

ARTIST STATEMENT

John Howland

I work in no fixed medium. The ideas come first then I seek to find ways to explore the concepts. I am motivated to investigate age old philosophical questions of existence and reality, and many new questions that our scientific discoveries beckon. Many of my artworks are also either directly inspired by science or utilise scientific results as a fundamental tool in their creation.

A short list of the media that I work with includes: painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, digital photographic manipulation, generative art, landscape and architectural intervention, neon, performance, screen based animation, projection based animations, interactive projections, kinetic sculpture, video, plastic toy bees, hmm the list goes on.

During the past 8 years I have also been involved with the design of custom sculptural lighting. This has been a time of immense learning, and has exposed me to a whole new world of manufacturing possibilities that I now apply to my artmaking.

It is important to me that I work as close as possible with the technology I am using, just as a master painter prepares and experiments with their pigments. This creates opportunities for artistically capitalising upon chance discoveries and quirks I find using the technology.

Themes

Some of the aspects that my current personal projects explore include: freewill in relation to determinism, human colour vision, evolution and genealogy in the context of space-time, swarms, and the body as agent and aggregate.

The sheer wonder of consciousness and existence fuels my artwork.

Collaborations

In addition to my personally driven art practice I often work in collaboration with other artists. The Life Project Collaborative (LPC) with Ben Beeton is one such project.

Other successful collaborative projects include UCICU with Robert McCulloch, exhibited at the Institute for Modern Art in Brisbane, Australia, and also again with Experimenta in Melbourne, Australia; Agony/Ecstasy with Phebe Parisia and Eddy Carrol, a public artwork for the Melbourne City Council using neon lighting.