

# Pete Ashton's Artist CV

Pete Ashton

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## Statement

I am a multidisciplinary artist working in Birmingham in the North West of Europe. My work uses media technologies to explore how we perceive and understand the world around us. As an advocate of peer and self-learning within artistic communities in Birmingham, I use art to explore traditionally academic subjects in new ways, seeing my practice as a form of applied philosophical enquiry.

I became an artist in my late 30s and have centred my practice on cameras as post-photographic data-capture devices. Like many artists working with technology I find myself concerned with identity, privacy and corporate surveillance under late-capitalism.

As a freelance artist practitioner I strive to ensure my employment supports my personal practice both financially and artistically, and vice-versa.

## 2018

### As Artist

- **Black Hole Club** - Member of Vivid Project's programme for artists, designers, curators and writers in the West Midlands to share and test ideas through regular group exhibitions.
- **Optical Array** - Installation for Stellar, a group show commissioned by Lumen.
- **Blow-Up 2018** - Reimagining the 1960s mystery film as a metaphor for our relationship with data corporations. In this version David Hemmings is The Data Centre.

### As Practitioner

- **Rivers of the World** - Artist facilitator producing three artworks with students at Worcestershire schools for national touring exhibition during Autumn, run by the Thames Festival Trust and The British Council. *In progress*.
- **AI for Artists** - Workshop for the **Art AI Festival** commissioned by De Montfort University

and The Phoenix Arts Centre, Leicester.

- [Escaping Victimhood](#) - Photography walk commissioned as part of therapeutic retreat.
- [Photo School](#) Regular photography group walks around areas of Birmingham.

## 2017

### As Artist

- [Instructions for Humans](#) - Major three-month exhibition of new body of work at Birmingham Open Media funded by Arts Council England.
- [Black Hole Club](#) - Member of Vivid Project's programme for artists, designers, curators and writers in the West Midlands to share and test ideas through regular group exhibitions.
- [Spectrographic Manifestos](#) - Interactive artwork using sonification to respond to the General Election.
- [Engine Travel Bursary](#) - Awarded by New Art West Midlands. [Report](#).

### As Speaker

- [Human Interfaces Conference](#) - Invited speaker at Association for Photography in Higher Education Summer Conference.
- [ASTONish](#) - Invited speaker at creative leadership workshop.

### As Practitioner

- [Developed in Birmingham](#) - Series of events featuring Camera Obscura builds and a Speculative Cameras workshop.
- [BOM Art and Tech Social](#) - Experimental Capture workshop exploring the edges of photography.
- [Escaping Victimhood](#) - Photography walk commissioned as part of therapeutic retreat.
- [Digitalis Milton Keynes](#) - Sonification workshop at Milton Keynes library.
- [Photo School](#) Regular photography group walks around areas of Birmingham.

## 2016

### As Artist

- [Birmingham Open Media Fellowship](#) - year-long fellowship including group show and involvement in BOM's educational outreach work.
- [Goodbye Wittgenstein](#) - residency and group show, Linz, Austria
- [20/20 Visions](#) - essay commissioned by Knowle West Media Centra for their 20th anniversary.
- [Experimental Capture Workshop](#) - scholarship to study with Golan Levin at [Anderson](#)

Ranch, Colorado, USA.

- [The Droids](#) - part of [Fermynwood's Open Online Six: Too Long For iTunes](#).

### As Speaker

- [Random String](#) - Invited speaker at arts and technology conference.
- [The Mediated Self](#) - Invited speaker for Warwick University's School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy Studies.

### As Practitioner

- [Trailblazers](#) - arts practitioner on youth civics project run by [Stan's Cafe Theatre Company](#).
- [Art in Crisis](#) - Workshop and photography walks with homeless people resulting in exhibition of their work at Birmingham Open Media.
- [Escaping Victimhood](#) - Photography walk commissioned as part of therapeutic retreat.
- [Gallery 37](#) - Photography mentoring for young people not in education, employment or training.
- [SOAK](#) - Guided Photography Walk along river for suburban arts festival.
- [Photo School](#) Regular photography group walks around areas of Birmingham.

### As Producer

- [Birmingham Camera Obscura R&D Programme](#) - Commissioned and produced, with Jenny Duffin, four artists to create new works using the Birmingham Camera Obscura.

## 2015

- [Birmingham Open Media Fellowship](#) - year-long fellowship including group show and involvement in BOM's educational outreach work.
- [Instabeck](#) - part of [The JHB Archive](#) group show curated by Jo Gane.
- [Cross City Walks at Flatpack](#) - interactive installation for [Flatpack Film Festival](#).

## 2014

- [Ikon Traces Walking Tour](#) - commission from the [Ikon gallery](#) and the [Still Walking](#) festival.
- [Live Sonification of Photography](#) - performance at the [If Wet](#) artists salon
- [Collective Photography](#) - Book documenting Arts Council funded artistic development programme researching and producing photo walks as an art form.
- [Typologies of Hypernetworked Vernacular Self-Portraiture](#) - short film, screened at [Flatpack Film Festival](#).