Marcus Coates

Marcus Coates was born in 1968 in London, where he lives and works.

At the core of Marcus’ work is a relationship to the unknowable. From his attempts to become animal to his vicarious experiences on behalf of individuals he seeks to uncover degrees of understanding and knowing, testing our definitions and boundaries of autonomy.

He devises processes to explore the pragmatism and insight that empathetic perspectives and imagined realities can offer. He explicitly addresses a need to create functional and inclusive languages where conventional strategies of understanding and rationalisation prove inadequate.

The form and purpose of his work continues to develop in consideration to society’s needs which he responds to by working with individuals, communities, institutions, organisations and the general public. In this way he sees the role of art practice as a necessary and pragmatic service to counter the limitations of cultural tools.

Marcus has collaborated with people from a wide range of disciplines including anthropologists, ornithologists, wildlife sound recordists, choreographers, politicians, gallerists, curators, psychiatrists, palliative care consultants, musicians, primatologists amongst others.

Exhibitions and performances include:


**Biography**

Born 1968, London, UK
1987-90 BA (Hons) Degree Fine Art, 1st Class, Kent Institute of Art and Design, UK
1990-93 Post Graduate Diploma, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK

**Solo Exhibitions/Performances**

2018
*The Last of Its Kind*, Workplace Gallery, London
*Ask the Birds*, event, Whitechapel Gallery, London
*The Sounds of Others*, Innsbruck Biennale, Austria

2017
*Ask the Wood*, Performance event, South London Botanical Society/Feral Practice, UK
*Sound Reasoning*, Performance, Miners Institute, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK

2016
*Arrivals/Departures - Nature Calendar*, sculpture commission for Utrecht Centraal Train Station, Netherlands.
Arrivals/Departures 16 performances across 12 months: grass snake ritual, salmon ritual, dawn chorus performance, bat choir performance, starling murmuration, migration parade, bird migration conference, fungi fairy-ring ritual, purple emperor butterfly ritual, fox choir performance, snowdrop ritual, woodcock dating ritual, woodpecker drumming performance, glow worm ritual, moth ball, deaths head hawk moth ritual. Utrecht, Netherlands

Questioning the Dead, Performance, Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, UK

Marcus Coates, You Might As Well Ask A Crow - Workplace Gallery, London, UK

2015
Marcus Coates, Kate MacGarry, London
Marcus Coates, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
Dawn Chorus, Fabrica, Brighton, UK

2014
The Sounds of Others: A Biophonic Line, Lovelock Commission with Cape Farewell, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester
Unblocking Services, Performance, The Nuisance of Landscape: Grizedale – The Sequel, Abbotthall, Kendal, UK

2013
185x49x29cm. Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK

2012
Proxy, Kate MacGarry, London, UK
Marcus Coates, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
Dawn Chorus, Aberystyth Arts Centre, Wales, UK
Follow The Voice, Canary Wharf, Screen, London, UK
Stories from the Lower World, South Alberta Art Gallery, Canada
Marcus Coates, eva International Biennial of Visual Art, Limerick City, Ireland

2011
The Trip, Serpentine Gallery – Artistis’s Studio, London

2010
Questions & Answers, Kate MacGarry, London
Dawn Chorus, ESPAI 13/Fundació Joan Miró. Barcelona, Spain
Psychopomp, Milton Keynes Gallery, UK

2009
Marcus Coates, Performances, Kunsthalle Zurich, Parallel Space, Switzerland
Marcus Coates, Performance, Mori Art Museum, Academy Hills, Tokyo
A Ritual for Elephant & Castle (with Chrome Hoof), Performance, Coronet Theatre, London
Marcus Coates, Kunsthalle Zurich, Parallel Space, Switzerland
Marcus Coates, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
The Plover’s Wing, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
Marcus Coates, NOMA, New Orleans Museum of Art, USA
Marcus Coates, Newlyn Art Gallery, UK
Follow the Voice, Unitarian Church, Shrewsbury, UK

2007
Marcus Coates, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
Dawn Chorus, Venice Biennale, Italy
Dawn Chorus, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK
Dawn Chorus, Picture This, Bristol, UK
Cycle Parking and Prostitution, Rekord Gallery, Oslo, Norway
2004

*Journey to the Lower World*, Café Gallery Projects, London, UK

2003

*Unbecoming*, The Gymnasium, Berwick upon Tweed, UK

**Group Exhibitions/Performances**

2018

*The Land We Live In, The Land We Left Behind*, Hauser & Wirth, Somerset, UK

2017

*We are not Alone*, British Council Collection, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
*As Above, So Below: Portals, Spirits & Mystics*, IMMA Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
*Animal Mirror*, International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP), New York
*Modern Visionaries*, Laing Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne
*I Want I Want*, Arts Council Collection, Birmingham City Gallery and Museum

2016

*A Fair Land*, Grizedale Arts at IMMA Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
*This is a Voice*, Wellcome Collection, London
*Making Nature*, Wellcome Collection, London

2015

*Station to Station*, Curated by Doug Aitken, Barbican, London
*Ape Culture*, HKW, Berlin
*Angels and Doppelgaengers*, OK Center for Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria
*Diamonds always come in small packages*, Kunstmuseum Lucerne, Switzerland
*Beastly / Tierisch - Fotomuseum Winterthur*, Winterthur, Switzerland
*Höhenrausch 2015 - Das Geheimnis der Vogel* - OK Offenes Kulturhaus OÖ, Linz
*Terrapolis* - École Française d’Athènes, Athens

2014

*Ghost Nature - College of Architecture and the Arts*, University of Chicago, IL
*Straight to Camera: Performance for Film* - Modern Art Oxford, Oxford
*Arche Noah - Über Tier und Mensch in der Kunst* - Museum Ostwall im Dortmunder U, Dortmund
*The Nuisance of Landscape: Grizedale – The Sequel*, Abbotthall, Kendal, UK
*Private Utopia*: Contemporary Art from the British Council Collection, Tokyo Station Gallery, Japan

2013

*Vocal Folds, Grertrude Contemporary*, Melbourne, Australia
*Super 8, MAM, Museu de Arte Moderna*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
*Dawn Chorus*, Todawa Art Festival, Japan
*Galápagos Centro de Arte Moderna*, Lisbon, Portugal
*Between the Late and Early*, Royal Scottish Academy RSA, Edinburgh
*Three Years at Sea*, Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
*Anchorhold – Meetings with Marcus Coates*, Performance, Hai arts and Grizedale Arts, Island of Hailuoto, Finland
*School of Imagination*, film screening, Barbican, London
2012

Uncanny Journey, Archiv trifft Gegenwart - Dienstgebäude, Zurich
The Gathering, Yukiko Kawase Gallery, Paris
SUPER 8, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin
Jarman Award shortlist, Whitechapel, London
Now I Gotta Reason, Grizedale Arts at Jerwood Space, London
Galapagos, Bluecoat, Liverpool. Fruitmarket, Edinburgh, Centro de Arte Moderna, Lisbon
Hors Piste, Pompidou, Paris
Out of Sight, Out of Mind, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK

2011

3rd Athens Biennale 2011 MONODROME
Super 8, Christopher Grimes Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
The Edge of Reason, KINOKINO Centre for Art and Film, Sandnes, Norway
Synthetic Ritual, Pitzer Art Galleries, Claremont, USA
29th Biennial of Graphic Arts - Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana
Siobhan Davies Commissions, Bargehouse, London
Double, Double, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
ROTATE, Contemporary Art Society & Shortlist Media, London, UK
Filim, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, UK
The Armory Show, New York, USA with Workplace Gallery
Going where the weather suits my clothes…fall of light on fabric, Mother’s Tank Station, Dublin, Ireland
Self Portrait as Worcestershire, Movement Gallery, Worcester, UK
The Animal Gaze, Sheffield Institute of Arts gallery, Sheffield, UK
FFILM 3, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, Wales

2010

From Past to Present, Migration, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile
Transformation, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo
Adaptation, The Power Plant, Toronto
Europes, Contemporary Culture Festival, Barcelona
Steps into the Arcane, Kartause Ittingen, Kunstmuseum Thurgau, Switzerland
The Perfect Exhibition, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Germany
Artist’s Body, Coreana Museum, Seoul, South Korea
Grand National - Art from Britain, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway
From Ritual to Theatre, Ancient & Modern, London
Recent Acquisitions, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool Biennial
Decalogue: Films You Can Count on Two Hands, Winkleman Gallery, New York, USA
17th Biennale of Sydney. THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age
Art Star 4 Video Art Biennial, Galerie SAW Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

2009

Exposition of Mythology – Electric Technology, Nam June Paik Art Centre, Seoul, S. Korea
Aftermodern, Tate Triennial, Tate Britain, London
Lisson Presents 2, Lisson Gallery, London
Trying to Cope with Things that aren’t Human, David Cunningham Projects, San Francisco, USA
Living Together, Montehermoso, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain and MARCO, Spain
Ventriloquist, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London
Daiwa Foundation Art Prize, Japan House, London
A Duck for Mr Darwin, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK
Tier-Werden, Mensch-Werden, NGBK Berlin
All Creatures Great And Small, Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland
Human Report, TV Broadcast, Channel 9 TV, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
2008

Manifesta7, Trento, Italy
VideoZone, Israeli Video Art Biennial, CCA, Tel Aviv, Israel
This Wild Melody, Performance, Barbican Art Gallery, London
Spirit Caravan, Performance, Hayward Gallery, London
Laughing in a Foreign Language, Hayward Gallery, London
Hamsterwheel, Malmo Konsthall, Malmo, Sweden
Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art, Barbican Art Gallery, London
Harry Smith Anthology Remixed, CCA, Glasgow
Experimental Marathon, Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland

Micro-narratives: tenant des petites réalités, Musée d'Art moderne de Saint-Etienne, France
Trust in Me, Charles H.Scott Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Goggle på jorden, Galleri Charlotte Lund, Stockholm, Sweden
The Brotherhood of Subterranea, Kunsthunker, Nuremberg, Germany
Grounded (Now Hear This), AV Festival, Middlesborough
All my favourite singers couldn't sing, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
A Lower World, Pleasure Dome, Toronto, Canada
Pastoral Spirit, Performance, Wallspace, All Hallows Church, London
Tomorrow the Future, (curated by Workplace) Fishmarket Gallery, Northampton, UK

2007

A Heligoland for Souls – Experiment Marathon, Performance, Serpentine Gallery, London
HaPazura, Israeli Centre for Digital Art, Holon, Israel
Dawn Chorus, Performance, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
100 Ways to Change the World, Performance, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
Pub Shaman, Performance, The Event, The Lamp Tavern, Birmingham, UK
Solo Screening, Artesmundi, Cardiff, UK
Persona Non Grata, One in the Other, London
Micro-Narratives, 48th October Salon, Belgrade, Serbia
Hamsterwheel, Arsenale – Biennale di Venezia 2007, Venice
Dark Mirror, Netherlands Institute for Media Arts – Montevideo, Amsterdam
False Witness, Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, UK
Extend your Neck, Café Gallery Projects, London
Metteurs en Scène, Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh
Return of the Seven Samurai, Lucy Mackintosh Gallery, Lausanne, Switzerland
Nature Revisited, Tou Scene, Stavanger, Norway
Waterlog, Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich & The Collection, Lincoln, UK

2006

Kamikuchi, Performance, Grizedale Arts, Ikebukuru Tokyo, Japan
Grizedale Arts, Performance, Super Deluxe, Tokyo, Japan
The Mouth of God, Performance, Grizedale Arts, A-Foundation, Liverpool Biennial 06, UK
In Conversation with Mark Wallinger, ICA, London, UK
Emotional Man, CACT Centro d’Arte Contemporanea Ticino, Switzerland
The Nature of Misunderstanding, CACT Centro d’Arte Contemporanea Ticino, Switzerland
AWOL, Bucharest Biennial, Romania
Seven Samurai, Toge, Japan
Sinking Toward Wishy Mountain, The Royal Standard, Liverpool Biennial 06, UK
Radio Shaman, Rogaland Kunstenset, Stavanger, Norway
Action, FRAC-Province-Alpes-Cote-D’azur, Marseille, France
Where the Wild Things Are, DCA, Dundee, UK
The Scarecrow, The Evangelos Averoff-Tositsas Foundation, Metsovo, Greece
Marcus Coates, Market Gallery, Glasgow International, UK
Forsetbacka Bruk Art Project, Forsetbacka, Sweden
God is a Gallery, Gallery Galuzin, Oslo, Norway
2005
*British Art Show 6*, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art & Touring, UK
*Solo Screening*, Marcus Coates’ Films 99-2005, Side Cinema, Newcastle, UK
*Hilchot Shechenim*, Israeli Centre for Digital Art, Holon, Israel
*Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 05*, Berwick upon Tweed, UK
*Clerkenwell Film Festival*, Various Venues, London, UK
*Human Nature*, Pump House Gallery, Battersea, London, UK
*Faltering Flame*, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK

2004
*Shrinking Cities*, Kunstwerke Gallery, Berlin, Germany
*Disguise*, Manchester City Art Gallery, UK
*The Bigger Picture*, BBC Outdoor Public Screen, Manchester City Centre, UK
*Simulation Summit*, Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada
*Only a Game*, Impressions Gallery, York, UK

2003
*Panic Picturesque*, CCA, Glasgow, UK
*The Human Zoo*, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University, UK
*Mother Nature*, Vilma Gold, London, UK
*Further Up In the Air*, Shiel Park Housing Block, Liverpool, UK
*Commotion*, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK
*The Space Between Us*, Vane, Newcastle, UK
*Flock*, Spacex, Exeter, UK

2002
*Out of Season*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK
*“Here...” (Videorom)*, Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, Bergamo, Italy
*Videorom, MACRO, Museo Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Gian Carlo Zanotti Gallery, Milan, Italy
*Flock*, Wysing Arts, Cambs, UK
*Local Birds*, Allenheads Contemporary Arts, Northumberland, UK

2001
*Videorom*, Valencia Biennial, Spain
*Dawn Chorus*, Channel 4, UK
*OX1, Oscillations and Vibrations*, Performance and Sound Festival, Oxford, UK
*A Public Auction of Private Works*, Kimbolton Castle, Cambs, UK
*Chiffchaff*, Performance, Compton Verney, The Bandstand, Leamington Spa and Herbert Gallery and Museum, Coventry, UK
*GB3CV*, Compton Verney, Warks, UK

2000
*The Oriel Mostyn Open*, Llandudno, Wales, UK
*The Grizedale Show*, Grizedale Arts, Cumbria, UK

1999
*Evidence of Existence*, Kunstraum Siegert, Basel
*Good Crop Bad Crop*, Grizedale Arts, Cumbria, UK

1993
*New Contemporaries*, Cornerhouse Gallery, Manchester, UK

Awards and Notable
2013, Trafalgar Square, London 4th Plinth Shortlist
2013, Winner of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Create Art Award
2013 Jarman Award, shortlist
2009, Winner, Diawa Foundation Art Prize
2008, Paul Hamlyn Visual Artist Award
1993, Winner, New Contemporaries Prize

Solo Publications

2016, Marcus Coates, works from 1994 – 2014
Co-Published by Kunsthalle Zurich, Milton Keynes Gallery and Koenig.

2014, A Practical Guide to Unconscious Reasoning
Co-Published by Bookworks and Create
ISBN: 978 1 90601 261 8

2011, The Trip
Published by Serpentine Gallery/Koenig Books
ISBN 978-3-86560-985-4

2007, Marcus Coates – In Profile
DVD Published by Picture This, Essay by Max Andrews, ISBN 978-0-9539872-9-0

2005, Journey to the Lower World
Published by Platform Projects, Essays by Mark Wallinger, Alec Finlay and JJ Charlesworth,
ISBN 0 9546831 6 1

2002, Marcus Coates
Published by Grizedale Books, Designed by Tomato, Essay by Tracey Warr, ISBN 0 95254550 6 3

Residencies

2017, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Canada
2016-17, Psychosis Unit, South Maudsley Hospital, London
2012, The Gushul Studio, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Canada
2009, Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan
2008, Calouste Gulbenkian Trust and Galapagos Conservation Trust Artist Residency, Galapagos, Ecuador
2006, Seven Samurai, Grizedale in Toge and Tokyo, Japan
2006, Liverpool Biennial, Stavanger, Norway
2003, Further up in the Air, Liverpool, UK
2002, Berwick Gymnasium, Berwick upon Tweed, UK
2002, Wysing Arts, Cambridgeshire, UK
2001, Allenheads Centre for Contemporary Art, Allenheads, Northumberland, UK
1999, Grizedale Forest, Cumbria, UK
1993, Orchard Gallery, Derry, N. Ireland, UK

Collections

British Council Collection, UK
Arts Council England Collection, UK
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK
The Wellcome Collection, UK
Private Collections worldwide