

Phil Taylor – Biography & Curriculum Vitae

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Date of birth: 21st December 1964

Biography:

Phil Taylor is an artist based in Brighton, UK. He works primarily with video, photography and sound. Taylor has shown his work internationally since graduating from Oxford Brookes University in 1998. In a recent body of work Taylor has explored cultural and historical aspects of life in the North American state of Montana through photography and video. The resulting work presents a personal interpretation, employing an emotive documentary style that investigates perceptions of race, anti-federalism and the gun culture that exists there, and the rich history of 19th century pioneer life in this sparsely populated state where many 'ghost towns' exist relatively untouched by 20th century life.

An interactive work, 'The Last Best Place', explored these themes through documenting and responding to the cultural and political life of the state of Montana. Montana's self-image is embodied in the phrase: 'The Last Best Place', and many 'traditional' (non-Native American) inhabitants of the state have held on to, or adopted, an archaic, nostalgic vision of pioneer frontier life. A healthy disrespect for federal law and interference (taken to extreme by the 'Freemen' of Justice Township in 1996) is coupled with a loyal adherence to a traditional cowboy/cowgirl lifestyle, albeit with a brand new Ford pick-up and satellite CMTV. Many of these beliefs in a 'traditional' non-federal influenced lifestyle have potentially dangerous undercurrents in the white supremacist organizations that exist throughout North America. The work presented a personal interpretation of these themes that revealed stark contrasts from nostalgic melancholy for an idealized pioneer lifestyle to the pursuit of unadulterated commercialism embodied in corporate America.

Many of Taylor's time-based projects focus upon specific locations that have an historical event or significance associated with them, such as the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg, Germany and the former East German TV Tower in Berlin. These works interpret and document the locations whilst also presenting an emotive and personal viewpoint.

Exhibitions:

2011 **Nunhead Open 8**, 'Poisonville' video, London, UK

2011 **Latitude Festival**, 'Poisonville' video, Southwold, UK

2010 **Soundwaves** Cultural Festival, video installation, Brighton, UK

2009 **White Night** Cultural Festival '30 Seconds of Fortune', Brighton, UK

2009 **Future Places**, video, international festival of digital media and culture, Porto, Portugal

2009 **Cine City** - 'Your Order Number is 105', Brighton film & video festival, Brighton, UK

2009 **World Views**, photographs, Southeast Gallery of Photographic Art, Miami, USA

2009 **Brighton Art Fair**, video installation, Brighton, UK

2008 **Art of Sounds**, the 1st annual international festival of electroacoustic and polymedia art, Guarnerius Art Center in Belgrade, Serbia.

2006 'Ocean Terminal Britannia', video work, **Cafe Diverso**, Gallery, Barcelona, Spain

2005 'Your Order Number is 105', photography & video, exhibition, **IO Gallery**, Brighton, UK

Education:

Oxford Brookes University, MA Electronic Media 1997-1998

University of London, Institute of Education, PGCE 1988

West Surrey College of Art & Design, BA (Hons) Fine Art Printmaking 1984-1987

Professional & Academic:

Senior Lecturer in Digital Media, Graphic Design & Illustration – University of Brighton, UK

Web site: http://artsresearch.brighton.ac.uk/research/academic/taylor_phil/

Other:

Freelance design & consultancy (web, print and interactive)

Web site: www.philtaylor-design.co.uk

Founder of 'Atom Grad' – Brighton based music project 2009+

Web site: www.atomgrad.co.uk



Phil Taylor 2011
Studio **Hotel Vitrine**