

**Home & Studio Address:**

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**Andy Best** was born in 1963 in the south of England. He moved to Finland in 1988, and has been creating art and media projects with his wife Merja Puustinen since 1993. Andy and Merja both have backgrounds in sculpture, video and installation art. They were amongst the first artists working online, and during the mid to late 1990's created beautiful, but provocative, multiuser 3D worlds on the internet. Their company Meetfactory has developed a web-based 3D multiuser community platform as well as virtual pet and e-learning applications for mobile phones. They focus on developing playful, physically engaging installations, robotic, and interactive works using physical computing techniques. They have recently founded Espoo Kunsthalle, an initiative to bring critically engaged art to the suburban areas of Espoo. Andy Best has presented works and papers at many international conferences and festivals of new media, art, and technology. Andy is an experienced curator, producer and educator and is currently lecturer in sculpture and a PhD student and researcher at Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture.

**Publications & Conference Papers:**

Best, Andy (2018): *The wind is the power: Social empowerment for disabled performers through development and performance of personalised new musical interfaces*, Special Issue of *Synnyt/Origins, Finnish Studies in Art Education*, 1st International Conference on Disability, Arts and Education. (In review process)

Best, Andy (2015): *Who creates the narrative? The case of RE/Fr:ACE, a participatory media artwork in city space*, 4<sup>th</sup> Visual Methods Conference, University of Brighton, 17 September, 2015.

Best, Andy (2013): *Physicality: embodied acts & mediating technologies*, CARPE conference, Manchester Metropolitan University, 4-6 November, 2013

Best, Andy (2013): *T/ACT – Disability, Participation and Empowerment through Media Performance*, The Arts in Society conference, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary 24-26 June, 2013

Best, Andy (2013): *T/ACT – Disability and Participation; a case study*, New Materialisms IV conference, University of Turku, 16-17 May, 2013

Best, Andy (2013): *RE/Fr:ACE: a participatory performance media art event in the city*, The Spectacular/Ordinary/Contested Media City symposium, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, 15-17 May, 2013

Best, Andy (2012): *RE/Fr:ACE: a participatory media artwork*, Co-author: Merja Puustinen. Digital Creativity, Vol. 23, No. 2

Best, Andy (2012): *T/ACT – Participatory media design for social empowerment*, 18th International Symposium on Electronic Art, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA 19-24 September, 2012

Best, Andy (2011): *T/ACT – Social Empowerment through Interaction with Media Art*, Rewire, 4th International Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology, Liverpool, UK 28-30 September 2011

Best, Andy (2011): *T/ACT – Social Empowerment through Interaction with Media Art*, 17th International Symposium on Electronic Art, Istanbul, Turkey 14-21 September, 2011

Best, Andy (2010): *Inflated egos and other stories* published in: *Memories of a Distant Future: Web3D Art & Design 1995 – 2010*, 15th ACM Conference on Web 3D Technology co-located at SIGGRAPH 2010, Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles CA <http://www.web3ddesign2010.org>

Best, Andy (2009): *Three Approaches Towards Teaching Game Production* Co-authors: Tuomas Mäkilä, Harri Hakonen, Jouni Smed and Andy Best published in: *Design and Use of Serious Games 2009* Ed. Marja Kankaanranta & Pekka Neittaanmäki ISBN 978-1-4020-9495-8

**Most Recent Exhibitions & Events:**

**Sculpture Expanded**, Helsinki, *coming May – September 2019*

**Galleria Sculptor**, Helsinki, *coming March – April 2019 (solo)*

**OBJEKTI 4**, Espoo Kunsthalle, Espoo, Finland, June – September 2018 (**curator**)

**Come Hell or High Water**, Vellamo, Kotka, Finland July – September 2017 (**solo**)

**Tongue Town**, Museo de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil, June – September 2017

**Häh! vesitospolku**, Taarasti, Finland, June – August 2017

**Art 'n Stuff**, Museum of Work, Norrköping, Sweden. May – August 2017 (**solo**)

**Miks ei!**, Galleria Uusi Kipinä, Lahti, Finland, October – November 2016

**Varje Dag**, Public commission, Katrineholm, Sweden, August 2016

**OBJEKTI 3**, Espoo Kunsthalle, Espoo, Finland, June – September 2016 (**curator**)

**Kuumaa Puuroa ja Kumiperunoita**, Kajaani Art Museum, Finland, March – April 2016 (**solo**)

**Paradise Express**, Rauma Art Museum, Finland, November 2015 – February 2016 (**solo**)

#### Site Specific Projects:

**Varje Dag:** commission, permanent installation of neon texts and images, developed with immigrant teenagers, Katrineholm, Sweden, August 2016

**Wild at Heart:** public inflatable sculpture installation on outside of old customs warehouse, Katajanokka, Helsinki. Helsinki Design Week 2011

**Silent Footsteps:** a permanent environmental art work for Helsinki city consisting of 20 bronze tiles cast with indigenous wild animal footprints. Simonkatu, Helsinki

**VTT** competition by invitation. A proposal for public media art project in Otaniemi head quarters. Espoo 2005

**RAX:** installation of five large site-specific colour photographs in the streets around the Beaconsfield Gallery, central London. September-October 1996

**Puzzle it out!** a project for Prospekt I Gamlebyen, Oslo, 1994. Free postcard distributed locally, and centre-page insert to Morgonbladet newspaper

#### Curatorial projects:

**OBJEKTI** (2014), **OBJEKTI 2** (2015), **OBJEKTI 3** (2016), & **OBJEKTI 4** (2018): outdoor sculpture summer exhibition. Curator and organiser, Espoo Kunsthalle, Espoon Keskus, Finland. Summer 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018.

**Mini-Festival @ Espoo Kunsthalle:** performance and media art installations in and around Espoon Keskus. May 2013

**Digitally Yours:** Ars Nova Aboa Vetus Museum, Turku 2007: International exhibition of art critiquing the interface between the global information networks and the personal and private human space.

**The Male of the Species:** Exhibition series at Muu Gallery, Helsinki, plus video screening as part of Muu Media festival/MAP September- November 1997. Artists dealing with re-defining the masculine and the male role within society, in contrast to the Scandinavian protestant idea of a real man.

**RAX:** Exchange exhibition between Beaconsfield Gallery, London, and Muu ry, Helsinki. 1996 six Finnish artists exhibited in London. August 1997 British artists exhibit in Helsinki, **between the devil and the deep blue sea**, curated and produced in co-operation with Beaconsfield.

**R2GO:** 1995 - 2000, international artists make multiple art 'products' for distribution over the Internet via a virtual gallery. Objects can be purchased from around the world via the world wide web, and distributed by post.

**Outpost Biennale**, Venice 1995: Scandinavian and Baltic area organiser for FAT (Fashion Architecture Taste, London) project - hundreds of artists from around the world make 100 business card sized works each for free distribution around the city. Their signature and identity can be purchased separately.

**Muu Advent**, 1993: 24 artists make installations in Muu Gallery and images published in Helsingin Sanomat, Finland's largest newspaper, over 24 consecutive days in December.

**Baltic Pathways**, Helsinki Festival 1992: Nine artists from four Baltic countries install site-specific works onto two ferries sailing between Helsinki and Tallinn during the period of the first possibilities for travel to the West for people from the old Eastern bloc.

#### Selected Gallery, Museum & Festival Exhibitions 2000-2017:

Come Hell or High Water, Vellamo, Kotka, Finland 2017

Tongue Town, Museo de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil 2017

Häh! vesitospolku, Taarasti, Finland 2017

Art 'n Stuff, Museum of Work, Norrköping, Sweden 2017

Miks ei!, Galleria Uusi Kipinä, Lahti, Finland 2016

Kuumaa Puuroa ja Kumiperunoita, Kajaani Art Museum, Finland 2016

Paradise Express, Rauma Art Museum, Finland 2015 – 2016

Waiting for Paradise, Ängeln Kulturhuset, Katrineholm, Sweden 2014

Staro Riga, Festival of Light, Riga, Latvia 2013  
 Elämyksiä Hyvästä, Ars Auttoinen 2013  
 Skulptur, heute! Finnish Institute in Berlin, Germany 2013  
 Stockholm Supermarket, Sweden 2013  
 Edible, The Science Gallery, Dublin, Eire 2012  
 L2, Stockholm, Sweden 2011  
 Into the Wide Blue Yonder, Galleria Mäntinranta, Tampere 2011  
 Ovi Rivoon, Ars Auttoinen 2011  
 AND Festival, Grizedale Forest & Townley Hall, UK 2010  
 Making Sense, Shire Hall Gallery, Stafford, UK 2010  
 Monkey Business, Kerava Art Museum, Kerava 2009-2010  
 Eurocultured 2009, Manchester, UK 2009  
 Digital Media 1.0 Festival, La Nau, Valencia, Spain 2008  
 Speakeasy, MUU Galleria, Helsinki 2007.  
 Flux II new media festival, WeeGee, Espoo 2007  
 Stomach pains, headache and dizziness, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum, Turku 2006-2007  
 Terrortory/New Terrortory, MUU Gallery, Helsinki & Pakt, Amsterdam 2006  
 Finnish Institute, Stockholm, Sweden 2006  
 Rakastaa, ei rakasta..., Kiasma, Contemporary Art Museum, Helsinki 2004 – 2005  
 Galleria Skulptor, Helsinki, Finland 2004  
 Game On! Helsinki, Finland 2003  
 F2F Finnish Media Art, Toronto, Canada 2001  
 F2F Finnish Media Art, Washington DC, USA 2001  
 Games, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2000  
 F2F Finnish Media Art, Los Angeles, USA 2000  
 Pro@contra, Moscow 2000

#### Internet & Mobile Projects:

**RE/F/r.ACE** Mobile, internet & video projection, media intervention in city space (with Merja Puustinen & Victor X). Helsinki/Paris 2011-ongoing

**Blue** Video for 3" Canvas mobile art exhibition, Helsinki 2010

**PoGo** Pocket Application to Go - a demo E-learning application for mobile devices 2007

**mLife** Artificial life application for 3G mobile phones (with Mika Huhtamäki). Helsinki 2004

**Iceborg:** 3D multiuser interactive virtual community on the Internet. Co-production with the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, and Helsinki European City of Culture 2000, 1999–2001

**Conversations with Angels** 3D multiuser interactive environment on the Internet. Co-production with the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, and Kiasma, Contemporary Art Museum, Helsinki, 1996-98

**Helsinki City Art Museum** Design and construction of Internet web site for the museum, Kluuvi Gallery, and outdoor public sculptures in Helsinki 1996-7

**Suburbarama Honeymoon** An investigation into suburban lifestyles in Copenhagen, as part of the Compartements project organised by Globe during the European Cultural Capital year. Installation in Galleri Campells Occasionally, fly-posters distributed around the city, web site August 1996

**DAD@** Internet project: A critique of the hype surrounding the world wide web. As an installation included in Breaking Eyes, Nordic Media Art, Helsinki and Stockholm 1995-96

#### Art Works in Collections:

Katarineholm city, Sweden  
 Science Gallery, Dublin, Eire  
 Portable Pixel Playground, Folly Digital, UK  
 Kiasma, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki  
 Helsinki City Art Museum  
 Finnish State Collections  
 Vantaa city, Finland  
 Private Collections in Europe and US

#### Awards and Scholarships, 2000-:

2018 Espoo City Cultural Board  
 2017 TAIKE Environmental art grant  
 2016 Espoo City Cultural Board  
 2015 Espoo City Cultural Board  
 2014 Espoo City Cultural Board  
 2012 Finnish Cultural Fund, 1 year research grant  
 2011 TAIK research award

2011 Finnish Cultural Fund, 1 year research grant  
 2011 Uudenmaan lääni Cultural Board  
 2010 Espoo City Cultural Board  
 2009 Arts Council, media arts special funds  
 2009 AVEK, Vieteri-tuki  
 2009 Swedish-Finnish Cultural Fund  
 2009 Kordelin Foundation  
 2009 AVEK, media arts  
 2009 Finnish Cultural Fund, Uudenmaa County  
 2008 Residency Grant, Ulverston, Great Britain  
 2008 Residency Grant, Arts Council, Finland  
 2008 Production commission, folly, Great Britain  
 2008 Production Grant by Lanternhouse International, Great Britain  
 2007 AVEK Digi-demo PoGo production  
 2006 AVEK Digi-demo Pogo manuscript  
 2005 Arts Council, travel grant  
 2005 Arts Council, Publication  
 2004 AVEK, Content for New Media Fund  
 2003 Arts Council, Art for Children Fund  
 2003 Arts Council, Media Arts Fund  
 2002 Helsinki City Cultural Board  
 2002 VISEK Media Arts Fund  
 2002 Arts Council, Media Arts Fund  
 2001 TE- Centre Internationalisation project support  
 2001 TEKES Internationalisation project support  
 2001 TEKES virtual community product development  
 2000 Educational Ministry, virtual community development  
 2000 AVEK International marketing

<b>Academic &amp; Professional Studies &amp; Positions:</b>
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**Qualifications:**

2003-5 Pedagogical Vocational Teacher Training, Jyväskylä Polytechnic  
 1996-2007 Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Master of Fine Arts  
 1988-90 Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, Post-graduate study  
 1984-87 S.G.I.H.E., Cardiff, Wales, UK, BA(Hons) Fine Art  
 1983-84 Southampton College, Art Foundation course  
 1982-83 Southampton University, Naval Architecture BSc course

**Faculty position:**

Head of General Studies, Art Department, Aalto University School of Arts, Design & Architecture, Finland  
 2017- 2018  
 Lecturer in Sculpture, Art Department, Aalto University School of Arts, Design & Architecture, Finland  
 2014-  
 Principal Lecturer, Media Arts & Fine Art, Arts Academy, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland  
 2013  
 Principal Lecturer & Course Leader, Digital Arts, Arts Academy, Turku University of Applied Sciences,  
 Finland 2002- 2010  
 Sculpture & Media Art Lecturer, Lahti Art Institute, Finland 1991-97

**Visiting Lecturer at:**

Aalto University, School of Arts, Design & Architecture, 2010 - 2013  
 Estonian Academy of Fine Arts, 2011  
 Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki 1995, 2009, 2010  
 Lapland Art & Communications College 1995  
 Lahti Technical Institute, Finland 1995  
 Chelsea College of Art, UK 1994  
 New York University at Albany, 1993  
 Cardiff Art College, UK 1993

**Positions of trust:**

Finnish Sculptors Association, board member 2017 –  
 JUKO Shop steward, Aalto University ARTS 2017 -  
 TEXO 2016 Textile Art Triennale jury member  
 Arts Council of Finland, Media Art section, board member 2010-2013  
 Cartes Flux 2012 Media Art Festival, jury member  
 Turku European Capital of Culture 2011 Grand Prix, jury member

**Membership:**

Finnish Sculptors Association  
 MUU ry