

Vahakn Matossian CV

Vahakn Studio / Human Instruments

3 - 9 BELFAST RD
LONDON
N16 6UN, UK

studio@vahakn.co.uk
www.vahakn.co.uk
www.humaninstruments.co.uk
+44 775 123 4343

Vahakn Studio is a multi- disciplinary independent Art + Design studio in East London

The studio specialises in physical sound installations, artworks and devices. Vahakn is co-founder of Human Instruments, a company dedicated to the development of accessible musical instruments.

Education

MA | Royal College of Art | Design Products | London

BA | University of Brighton | Three Dimensional Design
(a design degree in wood metal ceramics liquid + solid plastics).

Previous Employer

Troika Design LLP, assistant design, prototyping and research.

Current confirmed projects

Land Art Festival Commission, Taiwanese government-funded project Yilan, Taiwan, August 2016

Audio installation of 96-point custom paper/piezo soundsystem "Whispering Light" for ROUNDHOUSE London 2016

3D spatial mapping soundsystem & live transforming props for experimental dance, Stockholm Sweden, April 2016

Recent work

Set design and fabrication for 'Bloodlines' physical music and spoken-word theatre at ROUNDHOUSE London 2015

Development of musical instrument devices with Human Instruments and Bare Conductive.

3 years technical audio and custom instrument support for British Paraorchestra.

ICT ARTCONNECT European Commission Science and Arts full branding and website.

Critical interest

The focus of the work and research, done solo or in collaboration, is to provide profoundly engaging tools.

Each piece, be it sculpture or designed object, highlights and extends the capacity of the senses.

The works seek to empower people to play with and understand normally rigid unexplored physical phenomena.

Background

I am British born in London, my parents are from Armenia and Germany.

My background is colourful and mixed. I have a huge appetite for culture, arts, design, food, music, nature and adrenaline sports.

Working at [Troika](#) was amazing. I was mainly building prototypes and test rigs for fully interactive installations whilst co-researching a book on device art and interactive design / art [THAMES + HUDSON]. Of the exciting projects, The Cloud for Heathrow Terminal 5 stands out.

Portfolio attached or online at:

vahakn.co.uk

Skills

carpentry
metal work
including welding (TIG / MIG)
liquid and solid plastics
mould making (inc. concrete)
fine work
most workshop machines
hand tools
basic electronics
understanding of programming

hand sketching
CAD software
3d printing (extensive FDM)
Solid Works
Rhino
all adobe tools
Logic Pro sound design (extensive)
Pro Tools (moderate)
experimental sound design tools
computer vision

affinity for outdoor work
Sound system
Stage work

More detail

Education (reverse)

Royal College of Art | Masters in Design Products [2007 - 09]

University of Brighton | BA Hons Three Dimensional Design [2003 - 06]

Central School of Speech and Drama | Foundation in Art and Design [2002 - 03]

University College School | Nine GCSE and four A levels [1995 - 2001]

Recent Conferences / Talks

Cypsy, Cyber Psychology and Virtual Reality, San Diego California 2015

Music Tech Fest, Scandanavia 2015

Sonar +D, Barcelona Spain 2015

Music Tech Fest, Slovenia 2015

Music Hackspace, London 2015

Internet Festival, Pisa, Italy 2015

Previous talks include

TEDx, Next Aarhus DENMARK, Designtide Japan, Shanghai Art & Design Academy, Barbican...

Employment / Larger Design Projects

One Year at Troika Design LLP | 2006 - 7 [TROIKA.UK.COM]

Design consultation, prototype design + fabrication for Hulger | 2006 - 9 [HULGER.COM]

Continuous consultation for Architect + Exhibition designer Charles Marsden-Smedley | 2006 - 9

Self initiated interactive installations: Glastonbury, Glade, Bloom & Secret Garden Party Festivals |

Three years computer pool room technician | University of Brighton 2003 - 6

Lights + Sound tech for theatre production Black Angel - A life of Arshile Gorky. Over eighty show 2006 - 9

leading theatres internationally, including off Broadway, Tate Modern, Gulbenkian PARIS | 1999 - 2

Technical consultation, Lucky Voice | 2009

Branding + Graphics design, Dogbot Publishing | 2009

Co-Design + build Chocolate Soup Cafe, Steamboat Springs COLORADO | 2009

Interior Design + Build BELLAS Wine Bar Steamboat Springs COLORADO | 2009 - 2010

Founder of FRUIT CITY PROJECT fruitcity.co.uk | 2009 ongoing

Design Director SUPERLEGGERA carbon fibre luxury products | 2011 - 2014

Founder, Human Instruments Ltd. Musical instruments for people with physical disabilities | UK 2013 ongoing

Audio acoustic and live set design for Bloodlines, ROUNDHOUSE LONDON 2015

Motion Sound Labs Research Workshops developing accessible tech for performance BRIGHTON | LONDON 2015

Exhibitions

Solo Photographic exhibition 2005 | The Other Cinema, Leicester Sq, LONDON

Solo Photographic exhibition 2005 | Carhartt, Covent Garden, LONDON

New Designers 2006 | Business Design Centre, Angel, LONDON

Into the Woods 2007 | The Shop at Bluebird, Kings Road, LONDON [CONRAN]

Work in Progress 2008 | Royal College of Art, LONDON

DESIGNERSBLOCK 2008 | Milan Design Week, Piscina Argelati, MILANO

Berlin Biennale 2008 | Skulpturenpark _ Zentrum BERLIN

DESIGNERSBLOCK 2008 | Selfridges, LONDON

Work in Progress 2009 | Royal College of Art, LONDON

SHOW RCA 2009 | Royal College of Art, LONDON

Future Sonic 2009 Making Fun Serious | CUBE, MANCHESTER [YAMAHA]

Making Fun Serious | Chapels of Bond St, London [YAMAHA]

100% Design DESIGNERSBLOCK | Earls Court, LONDON [LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL]

Fish Tank Festival 2009 | Brick Lane, LONDON

Chocolote Soup Gallery | Steamboat Springs, COLORADO

Viagem | Casa da Musica, Porto, PORTUGAL 2010

HotelRCA Ventura Lambrate 2010 | Milano, ITALY [MILANO DESIGN FESTIVAL]

BY OTHER DESIGNERS 2010 | Hackney Wicked Festival, LONDON

UNION ST URBAN ORCHARD 2010 | Southwark, LONDON

VARIABILITY 2010 | Kensington, LONDON [LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL]

DESIGNERSBLOCK 2010 | Oxo Warf, LONDON [LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL]

JJAM CURATORS COLLECTIVE 2010 | TENT, LONDON [LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL]

MESTAKES & MANIFESTOS, ANTI DESIGN FESTIVAL 2010 | Brick Lane, LONDON [LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL]

POLITICAL OBJECTS | Clerkenwell Design Week [LONDON] 2011

BEAUTIFUL MISTAKES | NEXT Aarhus, Denmark 2011

SUPERLEGGERA | LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2011

DESIGNTIDE | TOKYO, JAPAN 2011

DESIGNING | FUKUOKA, JAPAN 2012

Once Removed | ICFF NYC | USA 2012

URBAN GARDENING | POLAND 2013

Rhythmix & Surrey Arts Experimental Music @ Orpheus | Surrey, UK 2014

Paraorchestra | Doha, QATAR 2014

Sonar +D | BARCELONA 2015

Praxis | LONDON 2016