

**Sandy Smith**

General portfolio of artwork.

October 2010

## **Biography**

I was born in 1983 in Dunbar, a small seaside town outside Edinburgh, Scotland. I moved to Glasgow in 2001 to study Sculpture & Environmental Art at The Glasgow School of Art, graduating in 2005. Between 2005 and August 2010 I lived and worked in Glasgow, using it as a base from which to work while participating in numerous exhibitions around the UK and internationally.

In August 2010 I moved to New York to study on the Master of Fine Art program at Columbia University, supported by a Fulbright Scholarship.

## **Artist Statement**

My creative output swings between idea(l)s of melancholic romance, human/artistic striving and exuberant optimism, translated into works alternating between time-consuming repetitive endeavour and light-hearted immediate gestures. I have steadily worked through artistic media since graduating in 2005, developing a practice that utilises painting, performance, video and text, from a base grounded in sculpture and installation.

My recurring interests in physical/mental exploration and the performative aspect of making were realised in a 3-month collaborative project in late 2008 with Alex Gross. The centre point of this project was a 9000-mile road trip around the western United States, punctuated by three solo exhibitions. Essentially a 3-month performance, it was a literal exploration of human endeavour and failure, modernism and hippy culture, and a jovial examination of the role of the artist/individual in relation to humanities monumental hopes and ideals.

Since returning to my individual practice I have continued to explore these ideas, with new works in painting, video and audio. These works have explored the 'instant' of creativity and its balance of chance, timing and intent. The appropriation of existing art motifs and styles in a process of 'designing' artwork has played a strong role in exploring this interest.

I'm currently following a path of research combining an interest in the death/void of meaning exemplified by abstract sculpture, awkward desire, Bukowski, and that little spark of love/life/hope/desperation that links human beings.



Above: **"Better World"** installation shot, 2010

Below: **"Abandon the universe"**, Gold paint on black glass, 2010



These two photographs document my most recent solo exhibition, "Better World", commissioned for the Glasgow International 2010 Festival of Visual Art.

The top photograph shows the main room of the exhibition space, where three plaster sculptures, peppered with coloured lightbulbs, are reflected in an enormous (3.6 x 1.8m) sheet of black glass, with the text "I never felt closer to you than this" scrawled in gold paint on it's surface.



Above: **"Pure Love"** exhibition Installation shot, 2009  
Below: **'You complete me'** & **'Pure Love V'**, both 2009



Sandy Smith, October 2010. [www.sandysmith.co.uk](http://www.sandysmith.co.uk)



Above: Installation shot, foreground: **'Untitled (please don't break my heart)'** 2009  
Below: Untitled drawing, 2009



Sandy Smith, October 2010. [www.sandysmith.co.uk](http://www.sandysmith.co.uk)



**“The object moved by its own success (II)”**, December 2008. Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, 2008  
Two room installation: video, glitter, papier-mâché, pine, concrete



Left: **“The object moved by its own success”** (video still)  
October 2008

This image shows a frame from a one hour performance-to-camera video, shot on the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah.

The video consists of a ten-minute performance in the middle of the hour long single shot. The two artists enter the scene, fill a tie-dye T-shirt with wet clay, and throw it back and forth until it disintegrates over the white ground.



Above: **"Untitled (First Friday Las Vegas)"**, mixed media installation, 2008

Below: **"Waiting for reoccurrence"**, mixed media installation, 2008



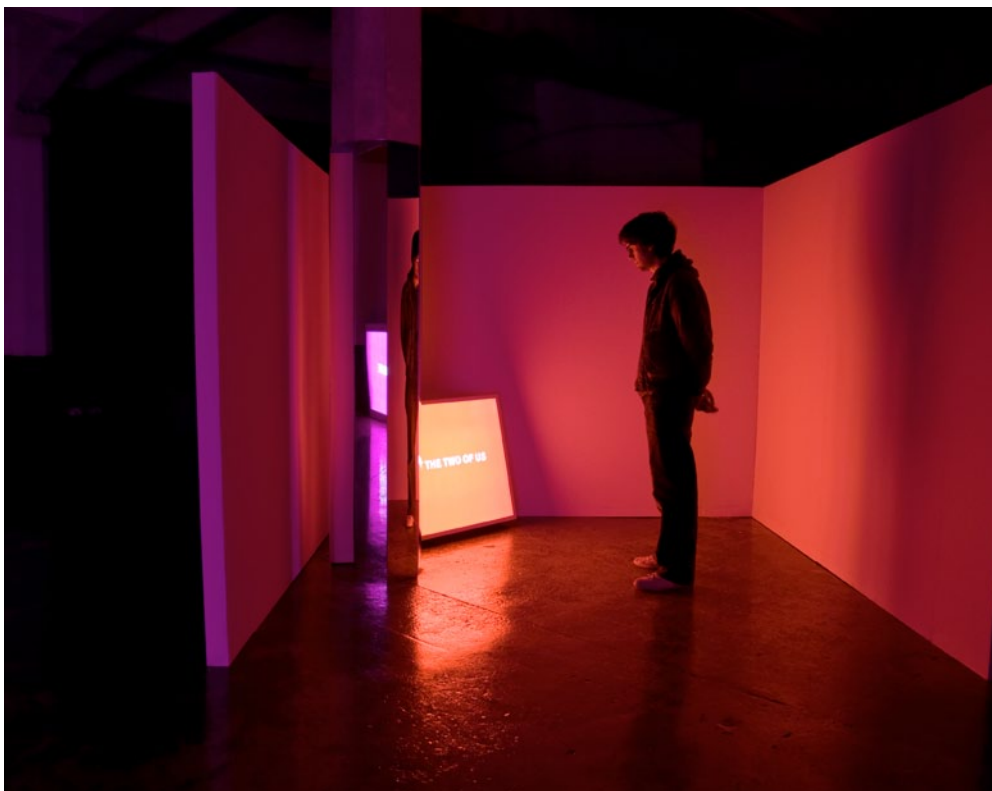


Above: **“Untitled (balancing act #2)”**, 2008.  
Mirror card, wooden dowel. 600x220x20 cm

**“Untitled (balancing act #2)”** was made for a group exhibition at Belfast’s longest running artist-run exhibition space, Catalyst Arts. I was asked to contribute work to a group show that would address the news that the gallery would shortly be closed down and demolished to make way for a redevelopment of the city centre.



Above & below: **"Sapere Aude"**, 2007  
 Lightboxes, text, mirror, three-channel  
 video projection, floor varnish



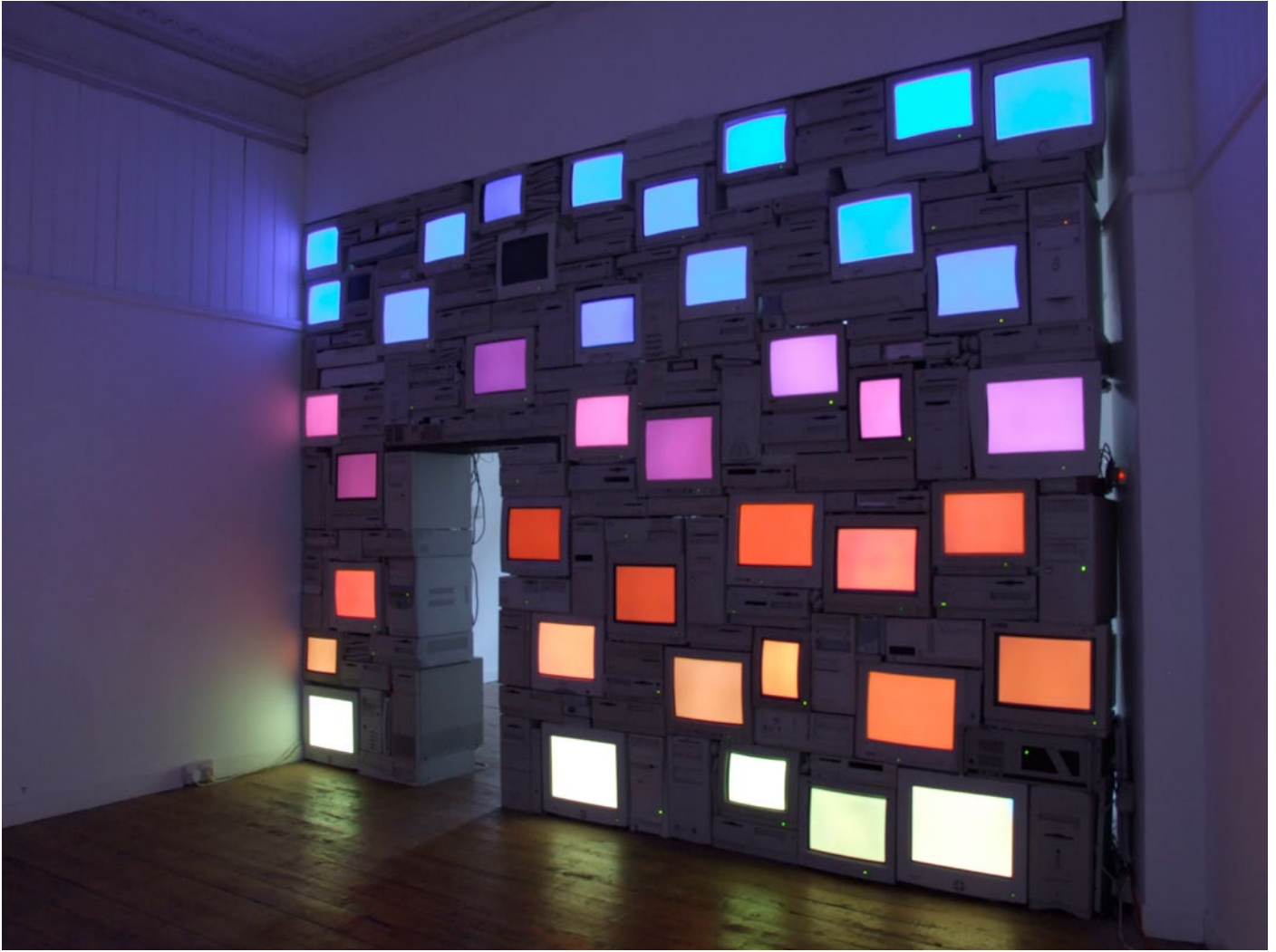
This exhibition was the end result of a long collaborative exploration of the idea of Enlightenment, in particular reference to Immanuel Kant's essay 'What is Enlightenment'.

A three-channel video projection loops on the exterior of a three walled room, showing the artist dancing along as he beat-boxes a soundtrack, naked from the waist down. Inside the room a lightbox - engraved with the text 'Just the two of us' - rests beside a mirror-covered structural pillar.



Above: **“All the time I was making this I was thinking of you”**, 2007. Mixed media installation.  
Below: **“Untitled (life is good)”**, 2007. Mirror, cement, carpet, wood.





**“Mauritian Sunset”, 2006.**  
Assorted computer equipment.

This installation, exhibited at Edinburgh’s Embassy Gallery, was the final incarnation of a series of works using a collected stockpile of discarded and redundant computer equipment.

A wall of live computers divides the gallery space in two. Facing the gallery window/doors is the rear side of the wall, a chaotic mass of cables and computers. The rear half of the gallery, accessed by a doorway in the wall, is lit entirely by the glow of 45 monitors. The space as a whole is filled with the heat, sound and smell of the 100+ active computers formed the wall.

## Artist CV – Sandy Smith

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Born: 1983, Edinburgh, Scotland

### Education

- 2010-2012: Master of Fine Art - Visual Art  
Columbia University, NY, USA
- 2001-2005: B.A. (Hons.) Fine Art Sculpture / Environmental Art - 1st Class  
The Glasgow School of Art, Scotland

### Prizes/Grants

- 2010: Fulbright Commission – Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship
- 2009: Glasgow City Council Visual Artist Grant
- 2008: Scottish Arts Council Creative & Professional Development Grant  
New Work Scotland Project (Collective Gallery)  
British Council Travel Grant
- 2007: Dewar Arts Award  
Glasgow City Council Visual Artist Grant
- 2006: Danish Arts Council Artist Grant  
Glasgow City Council Visual Artist Grant

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2010: 'Better World' – SWG3 offsite project as part of Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art  
'Into the Desert' – in collaboration with Alex Gross, Infernoesque, Berlin
- 2009: 'You are the one' – Arcan Mellor, Clerkenwell Rd, London, April  
'Reposition: Sandy Smith' – Princes Square, Glasgow. April/May  
'Pure Love' – Space In Between, London. March
- 2008: 'New Work Scotland: Smith / Gross' – collaboration with Alex Gross, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Dec  
'The object moved by its own success' – collaboration with Alex Gross. CUAC, Utah, October  
'First Friday' – collaboration with Alex Gross. Las Vegas – September  
'Blockbuster' – collaboration with Alex Gross. Crawl Space, Seattle – August
- 2007: 'Sapere Aude' – collaboration with Andrew Cattanach, Studio Warehouse Gallery, Glasgow, November  
'Me & You' – Yellow at 1103, Glasgow, July  
'All the time I was making this, I was thinking of you.' - Market Gallery, Glasgow, June
- 2006: 'I thought it would be more personal' – Koh-I-Noor Gallery - Copenhagen, November  
'The world is becoming better' – GSS Gallery -Glasgow, June

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2008: 'The Garden Project' – Catalyst Arts – Belfast, June  
'Wood Death Architecture' – 59 West Princes St – Glasgow, June  
'The Local' – Glasgow International Exhibition, Studio Warehouse Gallery – Glasgow, April  
'Incredible Permanent Gains' – Krets Gallery – Malmo, Sweden, February
- 2007: 'Get a Room' – Charity event, Brunswick Hotel, Glasgow, December  
'Glasgow School of Art Staff Exhibition' – Macintosh Gallery - Glasgow, October  
'Poststuckism is the new black' – Studio Warehouse Gallery – Glasgow, August  
'Fjorten talenter' – Gallery Brantebjerg, Denmark - May  
'SSA Annual Exhibition' (Invited Artist) – Royal Scottish Academy – Edinburgh, March
- 2006: Koh-i-Noor stall – Alt\_Copenhagen Art Fair – Copenhagen, September  
'Huttel, Luttkin & Smith' – Galleri Ægidius – Randers, Denmark, September  
'Great Artspectations' – The Embassy Gallery - Edinburgh, Jan
- 2005: 'Monitor' – Lot – Bristol, November  
'BraveArt 05' – Atlantis Gallery - London, October  
2005 Degree Show - Glasgow School of Art – June  
"Shoal of Mackerel" stall, Glasgow Art Fair - May

## **Residencies**

- 2009: Reposition (4 week studio project) – Glasgow  
2008: Birch Creek Residency Centre – Utah, USA  
2007: Studio Project 9 (4 week studio project), Market Gallery, Glasgow  
2006: Artist in Residence, National Workshop for Arts & Craft, Copenhagen  
2005: Graduate Scholarship, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow

## **Selected Bibliography / Publications**

- 2010: "30 under 30" – I-on Glasgow, June 2010  
"Strange Twists of Artistry" – Kirstin Innes, The Herald, 23rd April 2010  
"Glasgow International Preview" – Andrew Cattanach, The Skinny, April 2010
- 2009: Uncle Chop-Chop – Fifth edition, published November 2009  
"In the red? Lets paint the town" – Edd McCracken, Sunday Herald. 3rd May 2009  
"Art Pilgrimage: Glasgow & Edinburgh" – James Clegg, Art Review. March 2009
- 2008: "European Duo's road trip produces an elegiac examination of the American West" – Regina Hackett, Seattle P.I. 15th August, 2008  
"Arnie's 'one joke' movie made into work of art" – Edd McCracken, Sunday Herald. 24th February 2008