

Cassandra Thornton

ART PRACTICE

My work investigates and reveals the impact of governmental and economic systems on public affect, behavior, and unconscious, with a focus on debt and security. In my recent work, I develop experimental techniques for healing the social and biomedical wounds that result from surviving capitalism.

BASED

Between Berlin in Germany and Thunder Bay in Canada

FOUNDER

The Feminist Economics Department (the FED)

Website: feministeconomicsdepartment.com

CO-DIRECTOR

The Re-Imagining Value Action Lab (RIVAL) in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Website: reimaginingvalue.ca

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts 2012

Social Practice, California College of the Arts

Bachelor of Fine Arts 2004

Sculpture and Painting, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Art Projects (selected)

2020- THE HOLOGRAM

A viral four-person health monitoring and diagnostic system practiced from couches all over the world. Three non-expert participants create a three-dimensional "hologram" of a fourth participant's physical, psychological and social health. In turn, each becomes the focus of three other people's care in an expanding network.

Website: thehologram.xyz. Supported by Pirate Care, Furtherfield, Furtherfield/Creatures, Blade of Grass (NYC), Eyebeam (NYC), Necessity (UK)

2019 DESPERATE HOLDINGS REAL ESTATE

Radical real estate agency that invites settlers to reconsider owning land, rather developing a relationship to land, home and belonging.

Developed with Dream Farm Commons and ProArts Gallery & Commons, Oakland, CA

2018 FEMINIST ECONOMICS YOGA

Yoga workshops and videos inserting civil rights era civil disobedience and the work of radical feminist economists into yoga.

Casa Chocolat, Berlin; Supermarkt, Berlin; Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, NYC; The Warp & Weft of Care, various locations in Houston, TX; RIVAL, Thunder Bay; Bemis Center for the Arts, Omaha; Furtherfield Gallery, London; The Luminary, St. Louis

2017 COLLECTIVE PSYCHIC ARCHITECTURE

An architectural gallery installation materialising the psychic and financial barriers to health and care

Curated by Taraneh Fazeli for exhibition series 'Sick Time, Crip Time, Creepy Time: Against Capitalism's Temporal Bullying'

Presented at Elizabeth Foundation Project Space, 2017; Bemis Center for the Arts, 2018; The Luminary Art Gallery, 2018; Red Bull Arts Detroit, 2019

2016 UNIVERSITY OF THE PHOENIX

The world's first for-prophet institution of higher education dedicated to the living and the no-longer-living. Participatory classes covered themes of finance, debt, money and value.

Collaboration with Max Haiven.

Presented at Moneylab 3, Amsterdam, 2016; Berliner Gazette Conference, 2017, 2019; Transmediale, Berlin, 2018; EGFKA, Ruhr Valley, 2018; Heterotopian Summit, 2018

2016 MYSTERY HANDS

A children's book and an immersive installation for children to learn about the financialization of their world, in order for them to imagine alternatives—before their imaginations are turned into financial instruments.

Curated by Lorelei Stewart. Presented at Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago

2016 WHATEVER IT COSTS TO DEFEND OUR SECURITY...

Series of cursed watercolor paintings for the offices of bankers responsible for profiting off of children by making predatory loans to public school systems.

Curated by Caitlin Foley and Misha Rabinovich. Installation and talk at Flux Factory, New York City

2016 OVERFLOWING AFTERWORK YOGA & PUB

A pub transformed into a yoga studio became an occasion for performative lectures about human value outside of labor, in preparation for a post-work society.

Presented at Mayworks Festival for Working People and the Arts in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Supported by Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Anna Leowens Gallery 2016

2015- NO JUSTICE NO SERVICE

2016 Series of events and workshops to encourage the organization of adjuncts with other low wage workers and artists.

Collaboration with Jessica Lawless and Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
Workshop at CHARGE, Hosted by Houston Art League 2016. Festival hosted by The LAB, 2015

2014- GIVE ME CRED!

2019 Auxiliary credit reporting service as a humane alternative to credit reporting.

Website: www.givemecred.com
Presented at SPACES, Cleveland 2014. Southern Exposure, 2015. Red Bull Arts Detroit, 2019

2012- DEBT2SPACE PROGRAM

2014 An exploration of the exportation of indebtedness to outer space using radio waves.

Website: www.debt2space.info Tel: 1(707)ENDEBT
Presented at Portland State University, Recess Art PDX, KBOO Radio, Portland, 2013; Royal Nonesuch Gallery, Oakland, 2013; Cannonball, Miami, 2014; Strike Debt Radio Collective, KPFA, Berkeley, 2013-2014; E-flux Gallery, New York City, 2012

2012- DEBT VISUALIZATIONS

2016 Psychotherapeutic service to help visualize debt as a material or a space.

California College of the Arts, San Francisco, 2012; Southern Exposure, San Francisco, 2012; Elizabeth Foundation, New York City, 2012; Cannonball Miami, Florida, 2014; University of Illinois Gallery 400, Chicago 2016

2012- COMMUNALIZATION OF DEBT THROUGH SOUND

2013 Vocalization of indebtedness as sound for catharsis and non-verbal rebellion.

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, 2012; Momenta Art, New York, 2012; Massachusetts School of Art and Design, Massachusetts, 2012; Cooper Union Tuition Summit, New York, 2012; Charlotte Street Foundation, Kansas City 2013

2012 PHYSICAL AUDIT

Dancers touched every surface on a tour of 20 New York City banks.

Curated by Douglas Paulson and Christina Vassallo. Supported by Flux Factory, New York City

Community Projects (selected)

2017- RE-IMAGINING VALUE ACTION LAB

Co-director of workshop for the radical imagination, social justice and decolonization based at Lakehead University, and active online and around the world.
Thunder Bay, Canada

2017- THE RE-MATRIATION PROJECT

Founding member of the collective art and research project that produces research about the meaning of a decolonized library
Thunder Bay, Canada

2017- WIINDO DEBWE MOSEWIN

Long-term volunteer for feminist indigenous street patrol.
Thunder Bay, Canada

2012- STRIKE DEBT

2019 Contributed to written and visual campaigns, planned Debtors' Assembly events, hosted Debt Resisters' Operations Manual release party, managed web presence, and led radio show.

New York City and Bay Area

2014 HASTINGS RACE AND POVERTY LAW JOURNAL CONFERENCE

Lead designer for promotional and information materials relating to radical law conferences. Artistic contributions to conference included performance curation, curation of art activism presenters, and online outreach.
San Francisco

2012 FEMINIST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT BEAUTY SALON

Curated 20 artists to design 'beauty services' that heal economic suffering for clients. Managed the installation of the salon set, the opening and closing events, the publicity, and the organization.
San Francisco

2010 SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE

A one-month, 24-hour, free intergenerational school that reached 200 people a day. Co-designed with Christopher Kennedy, it was the result of a collaboration with multiple arts organizations, the NYC Parks Department, Solar One and Columbia University Graduate Architecture program.
Brooklyn, New York

Public Programming (selected)

PRESENTATIONS

2021 **Undermining Imaginary Limitations in a Viral Peer to Peer Care Model**

Presentation and panel discussion at Global Medical Humanities: Exploring The 'Milieu' conference by Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at Cambridge University

Voices of Care

Moderated discussion with Delphine Halgand, Yvonne Dellmark, Helen O'Connor at Behind the Mask: Whistleblowing During the Pandemic, Disruption Network Lab Conference, Berlin

Radical Care

Miki Kashtan and Cassie Thornton, moderated by Kaira Jewel Lingo, hosted by Blade of Grass, New York City

Social Ecology, Health Care, and Radical Politics

Ashlie Taylor, Cassie Thornton, Shari Laliberte, during the Institute of Social Ecology Summer Intensive, Vermont

The Economy of Care

Artist Lecture, hosted by Northhamptom Contemporary Art, Manchester

With For About Conference

Artist Lecture, hosted by Blade of Grass, New York City

2020 **Care: Solidarity is Disobedience**

Tomislav Medak, Cassie Thornton and Maddalena Fragnito, moderated by Davor Miškovic, MoneyLab #8 at Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana

The Hologram: Peer to Peer Health for a Post-Pandemic Future

Artist Talk, hosted by the Chaos Computer Club (Europe's largest association of hackers), Germany

The Hologram: You Can't Cut THIS: Without Multiplying I

Book launch with Cassie Thornton, Tina Zavitsanos, Ruth Catlow, hosted by Eyebeam Center for the Future of Journalism, New York City

Collectivity beyond Art Collectives

With Tomislav Medak, moderated by Ana Vilenica, Kuda, Slovenia

The Hologram: Collective Health as a 'Beautiful Art Work'

Artist Talk, hosted by Occupying the in Between Conference by Mountain of Art Research at Goldsmith's University of London

2012-2022 **Presentations around the world**

Making Worlds Bookstore, Philadelphia; Wolfman Bookseller, Oakland; Summer Institute for West Den Haag, The Netherlands; Beyond Repair, Minneapolis; Swissnex, San Francisco; RGFKA Theatre Project, Essen Germany; Real Time & Space; The OMNI Commons, Oakland; Flux Factory, Queens; Berliner Gazette; Berlin, Germany; Halifax Public Library, Canada; San Francisco; The OMNI Commons, Oakland; Occupy Forum; Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin; Left Forum NYC; Niebel Proctor Marxist Library; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Heterotopian Summit, Essen Germany; Moneylab@SUNY Buffalo; University of Chicago Anthropology Department, Chicago IL 2018; Kings College London; City College London; Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences; Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain; CASCA Anthropology Conference, Dalhousie University, Canada; San Francisco State University; Evergreen College; Portland State University; California College of the Arts; California Institute for Integral Studies; Sonoma State University; Massachusetts School of Art and Design; SUNY Purchase; SFAI; La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris; Open Practice Committee at University of Chicago

WORKSHOPS

2022- **Hologram Practice Portal**

Quarterly for incomers on Zoom

Hologram Community of Practice Meetings

Monthly for familiars on Discord server

2021 **To Build A House Out Of People with The Hologram**

Blazing New Worlds, co-work space at Shieldfield Centre, Newcastle

Asking for help as a New World

Online Hologram course over six consecutive Tuesdays. Supported by Furtherfield, UK

Incomer Workshop on UnKraut Boat

Supported by VielRESPEKT Foundation, Berlin

Why not be vulnerable?

Online Hologram course over six consecutive Mondays. Supported by Furtherfield, UK

Why Is It So Hard To Ask for Help?

Part of Curriculum for Future program by A Blade of Grass, New York City

Minimum Viable Hologram

Introduction sessions. Part of Curriculum for Future program by A Blade of Grass, New York City

Is this the end or the beginning?

Online Hologram course over six consecutive Tuesdays. Supported by Furtherfield, UK

2020 **The Hologram: Collective Health as a 'Beautiful Art Work'**

Pirate Care x Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna

2019 **Collective Financial Health**

Workshop connecting health and finance. Detroit Public Library Main Branch, Detroit, MI. Supported by Red Bull Arts Detroit as part of Sick Time Exhibition curated by Taraneh Fazeli

Local Crafts And Contemporary Art

Five-session course taught with Ivory Tuesday. Correctional Facility of Thunder Bay, ON. Supported by Elizabeth Fry Society

Masterclass, Passionate Action

One Day Somatic Art Workshop. Organized by Baruch Gottlieb. West Den Haag Summer Institute, Netherlands.

Solving Problems

Winter and Spring afterschool workshop. Boys And Girls Club of Thunder Bay, ON. With Community Arts & Heritage Education Project.

Post-Filia

Hacking The Debt To Dream Ratio: Creative strategies against financialization. With Max Haiven. Autonomous Nat'l University Of Mexico, Mexico City.

2018 University of the Phoenix

Workshop to support young artists to develop and test a radical code of conduct. With Max Haiven. Folkwang University's Heterotopian Summit, Essen Germany

Disobedience through movement

In collaboration with Lisa Nyberg. Skånes Konstförening, Malmö Sweden 2018

Wombco.in

Stealth workshop using the lure and hype of cryptocurrencies, then rerouting attention towards anti-capitalist healthcare. Moneylab Conference, SUNY Buffalo NY 2018

2017- Radical Financial Literacy Tour

2018 Critical redesign of financial literacy courses as a collective solidarity project With Max Haiven.

2007- Numerous workshops around the world

2014 Berkeley Art Museum, San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center, Eyebeam Center for Art and Technology, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Srishti School, Center for Urban Pedagogy, Brooklyn Arts Council, Escuela Superior de Artes de Yucatan, Imagine Bus Project, Portland State University; Evergreen State College; LA PAH & FLO 6X8, Seville Spain; Supermarkt-Berlin, Berlin Germany

BOOKS

2020 The Hologram: Feminist, Peer-to-Peer Health for a Post-Pandemic Future

Vagabonds series by Pluto Press: London, 2020 (print and digital)

2019 Desperate Holdings Real Estate: Dis-Investment Manual

Published by Tripwire Journal of Poetics in Berkeley, 2019 (print and digital)

2019 Imaginacion Política: Encuentro Internacionale

Translated and published by Post-filia in Mexico City, 2019 (print and digital)

2016 De(b)t: Bad Spelling, an Adult Problem

Self published, 2016 (print and digital)

2015 ROCK

Published by Recess Arts PDX in Portland, 2015 (print)

2015 A Soft Spot in a Hard Place

Published by Publication Studio and Portland State University, 2015 (print)

ARTICLES

2021 Debt: A Science Fiction

Arts of the Working Class, 20 October 2021

The Art of Parasitical Resistance.

Contemporary Political Theory, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-021-00509-6>

2020 The Hologram's Wikipedia Entry from 2038

Arts of the Working Class, 22 July 2020

RESIDENCIES

2022 Galerie Fondrie Darling

Montreal

Transmediale

Berlin

2020 Eyebeam

New York City

2018 Akademie Fine Arts

Prague

2015 Evergreen College

Olympia

2014 Headlands Center for the Arts

California

Cannonball

Miami

2012 Provisions Library at George Mason University

Fairfax

Boston University Interarts Department

Boston

2009 Ox-Bow

Michigan

2008 Saksala Artradius

Finland

Media Coverage (selected)

INTERVIEWS

- 2021** **Interview: Cassie Thornton on Hope and Care**
The New Institute Hamburg Germany, Winter 2021
- 2020** **The Hologram – Peer to Peer Healthcare with**
Common Horizons, 7 December 2020
- The Hologram: Reclaiming the Means of Health and Care**
ROAR Magazine, 30 July 2020
- 2019** **(Sur)real Estate, Speculative Capital and Housing Displacement**
By Max Haiven on Public Seminar Blog of the New School
- 2018** **Art, Debt, Health, and Care**
By Marc Garrett for Furtherfield, 2 July 2018
- Peer to Peer Healing: Rethinking Clinics for Social ‘Medicine’**
By Eryk Salvaggio, Nextrends Blog
- Transcending Debt: Meet the Feminist Economics Department**
By Eryk Salvaggio, Nextrends Blog
- 2017** **Politicizing Debt an Interview**
By Annie McClanahan for Stanford Press Blog
- Play and Imagination Against Debt**
By Ania Molenda at Amateur Cities Blog

PODCASTS

- 2022** **Wages of Dreamwork, Wages for Dreamwork**
Podcast with Max Haiven and Phanuel Antwi, hosted by Ben Evans James, Transmediale, Berlin
- Mr Bear Reads from The Hologram**
Mr Bear’s Violet Hour podcast
- 2021** **Cassie Thornton: The Hologram**
Culture Sex Relationships podcast
- Decentralised Networks of Care: The Para-Real as Mutual Aid**
With Shawn Chua and Lauren Klein, on THE PARA-REAL: Finding the Future in Unexpected Places livestream series by ReclaimFutures and The New Design Congress
- A Pyramid Scheme for Revolutionary Care?**
On Conspiracy Games and Counter Games podcast by Reimagining Value Action Lab (RIVAL)
- Peer-to-Peer Health Support on Against the Grain**
KPFA Radio
- 2020** **Vagabonds and the Revenge of Capitalism**
Radicals in Conversation podcast by Pluto Press
- Preparing for the Post-Pandemic, with Cassie Thornton**
The Public Intellectual with Jessa Crispin
- Peer-To-Peer Feminist Care**
This Is Hell podcast
- 12. Stratford Place+Regents Crescent (London) W/ The Feminist Economics Department (Cassie Thornton)**
Asset Arrest podcast
- Cassie Thornton imagines how radical collaboration and revolutionary care networks are possible**
Pretty Heady Stuff podcast
- News from Where We Are**
Podcast launch episode by Furtherfield
- 2019** **Cassie Thornton, the Ultimate Socially Engaged Artist**
By Michael Shaw, The Conversation Art Podcast

RADIO

- 2020** **Interviewed**
Radio Tropiczo, Mexico City; This is Hell Radio, Chicago; News from Where We Are, London
- 2017** **Interviewed**
Against the Grain Radio on KPFA, Berkeley; Superior Mornings, CBC Radio Thunder Bay; Up North, CBC Radio Thunder Bay
- 2016** **Interviewed**
Against the Grain Radio, KPFA Berkeley
- 2014** **Host**
Strike Debt Radio on KPFA, Berkeley
- 2013** **Host**
Debt2Space Program Segment, KBOO in Portland