

SYLVIA SCHWENK

Artist CV



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1969 born in Mannheim, Germany
1972 immigrated to Australia
2017 returned to Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

1992 Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), University of Canberra
1994 until 2004 Chartered Accountant
2006 Studied at the UdK Berlin with Prof. Katharina Sieverding as part of Bachelors (ERASMUS Program)
2007 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons I), SCA, University of Sydney
2008 Studied an KISD, Cologne as Part of PhD (ERASMUS Program)
2011 Doctor of Philosophy, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

SABBATICAL : 2023-2025

Two year interruption of practice during recovery from injury on dominant arm. I'm fully recovered now.

PERFORMANCES

2026 World Domination, Alt Moabit Berlin (upcoming)
2022 A choir of gestures, Landschaftspark Rheinbogen Monheim am Rhein
2018 connect, on the streets of Berlin
2018 emoji art, City centre, Schöppingen
2017 connect, on the streets of Berlin and Schöppingen
2016 connect, on the streets of New York City, US; Schöppingen; Berlin and Blanca, ES
2016 connect: kaleidoscope, Wasserschloss Reelkirchen, Blomberg
2014 World domination, (Pilot) Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
2013 Study for Dazzle, HMAS Penguin, Sydney
2012 dada - when up is down, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2011 In silence and movement you can show the reflection of people, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2011 Along white lines, during half-time at the NTFL Grand Final, Aurora Stadium, Launceston
2011 birds and clouds from one life to another, Bad Bentheim on the border between Germany and Holland
2011 In silence and movement you can show the reflection of people on the lawns of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2010 Life takes place on foot, Elizabeth and Market St Sydney
2010 Boots for Rising Waters, Arterial Gallery, Sydney
2009 One day I think I'll lend a hand, but right now I need a new plasma TV, Artfair Sydney
2009 Remember the importance of SELF, City centre, Schöppingen
2009 One day I think I'll lend a hand, but right now I need a new plasma TV, K+K carpark, Schöppingen
2009 X Performance Dunedin, The Octagon, Dunedin, NZ
2009 Boots for Rising Waters, , Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin
2009 Red, blue or green?, Bondi, Sydney
2008 Each in their own time, the Hub Newtown, Sydney
2008 X Performance Köln, City centre, Altstadt Cologne
2008 Life Preservers, City centre, Südstadt, Colonge

- 2008 Boots for Rising Waters, on the stairs of the Dom Cathedral, Cologne
- 2007 X Performance Redfern, outside TNT Building Sydney
- 2007 Under Surveillance, Martin Place and St Leonards Train Station, Sydney
- 2007 X Performance Le Loi Saigon, City centre, Saigon, VN
- 2007 X Performance George Street Sydney, City centre, Sydney

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Seasons, from your thoughts become your world, Arterreal Gallery
- 2020 your thoughts become your world, Arterreal Gallery
- 2018 connect, Arterreal Gallery
- 2018 connect, F6 Gallery, Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen
- 2016 connect: kaleidoscope, F6 Gallery, Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen
- 2013 Sylvia Schwenk - Selected works, Brunswick Street Gallery, Melbourne
- 2012 five Prison stories, Arterreal Gallery
- 2012 Sometimes awful things have their own kind of beauty, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne
- 2012 Along white lines, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne
- 2012 birds and clouds from one life to another, Dynamo Expo, Enschede, NL
- 2012 birds and clouds from one life to another, Perron Delden, NL
- 2011 The workers' lift, Albury Library Museum
- 2011 Life takes place on foot, Gallery 2, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
- 2010 The workers' lift, Oxford Art Factory, Sydney
- 2010 Love and Loss, Art2Muse Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 The world is made up of unfinished stories, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 One day I think I'll lend a hand, but right now I need a new plasma TV, Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen
- 2009 They paved paradise put up a parking lot, Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin, NZ
- 2006 Eternal Return, Zapp Live Galerie, Berlin

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 paperfile #21, Positions Art Fair, part of Berlin Art Week, with oqbo, Berlin (upcoming)
- 2026 paperfile #21, Kunsthalle Barmen, Wuppertal, DE, with oqbo project space, Berlin (upcoming)
- 2026 Das Verbindende Element (The Connecting Element), Magistrale der Park Klinik Weißensee, Berlin (upcoming)
- 2026 Art Spring, Offene Ateliers, Berlin, (upcoming)
- 2026 Gegensteuern, (Counter Measures), PopUpStore im Rathauscenter Pankow Berlin (upcoming)
- 2026 2023 Art Spring, Offene Ateliers, Berlin
- 2023 Art Spring, Film Programm, BrotfabrikKINO, Berlin
- 2023 Offene Kunstwerkstatt, Kunstwerstatt, Monheim am Rhein
- 2021 Bild einer Ausstellung, Galerie Paterre, Berlin
- 2021 Art Spring, Offene Ateliers, Berlin
- 2021 Art Springnale, Signal!, Berlin
- 2020 URL > IRL: the best of 2020, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2020 paperfile #15, Positions Art Fair, part of Berlin Art Week, with oqbo project space, Berlin
- 2019 bilder pro sekunde, oqbo project space, Berlin
- 2018 paperfile #14, oqbo project space, Berlin
- 2018 paperfile #14, Positions Art Fair, part of Berlin Art Week, with oqbo project space, Berlin
- 2018 #ALLTHEFEELS, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 Sommerfest, Wasserschloss Reelkirchen, Blomberg
- 2017 Art Central Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN
- 2016 Open Studio, AADK, Blanca, ES
- 2016 Gippfeltreffen, Wasserschloss Reelkirchen, Blomberg

2016 X/II, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2016 X/I, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2015 Outer space, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney
2015 Multiples, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2014 Is this Art? dLux MediaArts, Contemporary Art Precinct, Sydney
2014 Marking Time, Rutgers Art Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ USA
2014 38th Alice Prize, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
2014 Josephine Ulrick and Win Shubert Photography Award, Gold Coast Arts Centre
2014 GrensWerteWeltAusstellung, der Kloster Bentlage, Rheine
2013 Art Fair, Contemporary Art Ruhr -'CAR', Essen
2013 Middle Head: 33° 50' S, 151°14' E, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
2013 Collaborateurs: 9 days in July, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2012 Insider/Outsider, Lincoln Arts Project, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA
2012 Going Gaga with Dada, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2011 Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, Gold Coast Arts Centre
2011 Homegrown, COFA space, Sydney
2011 Body Language, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2011 David Harold Tribe Sculpture Award, SCA Gallery, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2011 Albury Digital Art, Outdoor Gallery, Albury Library Museum
2011 Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast Arts Centre
2011 Art Month, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2010 Postgraduate Degree Show, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2010 Art and About, City of Sydney, Sydney
2010 Lethbridge 10000, Lethbridge Gallery, Brisbane
2009 Linden Postcards, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
2009 Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, Gold Coast Arts Centre
2009 Dunedin Fringe Festival, The Octagon, Dunedin, NZ
2009 Art Sydney 09 - Off the Wall, RHI Pavilion, Sydney
2009 Think Pink, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2009 Climate Camp 09, Mori Gallery, Sydney
2009 Someone draws a flower on the wall beside their bed, Gallery of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawarhalal Nehru University Delhi, IN
2009 Climate Emergency, At the Vanishing Point Gallery, Newtown
2009 Thesis, Victorian College of the Arts Gallery Melbourne
2009 Josephine Ulrick & Win Schubert Photography Award, Gold Coast Arts Centre
2009 Altered States of Reality, Agora Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2009 Dunedin Fringe Festival, Dunedin, NZ
2009 Go Figure, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
2009 Wilson National Art Prize, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane
2008 Watch this space ... Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
2008 Globetrotters, Eyelevel Gallery, Halifax, CA
2008 Go North!, Halifax, CA
2008 Red Cross Summer Exhibition, Nutshuis Gallery, The Hague, NL
2008 Newtown Flicks Short Film Festival, Newtown, Sydney
2008 Moran Prize, Sydney
2008 Night Markets, Performance Space, Sydney
2007 Degree Shows, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2007 Sydney Underground Film Festival, The Factory Theatre, Sydney
2007 The Howard Years, At the Vanishing Point Gallery, Sydney
2007 Trajectories of Dissent, Mori Gallery, Tooth Studios, and Little Fish Gallery, Sydney
2007 Enviro-Collective Art Show, Exit Gallery, Sydney
2007 Beautiful paper, beautiful design, albb, Saigon, VN
2006 Degree Shows, Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney
2006 berliner-fotoalbum, Linienstrasse Galerie Berlin

- 2006 Szpilman Awards, City centre, Berlin
- 2006 Australia right now, Newspace Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 Rundgang, UdK, Berlin
- 2006 Sommerwende International Arts Festival, Galerie 24, Berlin
- 2006 On the Same Page, Greig and Hinde Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 ... about, china heights gallery, Sydney
- 2005 Art Sydney 05 - Off the Wall Emerging Artist Showcase, Royal Exhibition, Sydney
- 2005 MCQ International Art Prize, Chifley Tower, Sydney

- 2005 ... it's the economy, stupid, Newspace Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 Subculture, Newspace Gallery, Sydney

BOOK READING

- 2018 absurdity, oqbo Galerie, Berlin

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS

- 2016 4th José Francisco Rosado, Pedro Muñoz, ES
- 2016 14th Matsalu Nature Film Festival, Tallinn, EE
- 2016 Sydney Film Festival, Sydney
- 2015 13th In the Palace International Short Film Festival, Sofia, BU
- 2015 Croydon International Film Festival, London, EN
- 2014 14th Flensburger Short Film Festival, Flensburg
- 2014 12th In the Palace International Short Film Festival, Sofia, BU
- 2013 The 9th Berlin International Directors Lounge Festival, Berlin
- 2013 The Contemporary Art Fair Ruhr ('CAR'), Essen
- 2012 The 8th Berlin International Directors Lounge Festival, Berlin

COMMISSIONS, AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2022 Commission, Kunstwerkstatt, Stadt Monheim am Rhein
- 2022 Grant, Stiftung Kunstfonds Neustart Kultur
- 2021 Grant Digitalprämie-Berlin
- 2020 Australia Council Grant
- 2017 Commission Stadtbeseztzung II, Kultursekretariat NRW Gütersloh
- 2016 Commission Stadtbeseztzung, Kultursekretariat NRW Gütersloh
- 2014 Commission Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne
- 2013 Commission Mosman Art Gallery and HMAS Penguin, Sydney
- 2012 Australia Council - Artstart Grant
- 2011 Commission INTERREG - Grenzregionen gestalten Europa Europäischer Fonds für Regionale Entwicklung der Europäischen Union, GrensWerte Program
- 2011 Arts NSW Scholarship
- 2010 ACUADs Scholarship, Conference presentation
- 2010 Highly Commended Art Monthly Australia Emerging Writer Award
- 2010 Kickstart, USU, New works Grant
- 2009 Winner Stan and Maureen Duke Gold Coast Art Prize, The Arts Centre, Gold Coast
- 2009 James Kentley Memorial Scholarship, University of Sydney
- 2008 bis 2010 University of Sydney Postgraduate Award, (3 year grant)
- 2007 Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Exchange Scholarship (KISD, Cologne)
- 2006 Fauvette Loureiro Memorial Exchange Scholarship (UdK Berlin)

ARTIST RESIDENCIES AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Kunstwerkstatt, Monheim am Rhein
- 2021 Kunstwerkstatt, Monheim am Rhein
- 2018 Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen

- 2017 Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen
- 2016 aadk, Blanca, ES
- 2016 Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen
- 2013 HMAS Penguin and Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 School of Visual and Performing Arts University of Tasmania
- 2009 Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Schöppingen
- 2007 albb, Saigon, VN

PUBLIKATIONEN UND MEDIEN

- 2025 Dienst, R, Abstraction and Justice: Sylvia Schwenk, your thoughts become your world, Catalog
- 2025 Brunsiek, S und Spiegel, J, Feldwege zur Kunst, Wasserschloss Reelkirchen
- 2022 Klaas, I, Im Monster-schritt um bewegten Kunstwerk, (Monster steps in a moving work of art) Rheinische Post online, 30 Oktober 2022, https://rp-online.de/nrw/staedte/langenfeld/monheimer-performance-aktion-nur-wenige-aktive-machen-mit_aid-791596032022
- 2022 Rheinische Post, Chor der Bewegung im Rheinbogen, (A Choir of Gestures in the Rheinbogen) 24 October 2022, p7
- 2019 Reichelt, M, Geht vorbei: Bewegte Bilder im Projektraum oqbo, Der Tagesspiegel, 13 April 2019, p24
- 2018 Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen und Kultursekretariat NRW Gütersloh, Stadtbesetzung Dokumentation 17/18, (Kultursekretariat NRW Gütersloh, 2018) pp. 26-27
- 2018 Women Cinemakers magazine, Biennial Edition - volume XI, Interview with Sylvia Schwenk about her artistic production and 'library of emoji art', p52-83
- 2018 Lowry S, and Douglas S (Ed), Anywhere and Elsewhere, (Parsons School of Design, NY, Project Anywhere and the University of Newcastle), 2016, p46-47
- 2017 Menzel, S, Der Mund winkt munter mit den Armen, Westfälische Nachrichten, Front page, 23 Sept
- 2017 Menzel, S, Bitte, Bitte, kein Schaf, Westfälische Nachrichten, Front page, pp11
- 2016 Beissner, U, Sommerfest im Wasserschloss Reelkirchen, Blomberg, 7 June, 2016 (online)
- 2016 Dowse, B, X/I and X/II, 10 Year Anniversary Show Catalog, Arterial Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 Grönewold, A, Performancekunst zum Mitmachen, Neue Westfälische, 6 May, 2016 (online)
- 2016 Lütgebrune, B, Künstlerin sucht Teilnehmer für Performance „Connect“, LZ.de, 29 April
- 2016 Porter A, Outer Space Catalog, Casula Power House Arts Centre, Sydney, 2016
- 2016 Sitte, S, Eine beinahe hypnotische Installation, Westfälische Nachrichten, 24 October 2016, front page
- 2015 Cleary S and Gluzman Y, Emergency INDEX 2013, (New York: Ugly Duckling Presse, 2015)
- 2014 Dennemann, A, Künstler zeigen den Wert der Grenze, Grafschafter Nachrichten, 24 March p7
- 2014 Scott, T Beyond the Exhibition Building: MelbourneArt Fair around Town, Broadsheet, 12 August
- 2013 NAVA (National Association for the Visual Arts), Front page, September 2013
- 2013 Fitzgerald, M, Bullseye as art reveals hidden gems, Sydney Morning Herald, 11 September 2013, p9
- 2013 Middle Head 33° 50' S, 151° 14E' Catalog, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Artwiki, 7th Berlin Biennale
- 2012 Fortescue, E, Poking fun, Daily Telegraph, 25 August 2012, p8
- 2012 Frost, A, Engage, explore and evolve, Catalog essay, dianne tanzer gallery + projects, Melbourne
- 2012 Waldvogel, F, birds and clouds from one life to another. a project by Sylvia Schwenk and Nikola Dicke, in 'birds and clouds from one life to another, (Munich: Euregio-Programm Grenswerte, 2012)
- 2012 Yankelevich M and Gluzman NY, Emergency INDEX 2011, (New York: Ugly Duckling Presse
- 2011 Bourne, P, Sylvia Schwenk In silence and movement you can show the reflection of

- people, Interview: Radio Station 2SER, 17 March 2011
- 2011 Dennemann, A, Tanzende Flugzeuge vor wolkenverhangenem Himmel, Grafschafter Nachrichten, 4. July p5
- 2011 Fortescue, E, Let's hear it for tradies, Daily Telegraph, 12 March 2011, p9
- 2011 Frost, A, Open Gallery, Spectrum, Sydney Morning Herald, 8–9 September
- 2011 McShane, B, Don't move the goalposts, become one instead, The Examiner, 15 September 2011, p5
- 2011 Venterink, GL, Vanuit het ene leven in het andere vliegen (Von einem Leben ins andere fliegen) Twente Courant Tubantia, NL, 2 July 2011, p3
- 2010 Bourne, P, Sylvia Schwenk Life takes place on foot, Interview: Radio Station 2SER, 14.10
- 2010 Bourne, P and McGregor C, Sylvia Schwenk: The world is made up of unfinished stories, Interview:Radio Station 2SER, 25 March 2010
- 2010 Dowse, B, Sylvia Schwenk: The world is made up of unfinished stories, 2010, Catalog essay, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 University of Sydney, News, SCA postgraduate works go on display, University of Sydney, 6 December
- 2010 Pavlich, C, Height of Fashion, mX, 23 March, 2010, Front cover
- 2010 Art Heroes, Trouble, October 2010, unpagged
- 2009 Benson, N, Traffic brought to a standstill, Otago Daily Times, 28-29 March 2009, p. 10
- 2009 G.bert, Interview with Sylvia Schwenk, Radio One 91FM Dunedin, 28 March 2009
- 2009 Gezcy A, Social Exchange and Life, 2009, Catalog essay, Blue Oyster Gallery, Dunedin
- 2009 Locksmith Project, Issue I, June 2009, pp. 48-51
- 2009 Meisel-Kemper, E, Jeder einzelne Mensch hat Bedeutung, Westfälische Nachrichten, 21 July, p. 33
- 2009 Meisel-Kemper, E, Wildfremde Menschen kommen in Kontakt, Westfälische Nachrichten, 13 July p.24
- 2009 Pariat, J, Bedroom becomes a drawing room, Time Out Delhi, Vol No 3, Issue 10, 7–20 Aug. pp. 43-45
- 2009 Pavlich, C, Sleeping on the job is working for Sylvia, Mx, 2 February, 2009, p. 4
- 2009 Taplinger, M, Altered States of Contemporary Photography in Chelsea, NY. Gallery&Studio, Feb/March 2009, pp. 14, 23
- 2009 Todd, J, The Interactive Audience, Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: 10 Years at the Blue Oyster, Blue Oyster Project Space, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2009, pp. 33–39
- 2008 Finnegan, A, Hyperplexicsalinated but not scary, Artlink, Vol 28, No 1, March 2008, pp. 47–51
- 2007 Hopcroft, H, Review Sydney College of the Arts Degree Show, 2007, <http://www.artshub.com.au/au/news.asp?sc=&slid=168293&sType=review>
- 2007 Hunt, A, What do our bodies do in Public Spaces?, Interview: Radio Station 2SER, 10 May
- 2007 University of Sydney, Sydney College of the Arts, SCAfoldgust 2007, The University of Sydney, Sydney Front cover and p.4

COLLECTIONS

Public: Museum für Sepulkralkultur, Kassel; Stanford University, California, USA; Gold Coast City Art Gallery

Corporate and Private: Sydney, Berlin, Saigon, Köln, The Hague, Dunedin, New York

SCHWENK ' S WRITING

- 2016 World domination, in Emergency INDEX, (New York: Ugly Duckling Presse)
- 2015 Study for Dazzle, in Emergency INDEX, (New York: Ugly Duckling Presse)
- 2012 Sylvia Schwenk - In silence and movement you can show the reflection of people, in Practical tests
- 2012 Projects which communicate art to the public, (Schöppingen, Schöppinger Forum für Kunstvermittlung
- 2012 In silence and movement you can show the reflection of people, in Emergency INDEX,

(New York: Ugly Duckling Presse)

- 2011 Performosis and the expanded field of performance art, Thesis, University of Sydney
- 2010 Performosis and participatory performance art, Art Monthly Australia, Vol 234, October, pp. 22–23

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

- 2018 Artist talk, connect, Arterreal Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 Project Anywhere Conference - Performance art and research at the outermost limits of location, Parsons, The New School for Design, New York, NY, US
- 2013 Artist talk, Collaboration with Anne Zahalka, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Art Forum, School of Artstralian National University, Canberra
- 2012 Guest Lecturer, School of Drama, Fine Arts and Music, University of Newcastle
- 2011 AAANZ Conference - Contact, Hosted by Art History, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
- 2011 Panelist on Public art organised by Savannah College of Art and Design, at the Conference for American Anthropological Association, Montréal, CA
- 2011 Artsforum, School of Visual and Performing Art, University of Tasmania
- 2011 Guest Lecturer, Photography Studio, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2011 Referee of Papers for ACUAD's Conference, Canberra
- 2010 ACUAD's Conference, Tasmania
- 2010 Graduate Forum, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2010 Referee of Papers for ACUAD's Conference, Tasmania
- 2009 Graduate Forum, Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney

EXAMINER AND LECTURER

- 2015 Lecturer, School of Creative Arts, University of Newcastle
- 2014 Examiner, Masters students, School of Creative Arts, University of Newcastle
- 2009 Guest Lecturer, Sculpture, Performance and Installation Studio, SCA, University of Sydney

