

THOM SOKOLOSKI (CV –1970 to present)
artist, curator, producer, theatre-opera director

NATIONALITY: Canadian

EMAIL: info@thomsokoloski.com

LANGUAGES: English & French

+ INSTALLATION ARTIST:

2019 – LISTENING TO THE WALLS – exterior barn interactive photographic sound installation in Lowville Park ON, Burlington Public Art Lab/CobaltConnects commission.

2017 – INCANTATION – exterior performance art installation under highway overpass in Toronto ON, Art Spin commission

2016 – THE RED GIANT - Fair of Alternative Art of Sudbury, la Galerie du Nouvel Ontario, Sudbury commission

2015 – COLOUR OF THE RIVER RUNNING THROUGH US – land installation of 13 sculptures, McMichael Canadian Art Collection commission*

2013 – ALL THE ARTISTS ARE HERE – image-sound installation, Art Toronto 2013 commission, Metro Toronto Convention Centre*

2013 – EROTIC LIFE OF DREAMS – public participatory shadow-box installation, Spoke Club Gallery

2013 – THE SCARECROWS, workshop development of a new public participatory river installation at Nuit Blanche North, Huntsville, Ontario*

2012 – THE SCARECROWS, workshop development of a new installation at Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, NY*

2012 – THE FUNHOUSE, commissioned by Chevrolet & City of Toronto, presented by Scotiabank Nuit Blanche*

2012 – THE ENCAMPMENT, new version commissioned by Luminato Festival & City of Toronto*

2011 – GHOST NET, development of a new installation during the residency in the Aboriginal community of Mapoon in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia – Ontario Arts Council & Ghost Nets Australia*

2010 – THE RIVER PEACE, large-scale mass movement and light work commissioned by The Historic Distillery District. Nuit Blanche Independent Project*

2009 – THE VERTICES, large-scale concept commissioned by Luminato Festival (postponed)

2008 – THE ENCAMPMENT, national version commissioned by Canadian Association for Community Living and The National Capital Commission. Presented in Major's Hill Park, Ottawa*

2007 – THE ENCAMPMENT (formerly Confinement of the Intellect) New York City version presented on Roosevelt Island in partnership with openhouse^{newyork} and Roosevelt Island Art Gallery*

2006 – CONFINEMENT OF THE INTELLECT - large-scale public participatory artwork for Toronto's inaugural Nuit Blanche. Installed in Trinity Bellwoods Park. Curated by Clara Hargittay.*

2006 – THE BALLOONS - large-scale interactive artwork of 150 balloon -like structures placed on along Ottawa's Rideau Canal, commissioned by The National Capital Commission. (Postponed)

**in the above works Jenny Anne McCowan worked associate director in coordinating participants, choreography, educational outreach, etc.*

+ CURATOR:

2013 - Darkness at the Edge – Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts, Toronto

2012 - Dada ReBoot! - Nuit Blanche Independent Project &The Distillery Historic District, Toronto

2011 - Futurism Today or NOT! - Nuit Blanche Independent Project &The Distillery Historic District, Toronto

2009 - NUIT BLANCHE - Curator for Zone A, Toronto

2008 - CONTACT FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY - Curator for Le Labo d'Art, Toronto

2005 - INTERACTIVE 05 - Producer & co-curator with Clara Hargittay of 15 Canadian interactive artists in the public spaces of the Toronto Conference Centre for the Toronto International Art Fair

+ PERFORMANCE PRODUCER-PROGRAMMER:

2004 - MCLUHAN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE - Program Director and Opening Public Event

designer with a focus on new interactive and media arts.

2000-01 - KOPERNIKUS by Claude Vivier International Tour (in co-production with the Banff Centre, L'Association Française d'Action Artistique with tour at the 2000 Banff Summer Festival, Musica Festival in Strasbourg, Huddersfield Festival in England, L'Opera de Montréal at Place des Arts and Toronto's MacMillan Theatre)

2000 - 14 REMEMBERED by Ahmed Hassan and choreography by Peggy Baker (a theatrical requiem based on the tragic slaying of 14 young women at Montreal's L'École Polytechnique in 1989, Massey Hall, Toronto)

1999 - OPERA BOOM (contemporary operas from across Canada, THE GANG by Peter Hannan and Tom Cone - Vancouver, YO SOY la DESINTEGRACION by Jean Piché and Yan Muckle - Montréal and DOWN HERE ON EARTH by Rainer Wiens and Victoria Ward - Toronto, du Maurier Theatre Centre)

1996 - SONIC BOOM (included (IN)CONTEXT, a fusion of film and music with filmmakers Atom Egoyan and Peter Mettler and music groups Nexus and the Evergreen Gamelan Club, SHE PROMISED SHE'D BAKE A PIE, by the URGE Collective and Giorgio Battistelli's APHRODITE)

1995 - SONIC BOOM (included THE MASTER MUSICIANS OF JAJOUKA from Morocco, WX by composer John Oswald and interwoven commissions by 21 international choreographers, including Bill T. Jones & James Kudelka and Holly Small, Giacinto Scelsi's THE SONGS OF CAPRICORN by Chants Libres from Montréal and THE NEXT VOICE, a concert of music by R. Murray Schafer and Juhan Puhm)

1994 - SONIC BOOM (included MICHAEL NYMAN and His Ensemble, ABSTRACT CHAINS by the Urge collective, Chants Libre's NE BLAMEZ JAMAIS LES BÉDOUINS by Alain Thibault and René Daniel-Dubois, the Banff Centre's EL CIMARRÓN by Hans Werner Henze and Hans Magnus Enzensberger and ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FEMALE VOICE, concert of contemporary vocal music)

+ DIRECTOR:

SITE-SPECIFIC Original Music Theatre / Operatic

2006 - THE ROYAL FLUSH - Site specific spectacle that included dance & circus arts staged in and around five unique fountain and atrium sites. Commissioned by Fallsview Casino, choreographed by Jenny Anne McCowan.

2003 - KAFKA IN LOVE (a 'water-opera' staged inside the Hart House swimming pool with synchronized swimmers, silent film and soundscape, World Stage Festival)

1996 - THE ANXIETY OF IMMORTALITY (installation-opera inside Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto)

1994 - GLENN GOULD BIRTHDAY PARADE (included the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre, the Canadian Children's Chorus and over 200 young musicians and volunteers, along Wellington Street West, Toronto)

SITE-SPECIFIC - Music Theatre / Opera

1992 - HERMES TRISMEGISTOS by R. Murray Schafer (Union Station, Toronto - World Stage Festival)

1990 - HERMES TRISMEGISTOS by R. Murray Schafer (Abandoned Cirque d'hiver - Festival de Liège & Ars Musica Festival, Belgium)

1989 - THE GREATEST SHOW by R. Murray Schafer (Peterborough Festival of the Arts, City Centre Park)

1985 - RA by R. Murray Schafer (Holland Festival, Leyden canals, museum of Egyptology & Viking fortress)

1984 - YANKEES AT YORK by Sky Gilbert & Micah Barnes (Old Fort York, Toronto)

1983 - RA by R. Murray Schafer (Ontario Science Centre, Toronto)

1983 - SID'S KIDS (Punk Musical) by Jane Foy & Allan Booth (Voodoo Club, Toronto)

TRADITIONAL STAGING - Operatic

1996 - PIERROT LUNAIRE & TRANSFIGURED NIGHT by Schoenberg (Artword Theatre, Toronto)

1998 - DOWN HERE ON EARTH (for 5 prepared electric guitars) by Rainer Wiens and Victoria Ward (Factory Theatre & du Maurier Theatre Centre, Toronto, Espace GO, Montreal)

1993 - REQUIEMS FOR THE PARTY GIRL, by R. Murray Schafer (du Maurier Theatre Centre)

1993 - REQUIEMS FOR THE PARTY GIRL by R. Murray Schafer & PIERROT LUNAIRE by Schoenberg (reduced versions for Tel Aviv Chamber Ensemble, Israel)

1996 - PIERROT LUNAIRE by Schoenberg & THE SOLDIER'S TALE by Stravinsky, presented by I Fiamminghi

and conducted by Rodolf Wertén (Belgian and Dutch tour).
1991 - CROWN OF ARIADNE by R. Murray Schafer (Esprit Orchestra, Jane Mallet Theatre)
1990 - LUDI by Marcelle Deschênes & Renée Bourassa (Banff Centre & American New Music Festival, Montreal)
1986 - REQUIEM FOR MAMMAW by John McDowell (Brussel's Summer Festival and 8 city tour of Holland)

THEATRICAL - Dramatic & Original

1985 - KAMIKAZE - original (The Theater Centre)
1985 - MAGDA by John Herbert (Adelaide Court Theatre)
1983 - TOUS LES BAGAGES ABANDONNÉS SERA DÉTRUIT IMMÉDIATEMENT (Cafe de la danse, Paris France)
1982 - MUMMERS' PLAY (Mummers Theatre Company, St. John's NFLD)
1982 - SOTOBA KOMACHI by Yukio Mishima (The Theatre Centre)
1981 - HAMLET BY William Shakespeare (Stephenville Festival of the Arts)
1981 - MERCHANT OF VENICE by William Shakespeare (Toronto International Theatre Festival)
1980 - ENDGAME by Samuel Beckett (The Theatre Centre)
1980 - ANTIGONE by Sophocles (The Theatre Centre)
1980 - MARY'S BOOK OF DESIRE - original (The Theatre Centre)
1979 - WATCHTOWER - original Noh Play (Theatre Passe Muraille)
1979 - THE CHAIRS by Eugene Ionesco (Factory Theatre)
1977 - DEATHWATCH by Jean Genet (Canadian Experimental Performance Season, Niagara-on-the-Lake)
1977 - THE FREEZING POINT OF YOOLA ANDERSON - (Canadian Experimental Performance Season, Niagara-on-the-Lake)
1976 - THE BOND OF POISON - original (le Centre Cultural Canadien in Paris, LaMama in NYC, American Repertory Theatre in Buffalo, Richard DeMarco Gallery in Edinburgh and Barlinnie Prison, Maximum Security in Glasgow)
1974 - THE VILLAGE - original (Festival-Off d'Avignon and Edinburgh Fringe)
1973 - MISS JULIE by August Strindberg (Festival-Off d'Avignon, Edinburgh Fringe, le Nouveau Carré in Paris, LaMama in New York City and the American Contemporary Theatre in Buffalo)

+ COORDINATOR/POSITIONS:

2010 - BOARD MEMBER AND PROGRAMME COORDINATOR for Le Labo - centre for Francophone media arts in Toronto located in The Distillery District.
1994-97 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS voice workshops with Richard Armstrong from the Roy Hart Institute in France and Jean-Jacques Lemêtre, composer for France's Théâtre du Soleil
1995 - THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL NEW-OPERA MEETING (International contemporary opera producers, Metro Hall) including KABARET 21 and NEXT PERFORMERS WORKSHOP
1995 & 98 - INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (ISPA) annual conferences in Toronto and Vancouver. Consultant.
1993 - THE 21ST CENTURY MUSIC-THEATRE & OPERA SYMPOSIUM (du Maurier Theatre Centre)
1993 - THE PATRIA EXHIBITION (retrospective on the visual compositions of R. Murray Schafer, du Maurier Theatre Centre curated by Eshrat Erfanian)

+ FILM PRODUCTION:

2003 - KAFKA IN LOVE 4 minute short-film for Bravo!FACT
2003 - KAFKA IN LOVE 55 minute film for swimming pool production
1996 - DOWN HERE ON EARTH short-film for Moving Pictures Film Festival (Bravo!Fact)
1994 - WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING, Patricia Rozema, Location Scout
1990 - THOMSON HIGHWAY short-film for Toronto Arts Awards
1990 - PERFECTLY NORMAL, Yve Simoneau, Location Scout & Management

1989 - WHITE ROOM, Patricia Rozema, Scout & Location Management

1987 - TOP OF HIS HEAD, Peter Mettler, Scout & Location Management

+ ARTS EDUCATION & SPEAKING:

2018 – FEVERISH WORLD SYMPOSIUM, University of Vermont, Burlington VT. Spoke on the nature of ecological processes with the practice of public engagement in his work, plus workshop with his long-time collaborator, Jenny Anne McCowan.

2013 - HANDS ON WITH THE ARTISTS, educational outreach to new Canadians to participate in the creation of a commissioned installation from Art Toronto entitled All The Artists Are Here.

2013 - APPLIED BRILLIANCE – Interactive Participatory Engagement on 'Being Human in a Digital Age' – Brooklyn, NYC

1999 - SATURDAY AFTERNOON OPERA PANELS with the creative team of the three operas produced in Opera Boom 99, Partnership with Indigo Books & Music.

1997 - IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM ON THE CREATION OF THE NEW OPERA DOWN HERE ON EARTH sponsored by Opera America through the Lila-Wallace Readers Digest Fund, worked with two alternative schools in Toronto, Subway Academy II Senior School and Horizon Alternative Junior Public School.

+ TEACHING:

2008 - Gateway Community College, New Haven, CT – Sessional workshop on developing a large-scale, site-specific public participatory art installations.

2006/2007 - University of Buffalo Sophomore Honors Dept. - Lecture demonstration on developing integrated arts into business development.

2002 - Glendon College Drama (University of Toronto), Director in Residence French & English)

1989 - Western University, English & French Drama Departments, Director in Residence,

1981-1983 The Native Theatre School, Artistic Director, co-ordinated training, invited guest artists and helped the students create original works based on contemporary native issues incorporating the diverse languages represented at the school. These works then toured to various reserves and festivals.

+ RADIO:

2000-02 - Hosted "OperaZone" - CIUT-FM (89.5). A weekly one-hour look at contemporary opera.

+ EDUCATION & TRAINING:

Niagara County Community College (Niagara Falls NY 1968-70),

The Open Theatre (Training NYC – 1970)

Geneseo State College theatre and modern dance program (Geneseo NY 1970-71,

Damian College - theatre and modern dance program (Buffalo NY 1971),

L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq (Paris, France 1971-73),

Polish Lab Theatre (Training Paris – 1971)

Alliance Française (Paris, France - Level 1-5)

FOUNDER:

The Theatre Centre, Toronto 1980,

Native Theatre School, Toronto 1981,

Autumn Leaf Performance, Toronto 1979