

THOMAS HELLSTROM

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LM:+43-87 Blood Moonrise, Material Gallery and Studios, Milwaukee, 2015 Photo: Michael Lagerman

Since relocating from New York City to the Upper Midwest Thomas Hellstrom's work responds to his cultural and physical surroundings through large scale, immersive photo installations. Contemplating local histories and the regional landscape Thomas' works consider overlooked historical figures and the significance of place through research-driven, archive projects. Subjects have included regional LGBTQ+ and Civil Rights activists and the history and legacy of House Music in Chicago and Manchester, UK. In 2013 Thomas began an ongoing archive of Lake Michigan's seascape observed from Milwaukee's GPS coordinates, LM:+43-87, containing approximately 100,000 photographs (pictured above).

Thomas received a BFA from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. After he relocated to New York where, for 20 years, he maintained a studio in the Chelsea gallery district. Thomas' work has been included in numerous exhibitions, notably: Randy Alexander Gallery, Chicago, Hiromi Yoshi Gallery, Tokyo and Zach Feuer Gallery, NY garnering the attention of The New York Times, reFRESH (UK) and Camera Austria.

Solo Exhibitions:

- 2018 KINGDOM OF DOING: CHICAGO HOUSE MUSIC PROJECT Randy Alexander Gallery, Chicago
- 2017 LM:+43-87, Madison Public Library, Madison, WI
- 2016 XENO:53207 Tonic Tavern Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- BEHOLD THE WOMAN Beulah Brinton Historic House, Bay View Historical Society, Milwaukee
- 2015 Solo project space presentation **SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: Faithful Correspondent**
in conjunction with the exhibitions:
 - WIS CON SIN J. Shimon & J. Lindeman, Eugene von Bruenchenhein, Charles van Schaick
 - REVEALING NATURE: Pedro Velez and Greg Klasson
 - The Portrait Society Gallery, Milwaukee WI

Solo Exhibitions :

- 2015 XENO:NABWMT National Convention, National Association of Black and White Men Together, Newark, NJ
INTERLUDE: Works 2002-2015 Residence, Milwaukee, WI
- 2015 LM:+43-87 BLOOD MOONRISE, Material Studios and Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2014 XENO:NABWMT National Convention, National Association of Black and White Men Together, Milwaukee, WI
<http://nabwmt-mke2014.tumblr.com/>
- 2013 XENO:MKE 2013-2023 Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee WI <http://xenomke.tumblr.com/>
XENO:RENO Inaugural exhibition at Artspace, A University of Nevada, Reno Gallery <http://xenoreno.tumblr.com/>
LM: +43-87 Next Act Theater, Milwaukee, WI
LM:+43-87 The Water Council, Milwaukee, WI <http://www.thewatercouncil.com/>
- 2012 SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: BCC MKE Photo Diary 1989-2012 Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Milwaukee, WI
- 2010 SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: BCC NYC Photo Diary 1999-2010 F.A.D. Weekend, Lower East Side, NYC
- 2008 AUBADE Pulse NY ArtFacts.net www.artfacts.net
- 2007 THIS AFTERNOON Scope NY ArtFacts.net
- 2006 THEREAFTER The Armory Show, NYC ArtFacts.net
- 2005 UNREMEMBERING Buzzer Thirty, NYC www.buzzerthirty.com
UNREMEMBERING Art Forum Berlin, GERMANY ArtFacts.net
- 2002 THEREAFTER: 01:22:35 – 01:22:40 RomeArts, Williamsburg, NYC

Projects and Group Exhibitions:

- 2020 BORDERS - What's Up With That? Romantso Gallery, Athens, Greece / CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE Queer Arts Festival: Balaclava.Q and CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE organizers and curators
THE QUEER LANDSCAPE Chicago Danztheatre, Chicago
- 2018 IN THE POST Lawrence and Clark, Chicago
- 2017 PROPERTY Rogers Park, West Ridge Historical Society, organized by ROMANSUSAN Chicago (catalog)
99/1 Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center, Chicago
- 2016 AMERICAN CONVERSATIONS collaboration with Nina Ghanbarzadeh VAR Gallery, Milwaukee
LocuStLed Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee, WI (co-participants: Michelle Grabner, Paul Druecke)
SPRING 2016 The Muse, Milwaukee, WI
WAYSIDES John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan WI
- 2015 THE GH00ST \$H0W VI, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
CULTURE JAM IV, Independent Space, Milwaukee, WI
I MADE THIS FOR YOU The Portrait Society Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2014 THE GH00ST \$H0W V The Attic, Milwaukee, WI
BRANDING CREATIVITY Fine Arts Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Parkside Kenosha, WI
WISCONSIN BREAST CANCER SHOW HOUSE, Milwaukee WI
RELIQUARY ArtSpace, A University of Nevada, Reno Gallery, Reno NV
SHELFIES The Portrait Society Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2013 THE GH00ST \$H0W IV Imagination Giants, Milwaukee, WI
SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: LIZARD MOUND PARK, The Invisible Light, University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac, WI

Projects and Group Exhibitions:

- 2013 SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: TRUE FAITH MARNsalonIV, Guest Curator Wilhelm van Rensburg, Milwaukee, WI
FACETS OF GENDER, MKE LGBT Center, Milwaukee WI
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI
- 2012 BOOK SHOW @ PORTRAIT SOCIETY, The Portrait Society, Milwaukee, WI
- 2012 CULTURE PAVILION Pridefest, Milwaukee, WI
- 2010 POWER TO THE PEOPLE Feature, NYC
- 2008 SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE: Photo Diary 1989-2008 www.thomashellstrom.blogspot.com
- 2006 ART FORUM BERLIN ArtFacts.net GERMANY
GLAAD OutAuction (co-exhibitor: Matthew Higgs) Metropolitan Pavilion NYC (catalogue)
FOUR MORE YEARS! Buzzer Thirty NYC
DiVA NY (Digital and Video Art Fair) Pablo's Birthday (catalogue) NYC
CIGE ArtFacts.net Beijing CHINA
ARCO ArtFacts.net Madrid SPAIN
ART LONDON ArtFacts.net London UK
ART AMSTERDAM ArtFacts.net Amsterdam NETHERLANDS
- 2005 EMISSARY (co-exhibitor Ekhard Hahn) Pablo's Birthday NYC
SCOPE NY Pablo's Birthday NYC
WISH YOU WERE HERE Project Room 88 NYC
RAISE UP Tampa FL
BERLINER KUNSTSALON ArtFacts.net Berlin GERMANY
SCOPE MIAMI Pablo's Birthday Miami FL
ARTE LISBOA ArtFacts.net Lisbon PORTUGAL
- 2004 FIAC Artfacts.net Paris FRANCE
VISIONS VIII Cathedral Foundation Covington KY (catalogue) Special Jury Prize
AFFORDABLE ART FAIR Project Room 88 NYC
SNAP TO GRID Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles CA
- 2003 FARAWAY UP CLOSE (Colin Keefe co-exhibitor) RomeArts, Williamsburg, NYC
TODAY'S MAN (co-exhibitors: Assume Vivid Astral Focus, Terrance Koh, AA Bronson, Chris Ofili, Christian Holstad) John Connelly Presents NYC
TODAY'S MAN Hiromi Yoshii Gallery, Tokyo JAPAN (catalogue)
- 2002 MOMENTA ART BENEFIT 2002 Momenta Art and White Columns NYC
AUTORITRATTO Sesto Senso Bologna ITALY
ART NEWPORT J.P. Morgan Chase Jersey City NJ
POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE Sperone Westwater Gallery NYC
HANDLE WITH CARE Art Kitchen Amsterdam NETHERLANDS
- 2001 COLABORATORY Gale Gates et al. NYC
- 2000 REMOTE EXPERIENCE DEPENDENCY Universal Concepts Unlimited NYC
Flat files program LFL Gallery NYC
- 1998 SUMMER EXHIBITION Cheryl McGinnis Gallery NYC
- 1997 57 Hope at THE ART EXCHANGE NYC

Projects and Group Exhibitions:

- 1997 BENEFIT EXHIBITION 57 Hope Brooklyn NYC
1996 DECORUM Curators: Daniel Carello and Pedro Gomez 57 HOPE Williamsburg NYC
1994 HERITAGE WITH PRIDE (co-exhibitor Paul Pfiefer) Peter Madero Gallery NYC

Bibliography:

- Milwaukee Kitchen, Episode 11 Kitchen Sync (an YouTube series by Paul Druecke) 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS5xj6Dh1iE>
- BORDERS Inspirational #35 2020 <https://payhip.com/b/76gM>
- THOMAS HELLSTROM - 'SHAME!' 1979-2019 DISCO DEMOLITION NIGHT 40 YEARS LATER.... Balaclava.Q October 28th, 2019
<https://balaclavadotqabstractactivism.wordpress.com/2019/10/28/thomas-hellstrom-shame/>
- THOMAS HELLSTROM AND THE SURFACES THAT INTERSECT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC & THE HOUSE MUSIC MOVEMENT
Balaclava.Q April 27th, 2019 <https://balaclavadotqabstractactivism.wordpress.com/>
- BEHOLD THE WOMAN' FEATURED AT BAY VIEW GALLERY NIGHT' Milwaukee Independent June 3rd, 2016
<http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/featured/ behold-the-woman-featured-at-bvgn/>
- A QUIET VIP PREVIEW FOR EXPO Paddy Johnson ARTFCITY.com September 18, 2015 <http://artfcity.com/2015/09/18/a-quiet-opening-vip-preview-for-expo/>
- RADIO A GO GO, Riverwest Radio, guest of Kat Murell, March 5, 2015 <http://bambuser.com/v/5328969>
- SUPER MASSIVE BLACKHOLE #15 QUEER TIMES Anthony Luvera guest curator published December 2013
<http://smbhmag.com/issues/SMBHmag15.pdf>
- ART CITY ASKS: THOMAS HELLSTROM Nathaniel Stern The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel October 30, 2013
<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/entertainment/229821481.html>
- ARTSPACE EXHIBITION ADDS ZEST TO DOWNTOWN Alex Mosher The Nevada Sagebrush October 16, 2013
<http://nevadasagebrush.com/blog/2013/10/16/artspace-exhibition-adds-zest-to-downtown/>
- ART NOTES University of Nevada, Reno http://www.unr.edu/art/newsletter/news8_29_13.html
- XENO:RENO Nevada Today <http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/events/2013-09-02-xeno-reno>
- AN AESTHETIC TREAT IN THE SWELTERING HEAT, Selena Milewski, Milwaukee Shepherd Express, July 25-31, 2013
<http://expressmilwaukee.com/article-21495-an-aesthetic-treat-in-the-sweltering-heat.html>
- BORIS AND DORIS ON THE TOWN Milwaukee Shepherd Express, April 29th, 2013 <http://expressmilwaukee.com/article-20976-boris-and-doris-on-the-town.html>
- LM:+43-87 A Photographic Installation by Thomas Hellstrom, Milwaukee Shepherd Express April 27th, 2013
<http://expressmilwaukee.com/event-122108-a-photographic-installation-by-thomas-hellstrom-%7C-next-act-theatre,-255-s.-water-st.-milwaukee,-wi.html>
- MARNsalon IV WITH GUEST CURATOR WILHELM VAN RENSBURG Milwaukee Shepherd Express, March 30th, 2013
<http://expressmilwaukee.com/event-120180-marnsalon-iv-with-guest-curator-wilhelm-van-rensberg.html>
- 'ARTS AT THE CENTER' FUNDS CENTER STREET ARTISTS Milwaukee Shepherd Express, August 31st, 2012
<http://expressmilwaukee.com/blog-8590-blog-art-talk-milwaukee-%22arts-at-the-center%22-funds-center-street-artists.html>
- AIM TO COLLECT ART AFTER GALLERY NIGHT Milwaukee Shepherd Express, July 31, 2012 <http://expressmilwaukee.com/blog-8495-blog-art-talk-milwaukee-aim-to-collect-art-after-gallery-night.html>
- SUCIPTIBLE TO IMAGES, GALLERY NIGHT PREVIEW VIDEO, Kat Murrell, Third Coast Digest July 27, 2012
<http://thirdcoastdigest.com/2012/07/susceptible-to-images-video-guide-to-gallery-night/>

Bibliography:

GALLERY NIGHT BRINGS OUT ARTISTS, Mary-Louise Schumacher, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel July 23, 2012
<http://www.jsonline.com/entertainment/arts/gallery-night-brings-out-artists-26654iq-163293206.html>

VISUAL ART HAPPENINGS: SUGAR IS COMBUSTIBLE BCC MKE Photo Diary 1989-2012 Shepherd Express July 19-25, 2012

Interview: F.A.D. Weekend L Magazine October 2010: <http://blip.tv/file/4277418>

THOMAS HELLSTROM: PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE PRESENT TENSE Steven Gdula reFRESH #51 July-August 2008
<http://www.thomashellstrom.net/refresharticle.htm>

THOMAS HELLSTROM iheartphotograph April 22, 2008 [http://iheartphotograph.blogspot.com/search/label/thomas hellstrom](http://iheartphotograph.blogspot.com/search/label/thomas%20hellstrom)

SOUVENIR Anonymous publication (published by Feature, Inc. NY) 2007 (co-participants: John Waters, Ryan Trecartin, Christopher Williams, Mark Leckey)

PERGAMON Upscene 2005

ART: THE NEW BRIDGE AND TUNNEL CROWD Holland Cotter The New York Times March 13, 2005

ART: THE HIGHS ART AND ARTISTS OF THE YEAR Holland Cotter The New York Times December 28, 2003

BY AND ABOUT MEN AND THEY ARE RUNNING WITH IT Holland Cotter The New York Times August 8, 2003

TODAY'S MAN John McGee JapanToday.com October 2003

TODAY'S MAN Drew Pissarra NewYork.Citysearch.com August 2003

SPLASH <http://newsgrist.net> April 2003

FORUM Camera Austria 81-page 55 March 2003

COLABORATORY by Merrily Kerr New York Arts December 2001, Vol. 6 #12

Curatorial Projects:

2005 - 2008 With ArtFacts.net organized exhibitions at the following venues:
The Armory Show, Pulse, Scope Art Fair, NY, NY
Art Forum Berlin, Berliner Kunstsalon Berlin, Germany

1992 - 1993 No Name Exhibitions, Minneapolis, MN
Curatorial Consultant: Coordinated results driven gallery programming resulting in significant revenue increase and major facilities expansion.

Grants & Awards:

Individual Artists Grant 2013, Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee WI

Artist Residencies:

University of Nevada, Reno 2013
MKE LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee, WI 2013

Continued...

Pedagogy:

Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Fall Term, 2015

MARN Mentor Program 2015 cycle

Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer, Moraine Park College, West Bend, Wisconsin, Spring Term 2015

Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer, University of Nevada, Reno, Fall Term 2013

Visiting Artist and Guest Lecturer, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Spring Term, 2013

Education / Biography:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Bachelor of Fine Art, Studio Art, summa cum laude

Emphasis: Large scale, immersive installation experiences, Film Studies, Post-war Contemporary Art

Born: 1969 USA / Based: Milwaukee and Chicago