

# CURRICULUM

## VITAE

Thomas Wilkinson BA (first class hon) PGCE  
born: 26<sup>th</sup> April 1956

Mechanical sculptor

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### Workshop:

Unit 20 Kingsgate Workshops  
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- 2006      Commissioned to design artworks for *Barking Park Town Centre Artscape* to be completed by 2008.  
Restoring *Airflow* wind sculpture for Oldham Council  
Short-listed for Waves – artworks relating to the electromagnetic spectrum for The Telegraph Museum, Porthcurno, Cornwall
- 2004/5      Short-listed for sculpture in Railway Square, Lowestoft  
*Light Air* a wind and light sculpture for the new wing of Salisbury District Hospital.  
*The Windable Wind Sculpture* a wind powered sculpture made from fizzy drinks bottles and CDs for The Kilburn Festival.  
Solar powered mechanical sculpture for a school in Haringey with Arts Republic.
- 2003/4      *Ghost Train*, a sculpture for roundabout by the Reebok Stadium, Horwich, Lancashire to commemorate the past locomotive industry.  
For Bolton Council financed by Tesco.
- Winds of Change* two sculptures, one of which is wind powered, for Brent River Park, London for the Wembley Regeneration Project with public art group Art Republic. Concurrent workshops with Year 6 at Oakington Primary School, Wembley making wind sculpture.
- Commissioned by Public Art Leicester to make water sculpture clock

- 2001/2 for School Theatre in Leicester (with public art group Art Republic Commission to make a *Air-flow Art* wind powered sculpture for the new art gallery in Oldham, co-ordinated by The Art Department, Manchester.
- 2000/1 Commission for major sculpture for Magna in Rotherham, a science park in a disused steel mill. Make *Spirit* a 6 metre high kinetic wave of stainless steel.
- 1998/9 Design exhibit to illustrate problem with dyslexic interpretations of modern car dashboard design. For the touring exhibition, *Ergonomics* Science Museum, London by Tim Hunkin.  
Commissioned by the US energy company Enron to make *Light Wave*, a 5 metre long kinetic sculpture in glass and steel.
- 1997 Build a second & third *Dodgem*, one as a commission for the collector Frank Nelson, the other for The Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow. Begin experimenting with making kinetic sculpture.  
Re-model *Striking Cobra* for Bethnal Green Museum.  
Install *The Three Trials of Terror*, a coin operated medieval test of endurance automaton at Bethnal Green.
- 1996 Commissioned to make new kinetic sign for The Tricycle Theatre.
- 1996 Work with Theatre-Rites on *Tentworks* an interactive installation for children in a marquee for The Ross-on-Wye International Festival. I make five mechanical sculptures, to be viewed buried in the ground.
- 1995 Worked for Artem Models & Effects. Make rigs for TV commercials including two animatronic lobsters.
- 1994 Residency with two visual artists at Loughton Training Centre, a day-centre for the mentally disabled. Build twelve foot long automaton with residents depicting both mundane and fantasy elements of the locality.
- 1992 Commissioned by Oldham Museum to make a collection box. Made *Put a Pterodactyl in Your Tank*, an automaton illustrating the strange relationship between petro-chemicals and toydinosaurs.  
Make collection box for The Tricycle Theatre, the subject being Kilburn High Road at night and day.  
The Museum of Automata, York purchase *The Crustacean Keep-Fit*.  
Install *Dodgem*, a coin operated automaton, in The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood
- 1991 One of fourteen automata makers collaborated on *The Ride of Life*, an alternative to theme parks. conceived by Tim Hunkin and Paul

Spoooner Completed first automaton *The Sailor's Dream* for The Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Covent Garden.

- 1990 Worked with design team to build robotic ( one striking, one spitting ) King cobra for London Zoo.
- 1987-89 Assistant designer in the Department of Visual Effects, BBC.
- 1977 Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston upon Thames. Graduated with BA (first class honours) in graphic design. Specialised in film-making.
- 1969-75 Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent, A-level in maths & art.

## Exhibitions

*Automata* The South Bank Centre and John Hansard Gallery, Southampton 1992  
*Whirr, Clank, Judder* Cupola Gallery, Sheffield 1996  
*The annual exhibition of Automata*, Wysing Arts, Cambridge 1993-7  
*Up and Running* 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Scunthorpe 2001  
*Energy* Oriel Myrrdin, Camarthen 2001  
*Off & On* a one man show of mechanical sculpture, Kingsgate Gallery, London 2002  
*Automata* Rufford Craft Centre, Nottinghamshire 2003

## Permanent Collections

Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, Covent Garden  
The Museum of Automata, York (Entire collection sold to Japan in 1998)  
Oldham Museum, Manchester  
Wellington College, Berkshire  
The Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow  
Grosvenor Estates  
Magna, Rotherham  
Gallery Oldham, Manchester  
Various private collections

## **Teaching, Residencies & Workshops**

### **2003 Oakington Manor Primary, Wembley**

Making anemometer wind sculptures and large wind sculpture from all recycled materials

#### **Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery**

Two groups – children aged 7 –12 and adults recovering from mental illness – making robot out of recycled domestic appliances

### **2002 Eyres Monsell Primary School, Leicester**

Residency as part of Art Republic with automata workshops, culminating in building kinetic clock artwork.

### **1999 William Tynedale Primary School, Islington, London**

Two six week projects in automata making with years 4 and 6.  
Co-ordinated by *The Barbican Arts Trust*.

### **1998 Kingsgate Infants School, London.**

Three day project making plaster castes of impressions in clay.

#### **St Peter & St Paul R.C. Primary School**

One term project making automaton taking inspiration from performance by Peter Cutts, *Poetry in Motion*

### **1996 Frank Barnes Primary School for the Deaf, Swiss Cottage, London**

Two day project making plaster castes of surfaces found in school playground.

### **1994 Highbury Field school for Girls.**

Teacher-practice during PGCE in Art & Design, Goldsmiths College.

#### **Wellington College, Berks.**

One term residency in both art and DT departments. *Made The Fire-Breathing*

*Man.*

**1993 Various junior schools in Brent.**

4-day mechanical toys project.

**Anglia Polytechnic University.**

Six week automata project with students of Illustration.

**University. of Westminster.**

One term kinetic project with students of Product design.

**1991 Chelsea School of Art, London.**

Lecture on animation to foundation students.

**Hertfordshire College, St Albans.**

Talk on working in the Visual Effects Department at the BBC.