

James Beckett (1977)**Born in Harare, Zimbabwe, works and lives in Amsterdam**

James Beckett (b. 1977, Harare, Zimbabwe) graduated from the Technikon-Natal, Durban South Africa, after which he took part in a two-year residency in the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Coming from a background of installation, sound has come to develop a more central role in his work. This has been a research based activity with output ranging from radio documentaries to mock ethnic bands, and museum displays documenting the cultural and physiological effects of noise. The evolution in specific areas of the industrial revolution have also played muse; such as the foundation of synthetic color manufacture and its relationship to BASF, and the cultural implications of vacuum tubes for the Dutch firm Philips. Without humor his work would appear as mere cynicism, - it is romance with an inherently rotten subject matter which offers some sort of redemption in a modern world.

Education and residency

2014	Aldeburgh Beach, LOOKOUT Residency, Suffolk (UK)
2013	Wysing, Cambridge (UK)
2009	Künstlerhäuser Worpswede (DE)
2008	International Residence at Recollets-Paris (FR)
2001 - 2001	Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (NL)
1996 - 1999	Technikon, Natal, BAFA (degree) (ZA)

Fellowships / Awards

2009	Transcriptions 1-6: An installation for the Research Departments of Netherlands Cancer Institute / SKOR (NL)
2005	Basis Stipend: Fonds van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam (NL)
2003	1st Prize Prix de Rome (NL)

- 2002 Stipend: Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten / Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture/ Science (NL)
Grant: National Arts Council, Johannesburg (ZA)
- 2001 Grant: Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, Johannesburg (ZA)
Stipend: Rijksakademie Beeldende Kunsten/ Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture/ Science (NL)
- 1999 Emma-Smith scholarship, Durban (ZA)

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 *The Guinness Curse*, T293, Rome (IT)
- 2014 *KaVo Zahnarztstuhl, Regie 1520A*, abc in Berlin (DE)
KaVo Zahnarztstuhl, Regie 1520A, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam
Lookout Residency Program, (UK)
Dowsing Schools, Artspace, Auckland (NZ)
- 2013 *Passionate Advocate for a Poisoned Earth*, TWAAS, New York (US)
- 2012 *Door and Milk Permutations*, Lüttgenmeijer, Berlin (DE)
Of Animal and Inventory, Blank Projects, Cape Town (SA)
- 2011 *Khevsurvite Derivative (potential dwellers in ravines)*, T293, Rome (IT)
Neue Kunstverein, Wien (AU)
- 2010 *Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life)*, Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam (NL)
Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life), Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL)
Zakłady na Życie (Plant-Life) Stuk, Leuven (BE)
Pairs and Stacks (only items from the collection of the Hilversum Museum Hilversum, Hilversum (NL) Museum, dealing with the nature and quantity of collections, as well as the act of collecting.
- 2009 T293, Napoli (IT)
Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL)
- 2008 *Dalmine (and other extract-arrangements)*, Lüttgenmeijer, Berlin (DE)
Limburgerhof (The Agricultural Extract-Arrangements), Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam (NL)

- 2007 *Living Registration*, T293, Napoli (IT)
- 2006 *Living Registration*, Buerofriedrich Berlin (DE)
Untitled Installation, Natal Society of BArts, Durban (SA)
- 2003 *Climb on Shoulders to Peep Over and Dismount with Lips in Hedge*,
 NICC, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerpen (BE)
- 2002 *Extract Arrangements*, PLUS Gallery, Dusseldorf (DE)
- 1999 *Home*, Natal Society of Arts, Durban, (ZA)
Breathing Space, The Yard, B/W Photography, London (GB)
Breathing Space, Natal Society of Arts/ Palmer street studios, Durban (ZA)

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Now is the Time: The Wuzhen Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Wuzhen (CN)
- 2018 *Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More*, first Riga International
 Biennial of Contemporary Art (LV)
The Assassination of Leon Trotsky, David Lewis, New York (US)
Revolutionize! Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kiev (UA)
- 2017 *La lama di Procopio*, A Dolomiti Contemporanee and AGI Verona
 Collection exhibit, Casso (IT)
Survival Guide, curated by Kristy Trinier, Art Gallery of Alberta (CA)
James Beckett with Narcisse Tordoir, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)
Utopia/Dystopia, curated by João Laia, MAAT, Museum of Art,
 Architecture and Technology Lisbon (PT)
*Structured Frustrations: Half-Contextualizing Unfulfilled Capacities in
 Architecture*, curated by Samira Hashemi, CC Isfahan (IR)
50 years curated by Stefan Cammeraat, Ex-Bunker, Utrecht (NL)
Witness, 1st Karachi Biennial, Karachi (PK)
The World is Flat, MCAD, Manila, (PH)
Dead Darlings, Unseen, Amsterdam (NL)
w serves imperialism, W139, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2016 *Hacking Habitat*, Art of Control, Utrecht (NL)
Hospice (collaboration with Artun Alaska Arasli), Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)

Markus Lüttgen, Art Cologne (DE)
Apprentice/Master #20, Kunst Podium T, Tilburg (NL)
Palace Ruin, Public Art Project, Amsterdam Zuidas (NL)
What Next - picture tomorrow, 38CC, Delft (NL)

- 2015 *Homing II*, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)
Personne et les autres / No one and the others, Belgian Pavilion, Giardini, 56th Venice Biennial (IT)
 Thessaloniki biennial (GR)
A4 (5) Multiple, S.M.A.K., Gent (BE)
Hospice, Artun Alaska Arasli & James Beckett, Markus Lüttgen, Cologne (DE)
Next Day, Group Show with works by Doug Ashford, James Beckett and Remco Torenbosch, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)
- 2014 *Annals of the Twenty-Ninth Century*, Wysing Arts Centre (UK)
Narcisse Tordoir, The Pink Spy, MHKA, Antwerpen (BE)
A Thousand Varied Uses, NoguerasBlanchard, Madrid, (ES)
Dowsing Schools, Physics Room, Christchurch (NZ)
(On)zichtbare Kracht, IK-eiland, Oost-Souburg (NL)
Homing, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)
- 2013 *Limbo Variations*, with Siet Raemaekers, Paviljoen Gent (BE)
to scrap a proportion, Wilfried Lentz Rotterdam (NL)
Artificial Amsterdam, De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)
"That's that, that way 'round, basically – as you probably know" – John Baker – an exhibition of James Beckett, artistsclub coffrefort, Brussels (BE)
Dread - The dizziness of freedom, De Hallen, Haarlem (NL)
Scenographies, SMBA, Amsterdam (NL)
Liquid Assets, Der Steirische Herbst, Graz (AT), curated by Luigi Fassi and Katarina Gregos
"That's that, that way 'round, basically – as you probably know" – John Baker – an exhibition of James Beckett, artistsclub coffrefort, Brussels (BE)
- 2012 Dak'Art Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Senegal (SN)
When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes, curated by Jens Hoffmann, CCA Wattis, San Francisco
Stevenson Gallery, curated by Clare Butcher, Cape Town (SA)
Beyond Imagination, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, curated by Martijn van Nieuwenhuyzen and Kathryn Jentjens
Der Steirische Herbst, Graz (AT)

- 2011 *Expérience Pommery # 9 "La Fabrique Sonore"*, curated by Charles Carcopino and Claire Staebler, Pommery (FR)
Rapid Art 1, Stadtgalerie Bamberg, Villa Dessauer (DE)
Verzameld Werk (section folklorique), curated by Ivo van Werkhoven and Leen Bedaux, Zeeuws museum, Middelburg (NL)
15 Unidentified Species, Galeria Boavista, Lisbon (PT),
Blinds Installation, Huis aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL)
- 2010 *All the Memory of the World*, GAM Torino, Turin (IT)
 KAAP, Fort Ruygenhoek, Groenekan (NL)
Spare That Tree, Woodman, Lüttgenmeijer, Berlin (DE)
Capturing Metamorphosis, Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam (NL)
Doodgewoon, Museum Hilversum, Hilversum (NL)
Historical Structures -New Existentialism Part 2, Kurator, Zurich (CH)
Playground: Zak"ady na #ycie (Plant-Life), Stuk, Leuven (BE)
Gold for wood, Veemvloer, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2009 ICA, London, together with Plus Minus ensemble and Kammerklang
 Festival aan de Werf, Utrecht (NL)
 Open Source, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2008 *Foyer: language and space at the border | For the First and the Second Time*, CAC Vilnius, 2007
Between Thought and Sound, The Kitchen, New York (US)
Chaos City 2, Universal Studios, Beijing(CN)
Return of the Gastarbeiter, Kucevo, (RS)
Museum of Noise, Koelnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (DE)
- 2006 *Untitled (Façade)*, VHDG Leeuwarden (NL)
Practicum 06a, N-Collective in Mediamatic, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2005 SMART Project Space, Amsterdam (NL)
Radio Days, produced four radio programmes De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)
 Screening of *Pioneer*, De Balie, Amsterdam (NL)
Low Tech, QArte, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2004 *Hit and Run*, Istanbul, Platform Garanti and Smart Projects Istanbul (TR)
Values, 11th Serbian Bienale Visual Arts, Pancevo (RS)
 Nanjing Art Institute, DAI/ NAI Nanjing(CN)

- 2003 *Vacuum*, Jaarbeurs Utrecht (NL)
 Gem - Museum of Contemporary Art, Prix de Rome (NL)
A Partial Museum of Noise, Den Haag (NL)
Death, Emmaus-Ölberg-Gemeinde, Berlin (DE)
- 2002 *Rendezvous*, Centre for Contemporary European Art, Xiamen (CN)
Dokumenta, collaboration Narcisse Tordoir / Meschac Gaba Kassel (DE)
 Bessengue City, set up radio station, Doula (CM)
Filiale Afrika, Spar Kasse, Dusseldorf (DE)
Noise of Coincidence, Cucosa Contemporary Art Space, Rotterdam (NL)
A Haunted house of Art, Outline Project Space, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2001 *Home Made*, Stichting V/H de Gemeente, Leeuwarden (NL)
 Karl Hofer Society, Berlin (DE)
CLICK, Centre Soeileil d'Afrique, Bamako, (ML)
Adrift, Las Palmas, Rotterdam (NL)
Pulse, NSA, Rijksakademie R.A.I.N, Durban (ZA)
- 1999 Civic Centre, Graduates of Natal Tech. Johannesburg (ZA)
- 1998 *Black and Blue*, Palmer Street Studios, Durban (ZA)
- 1997 Bat Centre, Collaboration with Sandberg Institute
Stel Hotten Totten Ten Ten Toon, Durban (ZA)

Concert/Lecture/Performance/Workshops

- 2009 Three Concerts (feat. Plus Minus Ensemble), ICA, London
 The Frèderyck Nüyegen Seaside Memorial Band, Künstlerhäuser
 Worpswede
- 2007 Pipes and Foam, Koelnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
 'Circalles' Stage and Light, composition of Martijn Tellinga, Huis ad Werf
 (NL)
- 2006 'Lucier in Taiwan' concept and teacher of sound workshop Taipei (TW)
 'Loss of meaning in Language', Delft Architecture Dept. Delft (NL)
- 2005 Nadine Project Space, performance/concert Brussels (BE)

- 2004 Nanjing University, lecture /sound w/s, Nanjing (CN)
- 2003 Baby, concert, 'Schoenberg /Gamelan imposition' Amsterdam (NL)
Lost and Found, Concert, 'Fridge' Amsterdam (NL)
Nederlands Architecture Institute, Concert Rotterdam (NL)
- 2002 Alliance Francais, Seminar, 'International Art practice' Yaoundé, Cameroon
Stubnitz.nl/NDSM-WERF, concert with Marijn Korff de Gidts Amsterdam (NL)
Rijksakademie, concert, 'Mantra for Motors' Amsterdam (NL)
Muntplein, concert 'Muntplein Transferal', Amsterdam (NL)
- 1999 National Art Gallery, Salt performance, Durban (ZA)

Exhibitions curated by James Beckett

- 2013 *to scrap a proportion*, Wilfried Lentz, Rotterdam (NL)
- 2012 *Taut and Tame*, Berlin with works by André Avelãs, Lado Darakhvelidze, Kati Kärki, Jim Skuldt, Roman Wolgin, Tania Theodorou
- 2007 *Here as the Centre of the World*, in collaboration with Dutch Art Institute, 50 artists - Netherlands, Turkey, Taiwan, Syria, Lebanon and Sudan, Enschede (NL)
Sirens, an evolution from water, through water, to water 66 –East, Architecture and Urban planning space, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2006 *Lucier in Taiwan*, Artists from the Netherlands and Taiwan, (In an empty apartment block) Taipei, (Taiwan)
- 1997 *Thirty Seven Songs*, 37 artists, Durban (ZA)

Publications

- 2018 Annotated Sax Compendium, published by Jonathan P Watts and Ryan Gander
- 2015 *Personne et Les Autres*, catalogue for the Belgian Pavillion at the 56th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Mousse Publishing. Artists and Architecture, Variable Dimensions, Editions du Pavillon de l'Arsenal, 2015

- 2013 'works of James Beckett with constant interjections by Frank Key'
Westreich Wagner Publications NY (US)
- 2010 # 3, Zaklady na Zycie (Plant-Life), gallery publication with a text by Will
Holder 2009
Younger than Jesus, Artist Directory, Phaidon
- 2009 Monograph 1998-2008 James Beckett, Kehrler Verlag
Catalogue with an installation for the Research Departments of Netherlands
Cancer Institute
- 2007 'Museum of Noise', Mark Bain and James Beckett, Koln (DE)
'A-for Alibi', Uqbar foundation, De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)
'Sirens', Catalogue of Curated Exhibition, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2005 'Radiodays', Stichtung De Appel, Amsterdam (NL)
'Open', SKOR, Amsterdam Amsterdam (NL)
- 2004 'Run', Smart projects in Istanbul Istanbul (Turkey)
'Values', Catalogue, 11th Serbian Biennale Pancevo, Serbia
Initiation: Gregg Smith, RAIN, 'Very Real Time' Cape Town (ZA)
- 2003 Initiation: goodwill, Catalogue, 'A Partial Museum of Noise' Amsterdam
(NL)
Prix de Rome, Sculpture, Art and Public Space Amsterdam (NL)
- 2001 Stichting V/H de Gemeente, 'Home Made' Leeuwarden (NL)
- 2000 Initiation Greg Streak, RAIN, 'Pulse' Durban (ZA)

Articles/Reviews

- 2018 Art Territory, 'Dream big, see it fail repeat' interview within the framework
of the 1st Riga Biennial.
- 2015 *Reviews Venice Biennial 2015:*
'Opening Up', CCQ Magazine
'AnotherAfrica.net'
CDJ Magazine
De Groene Amsterdammer

'10 paviljoens in Venetië', Metropolis M

Mousse Magazine

Ossian Ward, Wallpaper*

The Art Newspaper

Artnet

Art in America

Alistair Sooke, The Daily Telegraph

Roberta Smith, The New York Times

Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, ArtForum

Frieze Magazine

Le Monde

Francesca Pini, Corriere della Sera – Sette

- 2013 'A Light Hand', New York Times, 7 March
- 2011 Metropolis M, no. 2-2011, feature article on James Beckett
- 2010 Volkskrant 26-5-2010, review Plant Life, theater piece at Festival aan de Werf
- 2009 NRC 26-5-2009, review Blinds
NRC 24-4-2009, article on revival of the ready-made by Sandra Smalenburg
Kunstbeeld, review Limburgerhof, (The Agricultural Extract - Arrangements, Esther Darley
- 2008 Art Review, review Dalmine (and other industry extract-arrangements), Astrid Mania
- 2007 review, T293, Naples Italy, Art Forum Italy, Eugenio Viola, IT
- 2006 review, James Beckett, "vohundert" magazine Berlin, Astrid Mania, DE
review, "Zitty" city guide magazine Berlin, DE
review, 'Nebenwirkungen' - Koelischer Rundschau, DE
review, 'Das Brummen von 220 Volt' - Koelner Stadanzeiger, DE
review, ">>Museum of Noise<<" Roland Schappert Kunst forum, DE
review, mail and guardian, author: alex sudheim, ZA
review, arthrob, author: dean henning, ZA
- 2005 Tubelight, Spotlight: James Beckett, Vinken en van Kampen

- 2003 article, (review of prize), Prix De Rome, Ina Boiten, Art and Public Space (NL)
 articles, Mark Kremer and Ansuya Blom, NICC, Koninklijk Museum Voor Schoene Kunsten, Antwerpen (BE)
 review, "Scherpa" – Daily Paper, Antwerpen (BE)

Commissions/ Work

- 2003 - 07 Guest Tutor, Dutch Art Institute Netherlands
 2007 -08 Developing an installation for Research Departments of Netherlands Cancer Institute, facilitated by SKOR (NL)

Public Collections

- Centre Pompidou Paris (FR)
 Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (NL)
 Valkhof Nijmegen (NL)
 Zeeuws Museum Middelburg (NL)