

## HELEN PYNOR – BIOGRAPHY

**Helen Pynor** is an Artist and Researcher whose practice explores philosophically and experientially ambiguous zones, such as the life-death boundary, the inter-subjective nature of organ transplantation, and the animate-inanimate boundary in relation to prosthetics. Her work is informed by in-depth residencies in scientific and clinical institutions, for example **The Francis Crick Institute**, London; **The Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics**, Dresden; **The Heart and Lung Transplant Unit**, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; and **SymbioticA**, The University of Western Australia, Perth; and cultural institutions for example **The Australia Council for the Arts London Studio; Performance Space**, Sydney; and **École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts**, Paris. Pynor also frequently collaborates with members of the broader community whose embodied experiences connect with the themes of her work.

Pynor has completed a practice-based **PhD** at Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney, a **Bachelor of Visual Arts** at Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney (Sculpture, Installation, Photography) and a **Bachelor of Science** (1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons) at Macquarie University, Sydney (Cell and Molecular Biology).

Pynor has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally. Since 2011 her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at the **Museum of Contemporary Art Querétaro** Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (2019); **Beijing Media Art Biennale** CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, and Hanshan Art Museum, Suzhou (2018-2019); **The Francis Crick Institute**, London (2018); **Siteworks**, Bundanon, NSW (2018); **SPECTRA**, **South Australian School of Art Gallery**, Adelaide (2018) and **UTS Gallery** Sydney (2019); **National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts**, Taichung (2017, 2013); **Science Gallery London** (2017); **The Old Operating Theatre**, London (2017); **Dominik Mersch Gallery**, Sydney (2012-2017); **Manning Valley Regional Gallery**, Taree, NSW (2017); **Riddoch Art Gallery** Mount Gambier, SA (2017); **FACT – Foundation for Art and Creative Technology**, Liverpool, UK (2016); **Centraal Museum**, Utrecht, The Netherlands (2016); **Ateneo Art Gallery** Ateneo de Manila University, Manila, Philippines (2016); **UNSW Galleries**, Sydney (2016); **THE CUBE**, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (2016); **World Science Festival**, Brisbane (2016); **FRAC-Le Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain, Franche-Comté** Besançon, France (2015); **Rommelaere Instituut**, University of Ghent, Belgium (2015); **La Trobe University Museum of Art**, Melbourne (2015); **Gold Coast City Gallery**, Surfers Paradise, QLD (2015, 2011); **Galerie Patrick Ebensperger**, Berlin (2014); **GV Art gallery**, London (2011-2014); **Kandos Projects**, Kandos, NSW (2014); **International Symposium on Electronic Art - ISEA2013**, Sydney (2013); **National Centre for Contemporary Arts**, Baltic Branch, Kaliningrad, Russia (2013); **Galerija Kapelica**, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2013); **Science Gallery Dublin** (2013); **The Gordon Museum**, London (2013); **Museum of Science and Industry**, Manchester, UK (2013); **Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences MAAS (Powerhouse Museum)** Sydney (2013, 2011); **OK Center for Contemporary Art**, Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria (2012); **Wellcome Collection**, London (2012); **Bargehouse**, London (2012); **Royal Academy of Arts**, London (2012); **Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery**, Mornington, VIC (2012); **The Centre for Tropical Medicine** Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (2012); **Performance Space**, Sydney (2011); **The Australian Centre for Photography**, Sydney (2011); **Monash Gallery of Art**, Melbourne (2011); and **Leonardo Electronic Almanac**, MIT, online (2011).

In 2012 Pynor received an Honorary Mention at the internationally prestigious **Prix Ars Electronica**, Linz, Austria for her collaborative work **The Body is a Big Place**, exploring organ transplantation. She has received national awards in Australia including the **Royal Bank of Scotland Emerging Artist Award** (2009) and the **Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award** (jointly, 2008). She has been an **ANAT Synapse Art-Science Residency** fellow, recipient of an Australian **University Postgraduate Award** scholarship to support her PhD studies, and was awarded nine **Australia Council for the Arts** grants from 2010-2019.

Pynor's work has featured in a wide range of journals, books and media including *The Guardian*, *The British Medical Journal*, *RealTime*, *New Scientist*, BBC Radio 3, *Antennae: The Journal for Nature in Visual Culture*, *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, *Photofile*, *Artlink*, *Artist Profile*, *The Art Life*, *New Statesman*, *Urban Times*, *Asian Art News*, *The Age*, *The Monthly*, *The Irish Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Australian Art Collector*, *The Art Newspaper*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Lino*, *Das SuperPaper*, *CLOT*, and *Interalia*, and books including *Bat* (Tessa Laird, Reaktion Books, London 2018), *Interdisciplinary Performance: Reformating Reality* (Natasha Lushetich, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016), *The Edinburgh Companion to the Critical Medical Humanities* (Chapter author Rachael Allen, Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2016), *Evolution Haute Couture: Art and Science in the Post-Biological Age* (Ed. Dmitry Bulatov, National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Kaliningrad, Russia, 2013), *Colliding Worlds: How Cutting Edge Science is Redefining Contemporary Art* (Arthur I. Miller, W.W.Norton, London, 2014), and *The Macquarie Group Collection: The Land and its Psyche* (Eds. Julian Beaumont, Felicity Fenner, John Macdonald, UNSW Press, 2012).

Pynor has authored chapters for academic books, including *On the emergent properties of death: When words fall apart* in **Performance and the Medical Body**, eds Alex Mermikides and Gianna Bouchard (Bloomsbury Methuen, London, 2016).

Pynor's work is held in the collections of **The Francis Crick Institute**, London; **Wellcome Collection**, London; **Royal Bank of Scotland**; **The Macquarie Bank Group**, Sydney; **The University of Sydney**; **Artbank** (Australian Government contemporary art collecting agency); **Gold Coast City Art Gallery**, QLD; and **private collections** in France, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland, Singapore and Australia.

Pynor exhibits with **Dominik Mersch Gallery**, Sydney. She lives and works in Sydney and London.

[www.helenpynor.com](http://www.helenpynor.com)