

## Paul B. Davis

Born 1977, St Louis, Missouri  
Lives and works in London

Paul B. Davis utilises outdated or obsolete computer technologies, including most notably Nintendo games systems, in order to perform specialist interventions into the territory of the digital art medium. While the materials utilised are ready-made, the use principle is entirely hand crafted; Davis altering the existing code while adding nothing new. This idea, the implemented projection of an alternative potential onto a ready-made object, exactly and succinctly captures the structured abridgement – between computers and art, between theory and praxis, ongoing in Davis' practice.

Davis founded the BEIGE Programming Ensemble with Joe Beuckman, Cory Arcangel and Joseph Bonn. While still in college in the late 90s Davis pioneered the use of hacked video game cartridges as a sculptural object. His Nintendo work was premiered in 2000 and subsequently BEIGE members used hacked NES systems to create a distinct body of work that has been shown internationally. His more recent video work has involved aestheticising the glitches commonly encountered in digital video compression, bringing an element previously considered to be a fault into the fore, as a device for merging and demerging images and footage. This culminated with an exhibition that responded to the pop star Kanye West's use of the technique in a music video, titled Define your terms (or Kanye West Fucked Up My Show).

### Solo and Two Person Exhibitions

- 2011 **Power Users**, Western Illinois University Art Gallery, Macomb, Illinois
- 2010 **Miller-Urey Bong**, with AIDS-3D, Seventeen, London
- 2009 **Define Your Terms (or Kanye West Fucked Up My Show)**, Seventeen, London  
**Tha Click**, [with Paper Rad], Milais Gallery, Southampton
- 2008 **Only for the Headstrong**, NEXT, Chicago, Illinois
- 2007 **Intentional Computing**, Seventeen, London  
**Now I Just Stand Here Silently Among The Data That Grows Cold**, Bruna Soletti Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2004 **Big Hand at the Dice Game**, [with Paper Rad], The Horse Hospital, London
- 2001 **Post-Data in the Age of Low Potencial**, Deadtech, Chicago, Illinois

### Group Exhibitions

- 2016 **Can You Hear Me?**, Printed Matter, New York, New York
- 2015 **Software**, Hard Problem, Cubitt Gallery, London
- 2014 **ARD Television**, International Teletext Art Festival, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 **AFTER/HOURS/DROP/BOX**, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford  
**Game On**, Glucksman Gallery University College Cork, Ireland
- 2012 **Sounds Like Silence**, HMKV, Dortmund, Germany  
**The Way Forward**, The Cutting Room, Nottingham  
**Responsive Eyes**, Jacob's Island, London

- 2011 **Electron Festival**, Geneva, Switzerland  
**FORMAT**, Luminary Centre for the Arts, St. Louis, Missouri  
**1.85 Million**, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia  
**The New Psychedelia**, MU, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
- 2010 **Shift Festival**, Basel, Switzerland  
**Playlist**, iMAL, Brussels, Belgium  
**Michael Jackson Doesn't Quit**, The Future Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
**Filtering Failure**, Planetart, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
**Rational Rec Open Dialogue**, Matt Robers Art, London  
**Frieze Art Fair**, London  
**Whole Earth Catalogue**, Neoncampobase, Bologna, Spain
- 2009 **Playlist**, LABoral Centro de Arte, Gijon, Spain  
**The Earth not a Globe II**, Rokeby, London  
**Embedded Art**, Akademie der Kunste, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 **DADAMACHINIMA**, Planetart, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
**STRUCTURES FOUND – STRUCTURES LOST**, Five Years Gallery, London  
**Bitmap**, Leonard Pearlstein Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**We Like What You Eat**, Seventeen, London  
**The Steve Guttenberg Galaxy**, V22, London  
**Multichannel**, Artsway, Sway
- 2007 **Good Riddance**, MOT International, London  
**Tha Click**, E:vent Gallery, London  
**Bitmap**, Vertextlist, New York, New York
- 2006 **Satellite of Love**, Witte de With CENTRE, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
**Art and Place**, Space 301, Mobile, Alabama  
**My Friends Electric**, Sonar Festival, Barcelona, Spain  
**Faster than Sound**, Bentwaters Airbase, Suffolk  
**Take it to the Net**, Vilma Gold, London  
**Welcome to the Real World**, MIACA, Yokohama, Japan
- 2005 **320x200: Da Show**, Space 1026, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2004 **The Whitney Biennial**, Whitney Museum, New York, New York(collaboration with Cory Arcangel)  
**DEFUNCT**, San Francisco MOMA, San Francisco, California
- 2003 **Killer Instinct**, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, New York  
**Throw Back**, TEAM Gallery, New York, New York  
**Blinky**, Foxy Productions, Brooklyn, New York
- 2002 **The Stray Show**, Thomas Blackman, Chicago, Illinois  
**Prints and Chips**, Bitforms Gallery, New York, New York
- 2001 **Make-World Festival**, Lothringer13, Munich, Germany  
**Interface: Exploring Possibilities**, Fassbender Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
**Post-Data in the Age of Low Potential Pt.2**, Deadtech Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

**Video Screenings**

- 2010 **Whole Earth Catalogue**, Neoncampobase, Bologna, Spain
- 2008 **Multichannel**, Artsway, Sway
- 2006 **Welcome to the Real World**, MIACA, Yokohama, Japan  
**International Film Festival Rotterdam**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2005 **Utopia**, Whitechapel Gallery, London
- 2003 **Blinky**, TATE Britain, London
- 2002 **NY Underground Film Festival**, Anthology Film Archives, New York, New York

**Performances**

- Louise Blouin Institute, London, 2008
- The Old Blue Last, *Tha Click [w/ Paper Rad]*, London, 2008
- Beaconsfield Gallery, *Mother of all Parties*, London, 2008
- Spring Festival, Graz, AS, 2007
- Festsaal Kreuzberg, Berlin, DE, 2007
- Basurama Festival, Madrid, ES, 2005
- Hayward Gallery, London, UK, *Hayward Nights*, 2004
- The Scala, London, UK, *IDEASFactory: Sound Circuit*, 2004
- Liverpool Biennale, Liverpool, UK, *BEIGE Performance*, 2004
- Summer of HTML Tour *[w/ Paper Rad, DJ Shoulders]*, Chicago/St.Louis/Kansas City/Milwaukee/Detroit, 2003
- Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL, *Illegal Art Festival*, 2003
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, *Version>03 Sound*, 2003
- Aldwych disused Tube Station, London, UK, *Seed Records Rave [w/ Aphex Twin, Luke Vibert]*, 2003
- 2002 Technics/DMC World DJ Championships, Chicago, IL, 2002
- The Knitting Factory, *[w/ Extreme Animals]*, New York, NY, 2002
- SoundLab, New York, NY, *SOUNDLAB BATTEL*, 2001

**Selected workshops/ lectures**

- Goldsmiths College, *How Art Works*, London, UK, 2016
- Malmö Art Academy, Malmö, Master class & studio visits with MFA students, Malmö, SE, 2014
- Tate Modern, *Young@Tate* seminar, London, UK, 2011
- Plug Minas, *COMA Festival*, Belo Horizonte, BR, 2011
- Slade School of Art, *Theorie Cum Praxi Symposium*, London, UK, Feb 2008
- Royal College of Art, *Digital Methods*, London, UK, Nov 2007
- London Games Festival, *Videogames and Art*, London, UK, Oct 2007
- Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, DE, May 2006
- La Casa Encendida, *Basurama 06*, Madrid, ES, May 2006
- A4 Cultural Centre, Bratislava, SK, April 2006
- British Film Institute, *Bits in Motion*, London, UK, March 2006
- BBC7, *Big Toe*, London, UK, November 2005
- Hayward Gallery, *Sonic Sessions*, London, UK, June/July 2005
- The Tank, *BENT 2005 Festival*, New York, USA, May 2005
- Lovebytes Festival, *Circuit Bending for Audio*, Sheffield, UK, March 2005

Barbican, *Sonic Threads*, London, UK, Feb 2005  
 Tate Modern, *Christian Marclay Sounds of Christmas*, London, UK, Dec 2004  
 Waygood Gallery, *Channel 4/IDEASFactory - Circuit Bending*, Newcastle, UK, 2004  
 Urbis Centre, *Channel 4/IDEASFactory - Circuit Bending*, Manchester, UK, 2004  
 FACT, *Channel 4/IDEASFactory - Circuit Bending*, Liverpool, UK, 2004  
 Vinyl Factory, *Channel 4/IDEASFactory - Nintendo Hacking*, London, UK, 2004  
 Victoria & Albert Museum, *Sbbb...*, London, UK, 2004  
 Royal Festival Hall, *Ether Festival - Circuit-bending for Audio*, London, UK, 2004  
 SUNY-Buffalo, *Language & Encoding Symposium*, Buffalo, USA, 2003  
 Harvestworks, *Games*, New York, USA, 2002  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, *Who's the Tool?*, Chicago, USA, 2002  
 Engine27, *Post-Media Symposium*, New York, USA, 2001  
 Oberlin Conservatory of Music, *Senior Recital - Hacking the Nintendo Entertainment System*, Oberlin, USA, May 2000

## Bibliography

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**Spampinato, Francesco**, *Can You Hear Me?: Music Labels by Visual Artists*, Onomatopée, 2015 **Dekker, Annet**, “A Fun Aesthetic and Art”, In: Goriunova, Olga (ed.) *Fun and Software: Exploring Pleasure, Paradox and Pain in the Computer*, Bloomsbury, 2014, pp. 239-241  
**Kane, Carolyn**, *Chromatic Algorithms : Synthetic Color, Computer Art, and Aesthetics after Code*, University of Chicago Press, 2014, pp. 176, 199  
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## Education

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| 2018      | PhD, “Turing-completeness as Medium”, Central Saint Martins, London  |
| 2000-2001 | Graduate Study, Art & Technology, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois                  |
| 1996-2000 | B.Mus, Electronic & Computer Music / Harpsichord private study Oberlin, Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, Ohio |