

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I design, build and compose with Sculptural Electronic Musical Instruments made from acquired objects and junk electronics. I realise works with them using the disciplines of Dance, Video Art and Live Art. My research interests include collaborative relationships, negotiating expertise between disciplines, gender dynamics in performance and collaboration, movement, interaction, sculpture, objects as totems, live performance, perception, video documentation as art, the body and choreography. I use whatever media and technology is suitable to realise a concept, meaning that I am an idea led intermedia and trans-disciplinary artist with extensive investigative and problem solving skills. My strong interest in perception and interaction has helped me realise my projects from an artistic starting point and given me tools to create engaging live performances through sculpture and non-verbal utterance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Metabody Forum (2016, Brunel University) – Collaboration with Johannes Berringer and Michele Danjoux to create sounding instruments, wearables and totemic objects for the DAP-Lab: Metakimosphere no. 3 (immersive installation-performance).

Long term collaboration with Dancer/Choreographer Dannai Pappa on four projects - 2011 – present.

Part Time Visiting Researcher at Newcastle Culture Lab - October 2011 to January 2012.

Part Time Casual Hourly Paid Lecturer in Music Technology and Innovation at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK. October 2009 to present.

The Dirty Electronics Ensemble - October 2008 to present – Significant Contributor

Musician and Songwriter in *Luxury Stranger* 2010-2011.

Musician and Songwriter in the *Screaming Banshee Aircrew* 2007-2010.

COMPOSED WORKS

Spheres Attached (work in progress) A Dance and Noise Sculpture collaboration with choreographer and dancer Danai Pappa as a part of an artistic curation by Sonya Russel-Saunders called "It Takes One to Know One" funded by Curatorial Development Bursary, New Art West Midlands - Art Market.

Dis-Comforting (2015) Fixed media sound commission for fashion designer Ania Sadkowska used for Crafting Anatomies Exhibition, Nottingham Trent University 2015 and Dis-comforting Fashion film which was **FIRST PRIZE WINNER** POLIMODA & ASVOFF Video Contest For IFFT12015 (International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institute) annual conference in Florence, Italy which is organised by the international fashion institute, Polimoda: MOMENTING THE MEMENTO.

I also composed sound for eight other fashion films that were directed and produced by Ania Sadkowska and edited by Fraser West for her PhD and MA work:

Peacocking (2015) Pioneering (2015) Presenting (2015) Re-Materialising (2015)

Un-Fashioning (2015) Non-Conforming (2015) Mirroring (2014)

Dys-Appearing Body Project (2012)

Pensile Decumbent (2015) A Filmed Performance demonstrating the Pensile Decumbent wearable sculptural instrument in an industrial landscape.

New Track of Unknown Terra II (2015) A Filmed Performance demonstrating the Beast sculptural instrument in an industrial landscape.

New Track of Unknown Terra (2014) A Filmed Live Art Performance demonstrating the Beast sculptural instrument in a public space.

Cold Papaya (2013) Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa – A Live duet for Speaker Bra with Wireless Shovel. **SHORTLISTED for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in June 2015.** <https://vimeo.com/101931339>

Frozen Venus (2013) Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa– A live piece for two dancers and six electronic Plungerphone Instruments. **SHORTLISTED for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space in June 2015.** <https://vimeo.com/71087869>

Ode to the Hedonistic and Utilitarian Carnival Children of the Constructivist Revolution (2012) – For five Plungerphone instruments. Composed for and performed by the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at Phoenix Square, Leicester. <http://snd.sc/1ajd34l>

Scratch and Sniff (2012) Composed with John Richards and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble.

sib Conduit (2011) Collaboration with choreographer Danai Pappa – A live piece for two dancers and two Electronic Dumbbell Instruments. <http://youtu.be/a1VbmyUH9IM>

You Play Together but Act Apart (2009-10) – Composed for and performed by the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at De Montfort University in 2009. <http://snd.sc/OppfUX>

Commercial CD album 'SUGAR', (2009) With The Screaming Banshee Aircrew

Twelve songs (*Being Alison, Circles, Cool Ghoul Band, Promised, Kind of Crazy, Shutter, Silence, Falling Down, Sugar, So Sorry, Saharan Stars, What I Want, The Birthday Song*) on Resurrection Records, recorded and engineered by Jim Spencer (Cribs/Johnny Marr/Damned/Black Grape) at Chapel Studios, Lincolnshire. Published in Europe through Plastic Head Distribution

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 8th & 9th April 2016** **DAP-Lab: Metakimosphere no. 3 collaboration** (immersive installation-performance) sculptor at Brunel University, UK.
- 16th December 2015** **All Hail the New Reductionists.** Co-Lab performance between De Montfort University and Newcastle Culture Lab at De Montfort University - resulting in the NIME *paper One Knob To Rule Them All: Reductionist Interfaces for Expansionist Research*. **NIME BEST PAPER AWARD 2016.**
- 21st May 2015** Gallery Installation of **New Track of Unknown Terra II** at Haptic Narratives - Textural Exploration in Film at Greenwich University, UK. Organised by TiMaDi (Time, Materiality and the Digital Research Group).
- 10th October 2014** **Pensile Decumbent** at Reaktorhallen, Stockholm, Sweden With Dirty Electronocs Ensemble.
- 29th August 2013** **Cold Papaya** – With Danai Pappa at Fascinate Conference at Falmouth University, UK
- 30th June 2013** **Frozen Venus** - with Danai Pappa at Music and/as Process Conference, Huddersfield University, UK
- 10th May 2013** **Rock, Paper, Scissors** - with Kei Miyata and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at the Curve Theatre, Leicester, UK.
- 22nd March 2013** **Frozen Venus with Danai Pappa** Agony art, Chisenhale Dance Space, Bow, London, UK
- 14th March 2013** **Three works** With John Richards and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble at PIONEERS OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC, hosted by NON CLASSICAL at XOYO, London UK
- 8th September 2012** **sib Conduit** with Danai Pappa. Live Interfaces Conference at Clothworkers' Centenary Concert Hall in the School of Music, University of Leeds, UK.
- 24th March 2012** **sib Conduit** (with Danai Pappa). We performed our collaboration, 'sib Conduit', at the Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music, Queens University, Belfast, UK.
- 3rd February 2012** **Scratch and Sniff** with John Richards and the Dirty Electronics Ensemble. PACE1, De Montfort University, Leicester UK
- 24th to 26th June 2011** **BEAM Festival**, Brunel University, UK. Four devised performances, one per day, of the Electronic Dumbell.
- 25th to 30th Jan 2011** **Five shows with Luxury Stranger Supporting the Chameleons Vox** –various venues across Germany and the Netherlands.
- 23rd July 2010** **The Ghetto Bastard** – *Solo Improvisation and Demonstration at Sonic Event 1* - The Access Space, Sheffield, UK.

ELECTRONIC NOISE INSTRUMENTS AND SCULPTURES

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| (2016) Ribbon Spheres | (2011) Electronic Dumbell Version 3 |
| (2016) Bricksynth | (2010) Electronic Dumbell Version 2 |
| (2016) Two Sounding Spheres for the Metabody Project (Brunel) | (2009) Electronic Dumbell Version 1 |
| (2016) Electroacoustic dress for the Metabody Project (Brunel) | (2010) The Hover Drum |
| (2015) The Turntable Assemblage for One Knob To Rule Them All | (2009) The Sound Canvas |
| (2014) The Pensile Decumbent | (2008) The Audiophone |
| (2014) The Beast | (2008) The Alarmed Clock |
| (2013) Speaker Bra with Wireless Shovel | (2008) The Attaché-verb |
| (2013) Large Framed Modular Synth | (2008) Laurie Andersons <i>Extended</i> Tape Bow Violin |
| (2012) Plungerphone | (2008) The Ghetto Bastard |
| | (2007) Electro-magnetic Wands |

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Papers

Bowers, Richards, et al (2016) One Knob To Rule Them All: Reductionist Interfaces for Expansionist Research. In: *The Proceedings for New Interfaces for Musical Expression Conference*, 11th – 15th July 2016, Brisbane, Australia. **NIME BEST PAPER AWARD 2016.**

Spowage, N (2013) The Speaker Bra With Wireless Shovel In: *The Proceedings for Fascinate Conference*, 27th-31st August 2013, Falmouth University, UK.

Tanaka A, Spowage N, Altavilla A, (2012) Gestural Musical Affordances, *Sound and Music Computing Conference Proceedings 2012*, 11-14 July 2012, Aalborg University Copenhagen

Spowage, N (2009) The Ghetto Bastard, A Portable Noise Instrument, In: *New Instruments for Musical Expression*, 4-6th June 2009, Carnegie Mellon University

Spowage, N (2009) SUGAR, CD Album *With The Screaming Banshee Aircrew*

Contributions

Collins, N (2009) *Handmade Electronic Music*, 2nd ed., Routledge.

SELECTED RESIDENCIES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

(ATTENDED, PARTICIPATED AND GIVEN)

- 16th December 2015** **All Hail the New Reductionists.** Co-Lab and performance between De Montfort University and Newcastle Culture Lab resulting in the NIME *paper One Knob To Rule Them All: Reductionist Interfaces for Expansionist Research*. **NIME BEST PAPER AWARD 2016.**
- 21st May 2015** Presentation of **New Track of Unknown Terra II** to Haptic Narratives - Textural Exploration in Film at Greenwich University, UK. Organised by TiMaDi (Time, Materiality and the Digital Research Group).
- 30th August 2013** **Presentation of the Speaker Bra sculptural instrument** at Fascinate Conference at Falmouth University, UK.
- 11th to 15th February 2013** **Dirty Electronics Workshop for Trinity Laban co Lab** at Laban Conservatoire for Dance, London. (Participant)
- 7th February 2013** **Agency of Noise**, Cavendish Arms, London. I presented the paper concepts and practices behind my recent collaboration with Danai Pappa called '*sib Conduit*'. (Presenter)
- 6th December 2012** **The Fine Art Forum.** 'Improvising with Improvised Instruments' at De Montfort University. (Presenter)
- 5th December 2012** **Speaker Dragging workshop** electronic instrument workshop at Bournemouth University. (Presenter)
- 5th December 2012** **Seminar** at Bournemouth University. Object Trouve, Electronic sculptural Instruments and Performances (Presenter)
- 27th April 2012** **LIVENess** at Bournemouth University, UK. A one-day intensive multidisciplinary exchange laboratory for practitioners who wish to explore concepts, philosophies and technologies of the LIVE through creative practice. (Participant)
- 24th to 26th June 2011** **BEAM Festival** at Brunel University, UK. I gave a talk and demonstration of the Electronic Dumbell instrument. (Presenter)
- 31st January 2011** **Artists Talk** STEIM centre for research, Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Electronic Dumbell project and Live Electronics. (Presenter)
- 23rd October 2010** **Royal Music Association Study Day**, Leeds University, UK. Presentation: "*The Roles of Collaborations and Ensembles in Practice Led Musical Instrument Design*". (Presenter)
- 3rd to 19th September 2010** **STEIM centre for research**, Amsterdam. Artists Residency, *The Electronic Dumbell* research project. (Resident)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

1st October 2009 to 30th August 2017 - Part Time Casual Lecturer in Music Technology and Innovation at De Montfort University

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Aug 2003 to Oct 2007

Cross-Stitch Design Program Operator at DMC Creative World Ltd, Leicester. UK.

Feb 1996 to Oct 1997

Aviation industry trained Technical Artist and Animator at Computerised Training Systems Ltd, Scunthorpe, UK.

HIGHER EDUCATION

2008 – 2016

PhD in Music Technology at De Montfort University, Leicester.
Physical Interaction with Electronic Instruments in Devised Performance.

2007 – 2008

MA in Music, Technology and Innovation at De Montfort University, Leicester.

1998 – 2002

BA(Hons) Multimedia Design at De Montfort University, Leicester.

1997 – 1998

Art Foundation at The University of Derby.

FUNDING AWARDS

<u>DMU Global Travel Award</u> <u>£200</u>	(Awarded)	De Montfort University for travel to Stockholm, Sweden 2014
<u>Travel Bursary £300</u>	(Awarded)	Falmouth University Full Expenses & Accommodation Bursary for 2 Performers 2013
<u>G Folwer Award £135</u>	(Awarded)	Project Fund from De Montfort University 2013
<u>G Folwer Award £461</u>	(Awarded)	Project Fund from De Montfort University 2012
<u>Part Time Student Bursary</u> <u>Approx £1700</u>	(Awarded)	Partial fee waive awarded for PhD Study between 2009 and 2012
<u>AHRC PhD Award</u>	(Shortlisted)	Shortlisted for subsistence and fees by De Montfort University 2008
<u>IOCT Bursary £10,000</u>	(Awarded)	De Montfort University full subsistence award and fee waive for MA Study 2007