

Kirsty Boyle

Australian artist born in Tamworth, NSW in 1975

kirsty@onnai.com | <http://onnai.com> | <http://karakuri.info>

Upcoming

- 2012** *The Premier of Queensland's National New Media Art Award – 2012 finalist*
Gallery of Modern Art/Queensland Art Gallery , Brisbane, Australia
- 2012** Artist in Residence October – December 2012
Rote Fabrik, Zurich, Switzerland
Supported by the City of Zurich

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011** *fragment*
Artisan (Craft QLD), Brisbane, Australia
Curated by Kirsten Fitzpatrick
- 2009** *Artist in Residence*
MedienKunstLabor @ Kunsthaus Graz, Austria
Curated by Mirjana Peitler
- 2006** *Robot Culture*
Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004** *karakuri*
in conjunction with the 2004 Next Wave Festival, North Melbourne Town Hall, Melbourne, Australia
- 2003** *karakuri.info*
WestSpace Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Group Exhibitions

- 2012** *Abstraction Contraption*
The Edge | Digital Culture Centre (QLD State Library), Brisbane, Australia
- 2011** *111 Selbstversuche*
Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland
Curated by Mario Purkathofer
- 2011** *Seven with Another*
Substation No.4, Brisbane, Australia
Curated by Jessica Huddart and Monique Kneepkens
- 2011** *Uncontainable: signs of life: robot incubator*
International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA) in parallel with the 12th Istanbul Biennial, Turkey
Taksim Cumhuriyet Sanat Galerisi. Istanbul, Turkey
With Mari Velonaki and John Tonkin. Curated by Kathy Cleland
- 2011** *Ocean of Air*
Floating Land Festival, Boreen Point, Australia
Curated by Leah Barclay
- 2011** *DIY Urbanism: Sydney Reconsidered*
Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, Australia
Curated by Joni Taylor
- 2011** *Projektionsfiguren in der Kunst - Figures of Projection in Contemporary Art*
Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden, Germany
With Dennis Oppenheim, Tony Oursler, Cindy Sherman, Eva Aeppli, Lynn Hershman Leeson,
Yves Netzhammer and others. Curated by Stefanie Dathe
- 2011** *EcoSapiens*, 160 Devonshire St, Taranaki, New Zealand

- 2010** X
a collaboration with Natalie Jeremijenko and Remnant/Emergency ArtLab, UTS Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2010** *Love the Robots*
Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2010 - 2011** *Robot Dreams*
Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland in parallel with Art Basel;
Kunsthhaus Graz, Austria in conjunction with the 2010 Steirischer Herbst festival
With Nam June Paik, John Bock, Jon Kessler, Christa Sommerer and Laurent Mignonneau, Walter Pichler, Ed Kienholz, Richard Kriesche, Francois Roche, Virgil Widrich, Stelarc, Tom Sachs and others.
Curated by Katrin Bucher Trantow (Kunsthhaus Graz), Peter Pakesch (Kunsthhaus Graz), Andres Pardey (Museum Tinguely) and Roland Wetzel (Museum Tinguely)
- 2009** *Love the Robots*
Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009** *Social Machines*
MedienKunstLabor @ Kunsthhaus Graz, Austria
Curated by Mirjana Peitler
- 2009** *Interactivos? '09: Garage Science*
Medialab Prado, Madrid, Spain
- 2008** *Fuse*
The Jam Factory, Adelaide, Australia
Curated by Sean O'Connell
- 2006** *Traditions and Departures: highlighting Japanese influences in Australian craft and design*
Australia Japan Year of Exchange Exhibition, Craft ACT, Canberra and Cowra Art Gallery, Australia
- 2005** *Art and Heart*
Curious Eidolon, Melbourne, Australia
- 2005 - 2006** *Otakulture*
Rocket Art Gallery, in conjunction with the 2005 Electrofringe Festival, Newcastle;
The Whitehouse, Brisbane; Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree, Australia
With Cao Fei, Keiko Miyata, Queenie Chan, Tetsuto Takahashi and others. Curated by Thea Baumann
- 2005** *Toytakeova*
Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Melbourne; China Heights, Sydney; The Whitehouse, Brisbane, Australia
Curated by Laura Krikke
- 2004** *Mechalust*
with the Straight Out Of Brisbane Festival, Institute of Modern Art and TC Beirne Centre, Brisbane, Australia
Curated by Thea Baumann
- 2004** *Replicate Automate Infiltrate*
Electrofringe2004/net.ART, Newcastle, Australia
- 2003** *Run_Way Young and Emerging Artists*
Australia Council for the Arts, Sydney, Australia

Writing and Websites

- 2009** *'OpenMaterials :: P2P Theory in Practice. an open research group case study'*
With Catarina Mota at 4th Inclusiva-net Meeting: P2P Networks and Processes, Medialab Prado, Madrid
- 2009** <http://openMaterials.org>
Founded with Catarina Mota, a research group and website dedicated to open investigation and experimentation with DIY production methods and uses of materials.
- 2009** *'Karakuri: Ancient Japanese Robot Craft'*
Paper presented at *Interactivos? '09: Garage Science*, Medialab Prado, Madrid

- 2006** 'The Mechanical Moving: From Automata to Robots'
Chapter commissioned for exhibition catalogue, Hangaram Design Museum in Seoul Arts Centre, South Korea
- 2005** 'Robot Culture'
Paper presented at *Imagining Japan: A Symposium* held in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Centre, Monash University and Osaka University's Centre of Excellence's 21st century program: *Japan as Image*
- 2003** <http://karakuri.info>
Produced the first online English archive about the Karakuri tradition.

Film

- 2006 –** 'karakuri.info'
Researcher and writer of a documentary film in development. Supported by the Japan Foundation. Test screening at the Robot Film Festival, Chauvel Cinema, Sydney 2007.
- 2001** *Dad's Clock*
Computer systems administration, stop motion animation and post production work on 6 minute puppet film funded by the Australian Film Commission, Cinemedia and SBS TV for Kanga Manga Studios. The film has since been showcased Internationally, and won various awards including-
- 2002** Australian Film Industry Open Craft Award
 - 2002** Sydney International Film Festival Best Animation
 - 2002** Melbourne Fringe Festival Best Film
 - 2002** St Kilda Film Festival Best Use of Digital Technology
 - 2002** Berlin Film Festival Special Mention, Best Foreign Film
- 2001** *Mr Convenience Man*
Animated music clip created collaboratively with the Southern Ladies Animation Group. Screenings-
- 2002** The 11th International Festival of Animated Film, Stuttgart, Germany
 - 2002** Melbourne International Animation Festival
 - 2002** The 4th Brisbane International Animation Festival
 - 2002** St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne
- 2001** *Chromatic*
Design, construction and activation of robots for Blue Dahlia production house, footage used for opening title sequence and animated segment breakers for ABC Digital Youth Arts TV Program. Robots and footage were featured in *Zoo Quarterly* magazine & DVD, 2002.

Performances

- 2012** *Love the Robots*
The Edge | Digital Culture Centre (QLD State Library), Brisbane, Australia
- 2009, 2010** *Love the Robots*
Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1999** *UNICEF International Day of Broadcasting for Children*
Lead Co-ordinator and facilitated a puppetry workshop, multicasting on the Internet puppet plays performed by children in the Starlight Room at the Royal Childrens Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
- 1994 - 1997** Puppetry performances at various venues, including the launch of *The Puppetry Handbook* by Anita Sinclair, the opening of the Geelong Fine Art Gallery and for Polyglot Puppetry Theatre Company, Australia

Curatorial Projects

- 2012** *abstraction contraption*
The Edge | Digital Culture Centre (QLD State Library), Brisbane, Australia
With Erika Lincoln, Niki Passath, Esther Polak and Ivar van Bekkum, Michael Candy, Kuuki (Gavin Sade and Priscilla Bracks), Mari Velonaki, Kristoffer Myskja, robococo (Petra Gemeinboeck and Rob Saunders), John Tonkin, France Cadet, Igor Štromajer and Brane Zorman, Varvara Guljajeva + Mar Canet, Fabio and Gramazio, Matthias Kohler, Raffaello D'Andrea

2009 - 2012 *Love the Robots*
Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland and The Edge | Digital Culture Centre (QLD State Library), Brisbane, Australia
Developed and curated a hybrid showcase combining media art, exhibition, network performance, informal lecture and discussion centred around the theme of robots, contemporary art, culture and society performed live and multicast on the internet.
With Chico MacMurtrie, Andie Gracie, Erika Lincoln, Varvara Guljajeva, Stelarc, John Tonkin, Niki Passath, SKY NEEDLE. Supported by the Australia Council for the Arts Digital Culture Fund, Dock18, MAAP and the Edge | Digital Culture Centre

Awards/Grants

2011 Digital Culture Fund
Australia Council for the Arts

2010 *tree ceremony*
Commission by Museum Tinguely and Kunsthhaus Graz for *Robot Dreams* exhibition

2009 Residency support
Australia Council for the Arts, Intra Arts Board

2009 Prix Ars Electronica 2009 nomination
"Hybrid Art" category

2007 Synapse Art/Science International residency support
Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) and the Australia Council for the Arts, Intra Arts Board

2006 Skills development support
Australia Council for the Arts, Intra Arts Board

2006 SCINEMA - the 6th International Festival of Science Film, Multimedia Finalist

2005 International Karakuri Contest 2005 Finalist

2002 Run_Way Young and Emerging Artists Initiative
Australia Council for the Arts New Media Arts Board

Residencies

2011 – 2012 Artist in Residence
The Edge | Digital Culture Centre (QLD State Library), Brisbane, Australia

2011 Artist in Residence – Lead Artist
Floating Land Festival, Boreen Point, Australia

2011 Artist in Residence
Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden, Germany

2011 Artist in Residence
EcoSapiens, Taranaki, New Zealand

2010 Artist in Residence
Artspace, Sydney in collaboration with Natalie Jeremijenko and Remnant/Emergency ArtLab, Australia

2010 Guest Artist,
Hackteria Lab + Forum @ Dock18, Zurich, Switzerland

2009 Artist in Residence
MKL – MedienKunstLabor @ Kunsthhaus Graz, Austria
With the support of the EACEA (Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency),
Project Culture 2007-2013 of the European Commission.

2009 Collaborator on 'RepRap' project
Interactivos?'09: Garage Science @ Medialab Prado, Madrid, Spain
With the participation of Critical Art Ensemble and Julian Bleecker

- 2008 - 2010** Artist in Residence and Researcher
AI Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2007** Skills development residency
AI Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2002 -** Karakuri (mechanical doll craft) instruction with Mr TAMAYA Shobei IX, ninth generation Karakuri Master and mentorship with Professor SUEMATSU Yoshikazu, Director of the Toyota National College of Technology and Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University
- 1999** Artist in Resident and Researcher
RMIT Interactive Information Institute, Melbourne, Australia

Public Lectures and Forums

- 2012** Animation off the Screen
The Animation Machine - The 24th annual Society for Animation Studies Conference
RMIT, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011** Artist talk
College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2011** *Signs of Life*
Panelist, International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA) Istanbul, Turkey
Speakers included Kathy Cleland, Anne-Marie Duguet, Mari Velonaki, John Tonkin
- 2011** Artist talk
College of Fine Art, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia
- 2011** Artist talk
AI Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2011** Artist talk
Govett-Brewster Contemporary Art Museum, Taranaki, New Zealand
- 2010** *Cultures of Robotics* Symposium
Invited participant, University of Sydney, Australia
- 2010** *Robot Food*
Artist talk at Headquarters, Melbourne, Australia
- 2010** *Media Cultures of the World*
Panelist at Dock18, Zurich discussing Media Art in Switzerland, Austria, China and Australia; Switzerland
- 2010** *Dockbot*
Presentation at Dock18, Zurich held in conjunction with SGMK (Swiss Mechatronic Art Society); Switzerland
- 2009** 'OpenMaterials'
Media Ecologies & Post-Industrial Production Conference, University of Salford, Manchester, UK
- 2009** 'OpenMaterials :: P2P Theory in Practice an open research group case study'
with Catarina Mota, 4th Inclusiva-net Meeting: P2P Networks and Processes, Medialab Prado, Madrid, Spain
- 2009** "theatrical aspects of robots - karakuri - robots inspired by a Japanese tradition" Artist talk
"Cultural aspects and differences in the interaction of man and machine?" Panelist
Roboterträume / Robot dreams Symposium, Kunsthhaus Graz, Austria
Speakers included Oswald Wiener, Peter Pakesch, Francois Roche, Max Lungarella, Manuela Veloso, Andreas Broeckmann, Jon Kessler, Roland Wetzels, Thomas Baumann and others.
- 2009** 'Karakuri: Ancient Japanese Robot Craft'
Interactivos? '09: Garage Science, Medialab Prado, Madrid (in English and Spanish)

- 2008** *Australia tour - lectures with Master TAMAYA Shobei IX*
 Questacon (The National Science and Technology Centre) and the Australian National University, Canberra;
 The Japan Foundation (Sydney office), Australia
 Supported by The Japan Foundation and the Australia Japan Foundation.
- 2008** *girltron – art/sci collaboration with AI Lab, University of Zurich*
 Guest lecture at University of Tasmania, Hobart and Launceston campus, Australia
- 2008** *Virtual Humans Forum*
 Presenter and panelist at FMX07 International Conference on Animation, Effects, Realtime and Content
 Held in cooperation with VES Visual Effects Society, ACM SIGGRAPH and
 AIAS (Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences), Stuttgart, Germany
- 2008** *girltron Project Progress Report*
 Doctoral Seminar, AI Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2007** *'karakuri.info'*
 cognitive science lecture series, AI Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 2005** *'Otakulture'*
 Panelist, 2005 Electrofringe Festival, Newcastle, Australia
- 2005** *'Robot Culture'*
 Guest lecture at Melbourne University for the School of Creative Arts & Japanese Studies Department
- 2005** *'Robot Culture'*
Imagining Japan: A Symposium held in collaboration with the Japanese Studies Centre, Monash University
 and Osaka University's Centre of Excellence's 21st century program: *Japan as Image*, Australia
- 2004** *'Robot Culture'* community forum
 Straight Out Of Brisbane Festival, Brisbane, Australia
- 2004** *'Robot Culture'* community forum
 Next Wave Festival, Melbourne, Australia
- 2003 - 2004** *Advanced Technologies series*
 Guest Lecturer, Swinburne University of Technology School of Engineering and Science,
 Department of Mechatronics/Robotics, Melbourne, Australia
- 2003** Artist talk
 WestSpace Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Workshop Facilitator

- 2011** *Ocean of Air*
 Public workshops at Floating Land Festival, Boreen Point, Australia
- 2010** Robot building workshop for children
 Kunsthaus Graz, Austria
- 2009** Roboloco Festival - *'USB Dollhouse workshop'*, Bern, Switzerland
 Organising festival committee member and workshop facilitator for SGMK (Swiss Mechatronic Art Society)
- 2008** *Australia tour - Karakuri workshops with Master Tamaya Shobei IX*
 Questacon (The National Science and Technology Centre) and at Winmalee High School, the Blue
 Mountains. Supported by The Japan Foundation and the Australia Japan Foundation.
- 2004** *'girltron toy hacking'* workshop
 Straight Out Of Brisbane Festival, Brisbane, Australia
- 1999** *UNICEF International Day of Broadcasting for Children*
 Lead Co-ordinator facilitating a puppetry workshop, multicasting on the Internet puppet plays performed by
 children in the Starlight Room at the Royal Childrens Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

Press References/Interviews

- 2011 Rackham, Melinda. "[divisible istanbul: isea 2011](#)" in *RealTime and OnScreen* Dec – Jan 2011 No. 106, p22
- 2011 Donovan, Andrew. "[Digital Arts? The future's bright](#)" in *artsHub* 20 September 2011
- 2011 McCarthy, Michael. "Games People Play" in *skyward* (Japan Airlines Inflight Magazine) January 2011 p19-24
- 2010 *love the robots show* video interview @ Tweakfest, Digital Culture and Lifestyle Festival, Zurich
- 2010 'Australian Art and Artists' file established by the National Library of Australia - <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/37255211>
- 2010 *tree ceremony* featured in Vernissage TV [review](#) of *Robot Dreams* in Basel, filmed during Art Basel
- 2010 de Bourbon-Parme, Aude. "Reves De Robot – L'art De La Mecanique", *Art Actuel – Le Magazine De L'Art Contemporain* 1 September 2010 p68-69
- 2010 Mayer, Helmut. "Androiden wie wir – Das Museum Tinguely in Basel traumt von Robotern", *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* 17 July 2010
- 2010 "Robotertraume", *Artinside* (Ausstellungen in der Region Basel) Ausgabe Sommer 2010
- 2010 "A grazi Gunter Brus felkavaro kiallitas", *Observer Budapest Mediafigyelo KFT* 10 June 2010
- 2010 Jegge, Alexander. "Traum der Roboter, hat der Mensch Angst", *Basellandschaftliche Zeitung AG* 9 June 2010
- 2010 Marzahn, Alexander. "Museum Tinguely Vom Geistesleben der Maschine", *Basler Zeitung* 9 June 2010
- 2010 "Robotertraume", *museen basel magazin* Nr.2 Juni/Juli/August/September 2010
- 2009 Video interview for the "*Art Engineers vs. Machine Divas. A Retro-Utopian Investigation of Machine Theater*" research project. In association with the IMA :: Institut für Medienarchäologie
- 2008 Mitchell, Natasha. "[Collaborative Practice](#)", *Filter Magazine* produced by ANAT Issue 68/ ART+SCI 4 EVA July 2008
- 2008 Artist profile showcasing [New Media Art in Australia](#) on the Australian governments' website
- 2007 Higson, Rosalie. "Going where no man has gone before", *The Australian* 7 September 2007
- 2006 Karakuri artwork reproduced in robotics educational textbook about the history of robots and robots in space, produced by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (the German Air and Space Agency) for distribution to every high school student in Germany (180,000 copies)
- 2005 Artwork reproduced in "Mighty Robots: mechanical marvels that fascinate and frighten" by David Jones, published by Annick Press 2005 ISBN 1-55037-929-1
- 2005 Richards, Tim. "I Am Robot", *The Age* 18 April 2005, Metro p6
- 2005 O'Reilly, Rachel. "Mecha-lust, mecha-love" in *RealTime and OnScreen*, Feb – March 2005 No. 65, p30
- 2004 ABC GoAsiaPacific radio interview for *Smart Societies* series
- 2004 *karakuri.info* materials requested by the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) for reference and distribution during the 2004 International Conference on Organic Synthesis (ICOS-15)
- 2004 "The Best of the Week – Festival", *Herald Sun* 20 May 2004, HIT p2
- 2004 *karakuri.info* 'Website of the Week' in *Asia Policy Weekly*, produced by the Japan Information Access Project and the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. March 14 - 20 2004 Volume 8, No 11, p15. ISSN 1543-1185
- 2004 *karakuri.info* featured on *NASA Robotics Education Project* website
- 2003 *karakuri.info* featured in lecture 3 *Embodied Intelligence*, part of the *AI Lectures from Tokyo* online education initiative at the University of Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 Ridout, Cefn. "Venerable Traditions and Modern Masters" in "Aussie Round Up", *Newtype USA*, Volume 02 Number 11, p55
- 2003 Davis, Anna. "RUN_WAY" in *RealTime and OnScreen*, October - November 2003 No. 57, p24
- 2003 Interview, FLY Digital Arts TV programme *Pixelvision*
- 2003 Interview, ABC Radio National *The Makers* arts show with Julie Copeland
- 2001 Sellars, Simon. "Machine Logic - an Interview with Kirsty Boyle", *2001 RMIT Orientation Handbook*, p44-45
- 2000 Interview, 3RRR radio *Science and Technology Show* with Bruce Berryman

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Biography

Kirsty Boyle is an Australian artist whose passion for robots has driven her to travel the world in order to work with other like-minded artists and scientists. Kirsty's work examines robots as subjects of culture with particular emphasis on how we experience and personalise our interactions with them. The historical and cultural aspects of robots in society continues to be a major theme that informs her artistic practice.

Her practice is truly interdisciplinary, encompassing skills in sculpture, theatrical performance, film and animation, digital arts and design, mechanical and electrical engineering and artificial intelligence. She has presented her work via various mediums, primarily via exhibition, but also television, radio and magazine interviews, to delivering lectures at educational institutions and facilitating forums and workshops internationally.

During 2002, Kirsty began study under Mr TAMAYA Shobei, a ninth generation [Karakuri Ningyo](#) craftsman and last remaining mechanical doll Master in Japan from an unbroken lineage. She is currently his only student, and the only woman to have ever been trained in the tradition.

Subsequently her artwork was featured in an educational robotics book produced by [Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.](#) (the German Air and Space Agency), of which 180,000 copies were distributed to every high school student in Germany. Her website <http://www.karakuri.info> was featured in the [AI Lectures from Tokyo](#), an online education initiative at the [University of Tokyo](#), Japan and is included in a growing number of Universities' introductory Artificial Intelligence courses worldwide. She is regarded as the world's foremost English speaking authority on Karakuri.

In 2007 - 2010 she was based in Zurich via invitation from Professor Rolf Pfeifer at the [AI Lab, University of Zurich](#) as guest researcher and artist in residence. During this time she became an active member of [SGMK](#) (Swiss Mechatronic Art Society) and notably the only non-Suisse member to ever be voted into the group.

In 2010 she produced [tree ceremony](#), commissioned by the [Museum Tinguely](#) and [Kunsthaus Graz](#) for the *Robot Dreams* exhibition, touring 2010 – 2011.

She has completed residencies at the [AI Lab, University of Zurich](#); [MedienKunstLabor @ Kunsthhaus Graz](#); [Medialab-Prado](#), Madrid; [Artspace](#), Sydney in collaboration with [Natalie Jeremijenko](#) and [Remnant/Emergency ArtLab](#); [SCANZ EcoSapiens](#), Taranaki, New Zealand; [Museum Villa Rot](#), Burgrieden, Germany; [Floating Land Festival](#), Boreen Point, Australia and [The Edge | Digital Culture Centre](#) (QLD State Library), Brisbane.

Her art portfolio can be viewed online via <http://www.onnai.com>