SISSEL MARIE TONN

Sissel Marie Tonn (1986, Copenhagen) is a Danish artist based in The Hague. In her practice she explores the complex ways humans perceive, act upon and are entangled with their environments. She is particularly fascinated by how our senses affect our ability to perceive change within an environment, affecting our capacity to act upon them. She documents and transfers certain lived experiences, where being in the midst of a changing ecology might expose the psychological, social and perceptual/sensory challenges we all face in a present of volatile environmental change. She makes wearable, sculptural or performative 'props', that challenge and question the body's preconfigured modes of perception and attention, and invite audience to engage directly with them. These 'props' are meant to shed light on how our biology, as well as our cultural conditions – be it artifacts, forms of knowledge, and architecture - influence the ways in which we perceive and act upon our environments. She completed a master in Artistic Research at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague in 2015. In 2016 she was the recipient of the Theodora Niemeijer prize for emerging female artists and was a resident at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht in 2017. Together with Jonathan Reus and Flora Reznik she runs the initiative Platform for Thought in Motion, which has until recently hosted the Reading Room series at Stroom Den Haag.

WEBSITES

Online portfolio and news

sisselmarietonn.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/sisselmarietonn
www.linkedin.com/in/sissel-marie-tonn/

MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

See Lab

EDUCATION

2013 - 2015	Master Artistic Research Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
2009 - 2010	Fine Arts/Cultural Studies York University, Canada diploma
2007 - 2010	Film and Media University of Copenhagen, Denmark diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025	Strange Kinship Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands A permanent ceramic sculpture and audio pieces at the Maria Montessori campus, Radboud University, Nijmegen www.ru.nl/en/about-us/news/two-new-artworks-placed-on-walk-of-wonder#msdynttrid=SvIQ9_RjNaIZnZYxdPfdKzqmuqQhPR6Q9jV3bGV024Y Solo
2024	Havets Dyb Kunstsilo Kristiansand, Norway Ocean Deep is an exploration of the mysterious and endangered ecosystems beneath the ocean's surface, where art and technology converge to reveal both beauty and vulnerability. www.kunstsilo.no/en Duo
2024	Tools for Change Mesh Festival Basel, Switzerland Festival for digital arts in Basel. meshfestival.ch/ Group
2024	Artificial togetherness Fiber Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands A festival for digital culture, electronic music and art in Amsterdam 2025.fiberfestival.nl/about Group
2023	The Portal Radius CCA Delft, Netherlands In THE PORTAL, Sissel Marie Tonn expands on her artistic research on the bog, once an awe-inspiring site of contact with spirits, ancestors and gods, now a threatened ecosystem that is key to counteract ecological decline. radius-cca.org/en Solo

PROJECTS

2025	Emerging Exits Stichting Schulstad Arnhem, Netherlands emerging-exits.nl/ In het verborgen landschap aan de rand van Nationaal Park De Hoge Veluwe opent dit najaar een unieke plek haar deuren: de monumentale Diogenesbunker, één van de grootste bunkers van Nederland. Ooit gebouwd om vijandelijke signalen in kaart te brengen, is de bunker nu het toneel voor Emerging Exits, een immersieve tentoonstelling waarin interdisciplinaire kunstenaars de veranderende relatie tussen mens, technologie en ecologie onderzoeken. Hun werk vertrekt vanuit het gedeelde besef dat we ons bevinden in een tijd van voortdurende ecologische en politieke dreiging die vraagt om alternatieve perspectieven en kennisstructuren.
2025	Het Kleuren van de Wad Wehe-den-hoorn, Netherlands www.kunstcentrumdeploeg.nl/tentoonstelling/2025/de-kleuren-van-het-wad/ Met de tentoonstelling De Kleuren van het Wad nodigt Kunstcentrum De Ploeg je uit om met nieuwe ogen te kijken naar het Waddenlandschap. Wat van een afstand misschien grijs en vlak oogt, blijkt onder het penseel van de kunstenaars rijk aan nuance en geladen met emotie. Deze expositie laat zien hoe het Wad niet alleen inspireert tot schilderen, maar ook tot nadenken. Van de expressieve kleurvlakken van De Ploeg tot ingetogen zwart-witwerken en conceptuele installaties: De Kleuren van het Wad toont hoe kunstenaars het landschap gebruiken om schoonheid te vangen én om urgente vragen te stellen over ecologie,

2023 Wasteland Festival Grey space in the middle Den Haag, Netherlands Bringing together researchers, artists, and activists, Wasteland Festival collectively address the challenges posed by waste in today's world thegreyspace.net/program/2023-10-19-wasteland-festival/
Group

2023 Bodies of Water CCA Andratx Andratx, Spain Group exhibition with Danish and Spanish artists around the topic of water ccandratx.eu
Group

2022 Earthbound - In Dialogue with Nature Esch Esch zur Alzette, Luxembourg "Earthbound – In Dialogue with Nature" presents works by internationally renowned artists that reflect on and draw attention to urgent environmental issues with an emphasis on the complex relationship between human activity and the ecosystem. The exhibition proposes solutions and alternative models for a more sustainable coexistence with our environment. esch2022.lu/en/
Group

2022 MYR McEvoy Foundation San Fransisco, United States Guest curated by Elizabeth Thomas, MYR assembles artworks in a wide array of media that leverage science and technology to see through and beyond the Anthropocene —the current epoch in which humans have had dominant control over the environment. www.mcevoyarts.org/exhibition/myr/
Group

2021 Re-World - S+T+ARTS Showcase MEET Digital Culture Center Milan, United Kingdom :REWORLD addresses world-building as a core activity in advanced digital culture —an emerging domain of constructed reality that is starting to face its own sustainability challenges and contradictions. As we move in and out of metaverses under construction, mixed realities (XR) reveal an unparalleled potential to provide critical visualisations of ecosystems outside our bodies and also to map out the emotional and nervous entanglements inside of them. Likewise, :REWORLD examines the urgency of re-materialization. www.meetcenter.it/en/event/reworld-repairing-the-present/
Group

2021 Becoming Geological V2 Lab for the Unstable Media Rotterdam, Netherlands Humankind has always been dirty and harshly geological, through intentional incorporation of earthly and thus cosmic elements (as part of medicinal or spiritual practices), and within a direct connection with a slowly changing earthly and cosmic environment. The earth authors us. With the arrival of the questionable era of the anthropocene, marking another entry point into the planetary geological, new "natural" cycles are initiated. We literally inhale and ingest our own anthropogenic indicators - for example, as the particulate exhalations of burning forests, as isotopes from nuclear testing, as metallic dust from global extractions. These cycles are embedded in strange feedback loops and complex geo-algorithms informing climate catastrophe, and tense, global ecological conditions. Understanding this new nature for humankind involves a close examination and potential embrace of a becoming geological, becoming a-human. Becoming Geological thus provokes new and ancient imaginaries for this essential relation of the human with the earth and with the cosmos, invoking becoming metal, becoming earth and becoming cosmic as potential and multiple ways of being and as active philosophies of the earth; an exploration of how to live and die within novel planetary and cosmic techno-cycles. Becoming Geological: the exhibition marks, traces, invokes and unfolds these multiple routings and cycles of becoming through new and foundational artistic projects from six contemporary artists who interrogate and reflect on the close connections between technological, planetary, cosmic and earthly bodies, particles and imaginations. Featuring Alfonso Borragán Cecilia Jonsson vervuiling, identiteit en verbondenheid.

2015 The Reading Room at Stroom 2015-2018 The Reading Room The Hague, Netherlands platformtm.tumblr.com/ The Reading Room is an event series dedicated to creating a community-oriented, public platform for encounters with contemporary ideas on art and society. At its core, the Reading Room series revolves around the reading of texts provided by invited guests – cultural theorists, philosophers and curators – who join our diverse community in an open discussion while providing insight, context and perspective on the topics at hand.

2014 Ongoing performance workshops/research project with We Are Here Coorporative – a coorporative of undocumented refugees and artists in Amsterdam We Are Here Coorporative Amsterdam, Netherlands Community project with undocumented refugees

2012 Audio/visual director and composer for Wunderkammer's play Jackalope for Helsingør Theater Wunderkammer Performance collective Copenhagen, Denmark part of artistic/theater collective

2010 2017 Public Displays of Affection Toronto, Canada part of social design collective, who makes inclusive interior design solutions for social housing projects

Rosemary Lee Anaïs Tondeur Sissel Marie Tonn Rosa Whiteley Curated by Martin Howse and Florian Weigl. Publicity design and images: Alice Cannava, Martin Howse, Martin Sulzer, Antti Tenetz(data) v2.nl/events/exhibition-becoming-geological
Solo

2021 Toxicity's reach AND Festival Manchester, Estonia Online exhibition for AND Festival toxicitysrea.ch/
Group

2020 Plastic Hypersea (the facility) NDSM / Sonic Acts Amsterdam, Netherlands Plastic Hypersea is an interactive, site-specific work by artist Sissel Marie Tonn that can be experienced at the NDSM Wharf in Amsterdam until the end of May 2021. sonicacts.com/portal/experience-the-interactive-audio-walk-plastic-hypersea-by-sissel-marie-tonn
Group

2020 Point of No Return Narva Artist Residenc Narva, Netherlands www.nart.ee/en/exhibitions/nart-annual-exhibition-2021-point-of-no-return-attunement-of-attention/
Group

2020 Evolutionaries MU Hybrid Art House Eindhoven, Austria Presentation of Becoming A Sentinel Species, winner of 2020 BAD awards mu.nl/en/exhibitions/evolutionaries
Group

2019 Elsewheres within Here Framer Framed Amsterdam, Spain Elsewheres Within Here, investigates what we welcome, refuse, or overlook in marking the boundaries of spaces we call 'home' – our bodies, houses, and countries. The exhibition presents works by eleven artists, all of whom are based in the Netherlands, and yet each comes from or thinks with places beyond. The works gather stories around errant movements of plants, animals, objects, and symbols across different cultures and times, and through unexpected intimacies.
framerframed.nl/en/expositities/expositie-elsewheres-within-here/
Group

2019 Fiber Festival 2020 - Instability Tolhuistuin Amsterdam, Netherlands www.fiber-space.nl/project/fiberfestival2020/
Group

2019 Ars Electronica - In Kepler's Gardens Ars Electronica Linz, Hungary ars.electronica.art/keplersgardens/
Group

2018 Web of Wet Trafo Gallery Budapest, Belgium he exhibition presents artistic approaches that examine the manifold power relations and processes concentrated in water as a material and as a cultural metaphor. The exhibition also aims to create a situation where we can leave behind the rather anthropocentric idea that water is merely a physiologically vital material, a resource to be exploited and rather consider it as something that can be regarded as an entity with a memory of its own and a substance that bounds us together in an intimate and tight network of other beings, that might even be far from us in space and in time. trafo.hu/en/trafo_gallery/webofwet
Group

2018 This Rare Earth Artefact Festival, Stuk Leuven Leuven, United States The Intimate Earthquake Archive part of Artefact festival, This Rare Earth www.artefact-festival.be/en/
Group

2018 Jan van Eyck Open Studios Jan van Eyck Maastricht, Turkey Becoming Escargotapien part of Jan van Eyck Open Studios www.janvaneyck.nl/
Group

2018 Oxalis CCA Andratx Andratx, Netherlands Residency and group exhibition in CCA Andratx
www.ccandratx.com/en/c1/home.html

Group

2017 Hyperobjects Ballroom Marfa Marfa, United States The Intimate Earthquake Archive in Hyperobjects at Ballroom Marfa www.ballroommarfa.org/
Solo

2016 What Is It Like To Be A Bat Zone2Source Amsterdam, Netherlands What Is It Like To Be A Bat, group expo with Jonathan Reus zone2source.net/
Duo

2016 Becoming Escargotapien Stroom Ondertussen Den Haag, Netherlands Becoming Escargotapien research exhibition www.stroom.nl
Solo

2016 Istanbul Design Biennial Arter Istanbul, Netherlands An Education of Attention part of 4th Istanbul Design Biennial aschoolofschools.iksv.org/
Group

2015 The Intimate Earhtquake Archive Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven, Netherlands Installation - The Intimate Earthquake Archive vanabbemuseum.nl/
Group

2015 Circular Permutation Gallery W139 2015 Group exhibition of Hague and Cologne artists w139.nl/
Group

2014 We the enemy 2014 Osnabruck, Germany The work Machar part of European Media Arts Festival, Osnabrück www.emaf.de/de/index.html
Group

2014 Sensory Cartographies Multimadeira festival Funchal, Germany Exhibition of data-collection instruments in Jardim Botanico museum, Funchal Madeira
Group

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2023 EKWC - European Ceramic Workcenter, Oisterwijk, NL EKWC, Netherlands

2020 Kunsthuis SYB, Beetsterzwaag NL Beetsterzwaag, Netherlands Kunsthuis SYB kunsthuissyb.nl/over-syb/?lang=en

2019 CCA Andratx, Mallorca (artists-in-residence) Andratx, Spain Residency and group exhibition in CCA Andratx www.ccandratx.com/

2017 CCA Andratx, Mallorca (artists-in-residence) Rotterdam, Netherlands The book 'Becoming Geological' (2022) provokes new and ancient imaginaries for the essential relation of the human with the earth and with the cosmos. Edited by Martin Howse it accompanies the eponymous exhibition. Becoming Geological

COMMISSIONS

2025 Strange Kinship Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands a cluster of ceramic horseshoe crabs exploring the themes of connection and resilience. The work offers a powerful image of the more-than-human world, a concept that refers to the interwoven relationship between humans and non-human life forms - and how we can experience that connectedness. www.ru.nl/en/about-us/news/two-new-artworks-placed-on-walk-of-wonder#msdynttrid=SvIQ9_RjNaIZnZYxdPfdKzqmuqQhPR6Q9jV3b

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2023 Becoming a Sentinel Species VU art collection Amsterdam, Nederland

2022 Becoming a Sentinel Species 2022 Milan, Italië VU acquired the work after my participation in Some Body at the VU ArtScience Gallery 2022-2023

2019 Rhythm of Attention CCA Andratx Andratx, Spanje Lino ink on fabric 120x250 cm

PUBLICATIONS

2022 Becoming Geological Book V2_Lab ed. Martin Howse Rotterdam, Netherlands 2017 The book 'Becoming Geological' (2022) provokes new and ancient imaginaries for the essential relation of the human with the earth and with the cosmos. Edited by Martin Howse it accompanies the eponymous exhibition.

REVIEWS

-- 2016

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025 Shortlisted for Nature and Climate Award Lumen Art Prize London, United Kingdom My work The Sentinel Self has been nominated for the 2025 Lumen Art Prize in the category Nature & Climate (https://lumenprize.org/2025-nature-climate-award-finalists/sisselmarie-tonn)

2022 S+T+ARTS Residency S+T+ARTS Milan, Italy Repairing The Present residency with host institution MEET Digital Culture Center Milan.

2021 Work Stipend The Danish Arts Foundation Denmark A stipend to work on artistic practice

2020 BAD Award BAD Award Rotterdam, Netherlands Winner of 2020 BAD Award with the project "Becoming a Sentinel Species" in collaboration with Heather Leslie and Juan Garcia Vallejo

2019 Talent Development Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie 2018, Netherlands

2017 2013 Jan van Eyck Academie

2016 prize for emerging female artists given by Van Abbemuseum Theodora Niemeijer Prize

2013 Private funding stipend for artistic practice Copenhagen Denmark, Augustinus Foundation

REPRESENTATION

-- 2022

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2014 - 2018 Co-creator of The Reading Room

2010 - 2012 2021

2010 - 2013 Freelance documentary maker / videographer



Strange Kinship, 2025
Ceramics, n/a



Strange Kinship, 2025
Ceramics, n/a



The Sentinel Self - Kunstsilo, 2024
04:10



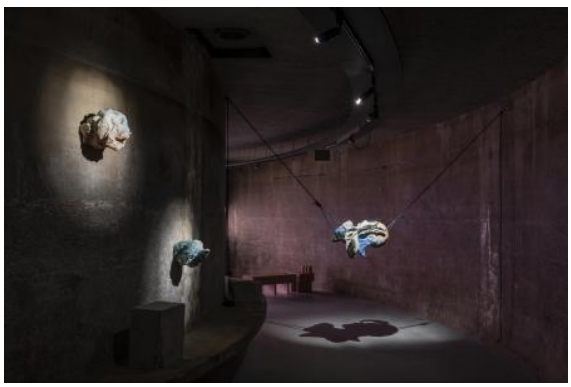
The Sentinel Self, 2024
Unity simulation, n/a



The Portal - Documentation, 2023
04:06



The Portal, 2023
ceramics , n/a



The Portal, 2023
ceramics, n/a



Sphagnum Time (Braiding Fates), 2023
Digital animation 3 video channel / 8 sound channel, n/a



The Portal , 2023
Ceramics



The Portal, 2023