

**Huge Sillytoe Portfolio - Two detailed case studies and selected further projects...**

1. *CIRCULART 3.0 - ReBeLsTrAnDs (ReB; eLsTr; AnDs)*, Cittadellarte and Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy, 2023









Video links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiWoC4vLM5k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKF4S1kSl6M&t=330s>

Description:

Working as artist in residence at Cittadellarte, Huge Sillytoe created a response to the gallery's call for work addressing sustainable textile production with a project that interwove installation, live performance, and video-work. The work revolved around the use of a recycled material that Huge labelled 'rebel strands'. These are the strips, shreds, and slivers of material that refuse to conform to the mechanical processes to which they are attempted to be subjected and stick to the frames of the machines, peel off onto the floors, or even sometimes jam the system entirely. Huge collected over two tonnes of this material from the collaborating factories of the project and used it to install an enormous 'living mountain' in the gallery space complete with an intestine made of a seventy metre long zip offcut that Huge then travelled through with a skateboard tied to their back whilst delivering a sermon concerning humans as the gut flora of the Earth as part of a live performance at the exhibition opening.

Huge also made two video-works as part of the exhibition. One video documented a six hour durational performance on the central street of Biella communicating and playing with passersby in a continual stream of sound poetry whilst being slowly submerged in a large pile of yellow rebel strands. The other video showed another seventy metre long zip being unopened on the side of a mountain in the Italian Alps to reveal a stream of consciousness eco-poem composed with local communities written inside. This zip-poem was also exhibited as an interactive piece in the gallery. Further, Huge created a litter of giant puppets using other fabric scraps that were exhibited surrounding the mountain, inviting exhibition visitors to play with them and consider how rebel strands might offer us sparks of imagination for how things could be different – for a textile industry and world focused not on the brutal efficiency of maximised production, growth, and profits, but rather one that recognises that it is essential to make less, to be kinder to each other and this Earth, to reuse and to make anything new which we do make in a fully circular manner.

2. *The Fool* - How to do what we are not allowed to do, AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, UK, 2022









Video link:

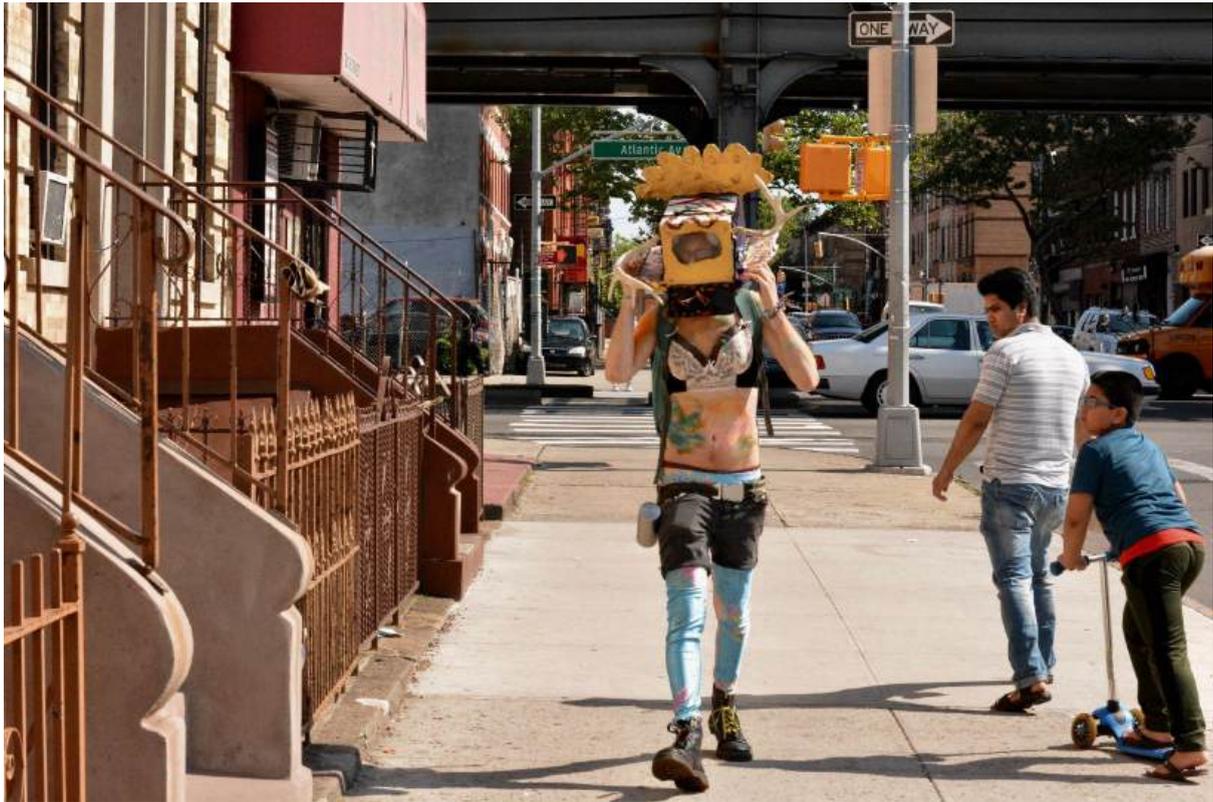
<https://vimeo.com/748555582>

Description:

*As artist in residence at AirSpace Gallery, funded by Arts Council England, Huge Sillytoe created a series of experimental happenings, workshops, and participatory performance games with local communities both within the gallery and in public spaces around Stoke-on-Trent. Using the studio at AirSpace, Huge also created a giant mask and portable puppet theatre, as well as a series of automatic-sound-poetry-machines which they then used to create their performances. They used documentation of these performances to create a new video work - 'MARHÖ THÉLKI ARAPNA MOOKI BAWU NYAP AH (How to do what we are not allowed to do)' - exploring the political ramifications, great and small, global and local, of playing and fooling. This video, the giant mask, and interactive instruments were then exhibited at AirSpace as part of the group exhibit 'The Fool'.*

*Thinking of the figure of the medieval court jester afforded licence to playfully provoke, a quotation from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night might come to mind: "There is no slander in an allow'd fool". Here the subversive capacity of the fool may be seen as diminished if their fooling is ultimately permitted by the powerful. Perhaps, then, the real dissident force of the fool may lie in doing what is not permitted, transgressing expectations and undermining hierarchical demands. Here a slogan of the Provos/Kabouters Dutch performance prankster collectives of the 60s/70s still resonates: "That which you are not allowed to do, you can still do it". Huge Sillytoe's work as artist in residence at AirSpace Gallery played with how the fool may help us today to righteously break the rules and do what we are not allowed to do - establishing greater freedoms in resistance to the oppressive dictates of normative authority.*

**Selected Further Projects:**



***Hariṇa Maṃyūra*, Series of Street Performances and Exhibition of video-work in The Living Gallery, New York City, May 2018. Photos: Ivana Casanova.**



***¿Con Cúal Cuchara Come El Sol?*, Installation and performance in Casa Viva, Mexico City, February 2020. Photos: Rodrigo Jardón.**



**Sparkle Mouse says: 'NO MORE ART!', Installation and performance at Grace Exhibition Space, New York City, October 2018. Photos: Miao Jiaxin.**



***The Abolish All Cages Whistle Choir (open to all whistlers and non-whistlers), Workshops and performances in public spaces across London leading to new video works, July 2021. Photos: Nandi Esposito.***



***Another Otter in the Gutter, What Other Bother Could be Better?***, Performance and exhibition of giant masks at Starptelpa Festival, Latvian Academy of Art, Riga, June 2022. Photo: Monta Krafte.



***Explorations in Revolutionary Investigative Monsterhood, Video-performance, Folie/Culture, Quebec City and London, November 2020. Photos: Mali Mowcka.***



***Floating Roots*, Performance at Relational Art Week, Myymälä 2, Helsinki, August 2022. Photos: Kamila Sladowska.**



***Una semilla haciendo cosquillas a la tierra***, Performance at Festival Nómada, Cine Nave Metro, San Salvador, March 2023. Photos: Local Yuki.



*A stormcloud balanced on the chin, glistening like a raspberry mid-licking, Performance at Live Art Arcade, POPArt, Johannesburg, March 2025. Photos: Zivanai Matangi.*

## ***Curriculum Vitae - Hugu Sillitoe / Dr. Hugh Sillitoe – Transdisciplinary Artist***

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### **Selected residencies, exhibitions, and shows:**

2025, Residency and Exhibition, *Bridging Spaces*, House of Friends Gallery, Nairobi, Kenya

2025, Exhibition and performance, *Os raios são raízes de árvores invisíveis*, Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano and Projecto Utopia, Maputo, Mozambique

2025, Performance, *Roots Tangle Round Clouds*, Bushfire Festival, Mbabane, eSwatini

2024/2025, Residency investigating new artistic methods for combining scientific and cultural understandings of lightning and electrical storms, *Wits Art Science Tech Postdoctoral Residency*, Wits School of Arts and Johannesburg Lightning Research Laboratory, Johannesburg, South Africa

2024, Performance, *Oversized Mice Riding Undersized Bikes*, Joyful Punk Festival - Alphabetti Theatre, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

2024, Arts Council England project investigating new methodologies for socially-committed art exchanges between UK and Latin America, *Develop Your Creative Practice*, Centro de Teatro dos Oprimidos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; UNION, Leeds; Collective Encounters, Liverpool; Socially Engaged Arts Salon, Brighton, UK

2024, Residency, exhibition, and performances, *En la cima, tendremos sandía*, Hiperactiva Lab, La Paz, Bolivia

2023, Performance and installation, *Conjurero*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Panamá, Panama City, Panama

2023, Performances and workshops, *La soledad del sapo comiéndose un trapo*, Liminales Encuentro Internacional de Prácticas Escénicas Contemporáneas, Imagineros Sala, Medellín, Colombia

2023 Re residency and exhibition, *R3Cre0*, Casa Tres Patios, Medellín, Colombia

2023 Performance, *Una semilla haciendo cosquillas a la tierra*, Festival Nómada, San Salvador, El Salvador

2023 Artist in residence and performances, *Ser Faromano*, Centro Cultural Buque Azart, Manta, Ecuador

2022/23 Artist in residence, exhibition of installation and video works, and performance, *CIRCULART III*, Cittadellarte, Biella, Italy

2022 Performance, *Y'a rien par ici*, DOC!, Paris, France

2022 Performance and exhibition, *Floating Roots*, Relational Art Week, Myymälä 2, Helsinki, Finland

2022 Artist in residence and exhibition of masks and video-performances, *The Fool*, AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, UK

2022 Performance, *Another Otter in the Gutter What Other Bother Could be Better*, Latvian Academy of Art, Riga, Latvia

2022 Artist in residence, co-organization of FAMA festival, series of workshops, and performance, *Yo soy un planeta, me puedes cambiar*, Huerto Roma Verde, Mexico City, Mexico

2022 Exhibition, *El gusano en zancos*, Taller del Artista, San José, Costa Rica

2021 Performance, *Alas, Porridge Fish!*, Runt of the Litter, London, UK

2021 Residency and series of workshops and interventions, *The Pipedream Noise Orchestra*, Makamik and Loukko Center of Subcultures, Helsinki, Finland

2020 Virtual residency and series of workshops and interventions with participants in Quebec and London, *Explorations in Revolutionary Investigative Monsterhood*, Folie/Culture, Quebec City, Canada

2020 Residency, exhibition, and performance, *¿Con Cúal Cuchara Come El Sol?*, Artivismo MX and Casa Viva, Mexico City, Mexico

2019 Residency and durational performance, *Experiments in Performance Writing*, Grace Exhibition Space, New York City, USA

2018 Series of workshops and interventions, *Interference, Absurdity, Performance, and Political Change*, Interference Archive, New York City, USA

2018 Performance, *Utoepia*, NYC Anarchist Art Festival, Judson Memorial Church, New York City, USA

2018 Performance and installation, *Sparkle Mouse says: 'NO MORE ART!'*, Grace Exhibition Space, New York City, USA

2017 Series of workshops and interventions, *Errasmus Mundus: Deseducación Errorista*, Experiencia Hiedra, Centro Cultural Recoleta, MALBA, and other locations, Buenos Aires, Argentina (in collaboration with the collectives Etcétera and Internacional Errorista)

2017 Performance, *El Huevonazo*, Teatro Popular La Otra Cosa, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2016 Exhibition and performance, *One Tonne Fruit Bowl*, Hot! Hot! Hot! Climate Arts Festival, Melbourne, Australia

2016 Artist in residence, MKA: Theatre of New Writing and Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne, Australia

2016 Series of participatory performance banquets, *Howling Spoon Performance Kitchen*, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Kinning Park Complex, and Glasgow Autonomous Space, Glasgow, UK

**Education:**

PhD University of Glasgow; MA University of Chicago; BA University of Cambridge

**University of Glasgow, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Culture and Creative Arts 2015 – 2019**

Doctor of Philosophy (practice-led and passed without corrections)

**University of Chicago, Interdisciplinary Master of Arts, 2013-2014**

M.A. 4.0 Grade Point Average

**University of Cambridge (King's College), Human, Social, and Political Sciences, 2009-2012**

B.A. (Hons) 1st class.

### **Selected Publications:**

Sillitoe, H. (2021) The (Supra)Tactical Performance Spectrum: Transgressive Performance as a Political Act from Poetic Eggs in Buenos Aires to Mambo-Dancing Maggots in New York City and Beyond. *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, 17 (1 & 2)

Sillitoe, H. (2024) Transgressive Street Intervention as a Form of (In)Direct Anarchist Action and Embodied Punk Philosophy. In: Donaghey, J., Kaltefleiter, C., and Boisseau, W. (eds.) *Anarchism and Punk: Critical engagements with other radical politics and practices*. Active Distribution: Bristol, UK.

### **Languages:**

**English** - Native Speaker

**Spanish** - Effectively Bilingual (certified to C2 level by Instituto Cervantes following Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

**Portuguese** - Fluent