Dave Brown, Anthea Caddy and Andrew Barrie, Horti Hall, Melbourne, 2005; Solo performance, Ding Dong Lounge, Melbourne, 2004.
- European Tour with Anthea Caddy*, live performance, 2009. Hellemanni Tornigalerii, Tallinn, Estonia; Ptarmigen, Helsinki; The Poetic Club, Copenhagen; Café Oto, London; ((VIBRA)) Sound Art Concert Series at OCCC, Valencia, Spain; La Société de Curiosités, Paris, France; Interface @ Data, Marseille, France; La Bascule, Rennes, France; Cave 12, Geneva, Switzerland; Powiekszenie, Warsaw, Poland; AZ Conni, Dresden, Germany; Biegungen festival, Ausland, Berlin, Germany; CK Agora, Wroclaw, Poland.
- Artefact field recording tour*, solo performances alongside Camilla Hannan and Eamon Sprod (Tarab), 2009. The Exeter, Adelaide; Watch This Space, Alice Springs; Happy Yess, Darwin; Club Zho, Perth; ABC Studios Perth; Horse Bazaar, Melbourne; Old Fire Station, Bendigo.
- European tour with Anthea Caddy*, live performance, 2006. Palermo, Sicily; Frankfurt, Germany; Hoerbar, Hamburg, Germany; Ausland, Berlin, Germany; Instants Chavirés, Paris, France; Hoerkunstfestival, Erlangen, Germany; Litteraturhaus, Copenhagen, Denmark; La Malterie, Lille, France; Passos Manuel, Lisbon, Portugal; Monte Olivete, Oporto, Portugal; WIM, Zurich,

Switzerland; Dachstock, Bern, Switzerland; WORM, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Alula Ton Serien, Leipzig, Germany.
Cajid Media Australian Tour, solo performances alongside Lawrence English, Camilla Hannan and Bruce Mowson. Wollongong, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Bendigo, Perth.

DISCOGRAPHY

Love Songs, 2018. Thembi Soddell. Brisbane: ROOM40, rm491, compact disc & book.
Host, 2012. Anthea Caddy and Thembi Soddell. Brisbane: ROOM40, rm448, compact disc.
Iland, 2006. Anthea Caddy and Thembi Soddell. Bendigo: cajid media, cajid007, compact disc.
Instance, 2005. Thembi Soddell. Bendigo: cajid media, cajid005, compact disc.
Intimacy, 2004. Thembi Soddell. Bendigo: cajid media, cajid001, compact disc.

SOUND DESIGN & DRAMATURG

Vigil/Wake, 2019. Installation by Peta Murray.
The Unending Absence, 2017. Scripted by Maria Tumarkin, Melbourne Immigration Museum.
Triggered (work-in-progress), 2017. Directed by Rebecca Russell, Clunes Neighbourhood House.
Churlie, 2016. Video by Vanessa Godden.
Entitled Title, 2014. Choreographed by Tim Darbyshire. Kier Choreographic Award, Dancehouse, Melbourne.
More or Less Concrete, 2012. Choreographed by Tim Darbyshire. Arts House, North Melbourne.
Stack, 2011. Choreographed by Tim Darbyshire. In 'Hot August Night', Arts House, North Melbourne.

RESIDENCIES

Melbourne Electronic Sound Studio (M.E.S.S), professional development, Melbourne 2019.
Orange House by the Sea, research exchange with SJ Norman, Indented Head 2019. Supported by Chamber Made.
Cove Park, Scotland 2018. Supported by Cryptic Glasgow and The SUBSTATION,
Tainted Title, sound design for Tim Darbyshire. Tanzhaus Zürich, Switzerland 2017.
The SUBSTATION, creative development for multi speaker sound installation, Melbourne, 2016.
Punctum Seedpod, collaboration with Anthea Caddy, ICU Castlemaine, 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

2022. "Held Down, Expanding: An Exchange on Trauma through Acousmatic Sound Art Practice." In *The Big Anxiety*, ed. Jill Bennett. London: Bloomsbury.
2021. "Unheard Relations." Co-authors A Hanley, Xen Nhá, Tina Stefanou and Joel Stern, *Disclaimer*, September 2021.
2021. "Love Songs: Audio Paper." *Disclaimer*, May 2021.
2020. "The Acousmatic Gap as a Flexible Path to Self-Understanding: A Case for Experiential Listening." *Organised Sound* 25, 3 (On Phonosophy): 344-352.
2019. "A Dense Mass of Indecipherable Fear: The Experiential (Non)Narration of Trauma and Madness through Acousmatic Sound." Ph.D. diss., RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2018. "Love Songs." *Gender Diversity in Music Making*, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.
2016. "A Shut in Place: A First-Hand Account of Understanding Mental Illness and Trauma through Sound Art Practice." *6th Global Conference on Trauma*, Budapest, Hungary.
2016. "Sonic Experience: Listening Session and Discussion on the Lived Experience of Invisible Illness." *Storytelling, Illness and Medicine*, Budapest, Hungary.

WORKSHOPS & MENTORING

2022. "UnKnowing Madness: Creative Sound Workshops for People with Lived Experience of Complex Trauma." Resulting composition premiered at The Big Anxiety Festival, RMIT Storey Hall, Melbourne.
2022. "SIGNAL Screen x Sound Commissions," Mentor for Monique Gawne.
2010. "SIGNAL Screen x Sound Commissions," Mentor for Rebecca Riggs-Bennet.
2019. "SIGNAL Screen x Sound Commissions," Mentor for Mara Schwerdtfeger.

PRESS, REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES & BOOK MENTIONS

2022. "The Sensuality of Low Frequency Sound," Cat Hope, in *The Body in Sound, Music and Performance: Studies in Audio and Sonic Arts*, eds. Keefe, L. & Nogueira, I., Taylor & Francis Group:

England.

2018. "Love Songs Review." Nathan Thomas, *Fluid Radio*.
2018. "Love Songs Review and Interview." Richard Allen, *A Closer Listen*.
2018. "Love Songs Review." Bob Baker Fish, *Cyclic Defrost*.
2018. "Love Songs Review (in Dutch)." Paul Van de Gehuchte, *Dark Entries*.
2018. "Love Songs Review (in Italian)." Massimo Onza, *Soda Pop*.
2018. "Cyclic Selects: Thembi Soddell." Bob Baker Fish & Thembi Soddell. *Cyclic Defrost*.
2018. "Thembi Soddell: Interview." Vito Camarretta. *Chain D.L.K.*
2018. "Who Am I Anyway? The Art of Discovering the Self at MOFO." Tim Byrne, *The Music*.
- 2018: "MOFO 2018: From the depths of the museum to the chapel of bones.", *ABC Classic - New Waves with Stephen Adams (podcast)*.
- 2018: "15 Questions: Thembi Soddell." *15 Questions*.
- 2018: "Love Songs: new album/book video and premiere details." Dan Smart, *Tiny Mix Tapes*.
2018. "WATCH: Thembi Soddell Video on ROOM40," Christian Eede, *The Quietus*.
2018. "Stream Thembi Soddell's Love Songs Album and Read [their] Track-by-Track Commentary." *Self-Titled Magazine*.
- 2012: *Women of Note: The rise of Australian Women Composers*, Rosalind Appleby. Fremantle Press: Perth.
2014. "The Audible & the Invisible: Decibel New Music Ensemble, After Julia." Zsuzsanna Soboslay, *Real Time Arts, Issue 124*.
2011. "Part 1: Sydney Scenes & Sounds." Gail Priest, *Real Time Arts, Issue 103*.
2009. "Soirée Hiatus #3: Julie Rousse + Christine Shenaoui / Anthea Caddy + Thembi Soddell." Performance review (in French), Fabrice Allard, *Ether Real*.
2009. "The Wonderment of the Bleak." Cat Hope. *Art Monthly, Issue 225*.
2008. "Networks, Playfulness and Collectivity: Improv in Australia 1972-2007." Jim Denley, in *Experimental Music: Audio Explorations in Australia*, book edited by Gail Priest. University of New South Wales Press: Sydney.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2021. Australia Council Arts Projects for Individuals Grant - Emerging and Experimental Arts, "The Intangible Known: community building through madness and abstract sound."
2021. Creative Victoria Creative Workers Fund, "Held Down, Expanding Sound Installation Residency and Remount."
2020. Creative Victoria Sustaining Creative Workers Fund "Research and Development for This Moving, Inflexible."
2020. National Assistance Program for the Arts.
2020. Regional Arts Victoria Fellowship, "Research on Access and Sustaining Arts Practice in Regional Arts."
2019. Creative Victoria Quick Response Grant. "MESS Professional Development Residency."
2017. Australia Council for the Arts, "CD release (Love Songs)"
2016. Creative Victoria. Vic Arts New Work Creation Grant "Held Down, Expanding Sound Installation."
2010. Australian Postgraduate Award for PhD studies at RMIT University.
2009. Victoria Rocks International Touring Grant, "European Tour with Anthea Caddy."
2009. Victoria Rocks CD Recording Grant.
2009. Sound Travellers Grant, "Artefact: Regional Australian Field Recording tour with Camilla Hannan and Eamon Sprod"
2005. Australia Council Run_Way Grant.
2005. DCITA Contemporary Music Touring Grant
2004. Arts Victoria CD Recording Grant.