

# Steve Messam

## Select Biography

### Recent Commissions:

**Apollo** - Peterlee, County Durham. September 2019  
**Hush** - Upper Teesdale, County Durham. July 2019  
**Human Presence** - Hanstholm, Denmark. May - August 2019  
**Cell** - visual design for new dance production, Powys Dance, Wales, UK. March 2019 -  
**PaperCatwalk** - The Bowes Museum, Co. Durham. UK. June 2018 - January 2019  
**Whistle** - Great Exhibition of the North, Newcastle. UK. June - September 2018  
**Flotilla** - Paddington, London. UK. March 2018  
**Keep** - Keswick and Kendal, Cumbria. UK. September 2017  
**PaperArch** - Vienna, Austria. May 2017  
**Waterfall** - Teesdale, Co. Durham. UK. October 2016  
**When the Red Rose...** - Lancashire, UK. September - November 2016  
**Tower** - Kirkleatham Old Hall Stables, Redcar. UK. September 2016  
**Lotus** - Bicester Village, Oxfordshire. UK. February 2016  
**PaperBridgeChina** - LiGongDi, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China. November 2015  
**Rive** - Honister Slate Mine, the Lake District, Cumbria. UK. September 2015  
**Bunker** - Cold War Bunker, York. UK. May 2015  
**PaperBridge** - Grisedale Valley, the Lake District, Cumbria. UK. May 2015  
**Level** - Key Arts Centre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. UK. February 2015  
**Tunnel** - Victoria Tunnel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. UK. October 2014  
**Ravens** - Stanbury, Haworth, West Yorkshire. UK. July 2014  
**Lookout** - Dunmail Raise, Grasmere, Cumbria. UK. June 2014  
**Scope** - Borrans Park, Ambleside, Cumbria. UK. June 2014  
**Artist in Residence** - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Scotland. October 2013  
**En Paviljong som Lyssnar på Skogen** - Sättra, Öland, Sweden. September 2013  
**Poppy** - Burneside Paper Mill, Kendal, Cumbria. UK. July 2013  
**Carpet** - Lindisfarne Priory, Holy Island, Northumberland, UK. June 2013  
**Red Souvenir** - Bicester Village, Oxfordshire, UK. February 2013  
**Brogued** - Northampton, UK. October 2012  
**Fairhaven Bubbles** - Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, UK. July 2012  
**A Study in Red** - Sättra, Öland, Sweden. May 2012  
**Twisted** - Cromford Mill, Derbyshire. UK. May 2012  
**Brockholes Souvenir** - Brockholes, Nr. Preston, Lancashire. UK. March 2012  
**SevenSpires** - Braunston, Northamptonshire. UK. August 2011  
**Lawnpaper** - Blackwell, The Lake District, UK. June 2010  
**Signs of Adventure** - Cumbria. October 2009  
**Fleur de Sel on Ullswater** - the Lake District. September 2009  
**Cloud Cube** - Lancaster University. July 2009  
**Fleur de Sel** - Spazio Thetis, S'Erasmus & La Certosa (Venice) June - August 2009.  
**Drop** - Cumbria, UK. September 2008

### Selected Exhibitions:

2017

**XXX** - Solo exhibition. Mellerstain House, Berwickshire, Scotland.

2016

**Unfolded** - Chicago Design Museum, Chicago, Ill. USA.  
**Paper Awards** - Main & Station, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. Canada.

2014

**Curlew Machine** - The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham

2012

**Cortex** - Luxepack, Shanghai

**Aphrodite** - ARTLIFE gallery, Venice

**Wonder of Wool** - Gallery at Rheged, Cumbria

2011

**Flow** - Luxepack, Monaco

**Twisted Puzzle** - Wirksworth Festival, Derbyshire

**Boxed** - Luxepack, Shanghai

2010

**Droplet** - Luxepack, Monaco

**Tatton Park Biennial** May - September 2010

2009

**Beyond Pattern** Off-site piece 'Clad'. Oriol Davies, Newtown, Powys.

**Fleur de Sel: Preservation & Documentation** - Brantwood, Coniston, UK.

**Venice Biennale** - representing NW England

**Aphrodite: Water + Art** - Art Life Gallery, Venice

**ArtLand** - Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham

2008

**Scope London** - courtesy of Saatchi Gallery. Lords Cricket Ground, London.

**Hung** - Gallery Mwldan, Cardigan

2007

**Eurasia One** - Island 6, Shanghai, China

**Nuit Blanches** - Exhibition Centre, Shanghai, China

## Experience:

2002 - Present

**Freelance artist, designer and curator**

2002 - 2009

**Director - Fold** - a rural arts organisation promoting and providing access to contemporary art in the rural environment

2004 - 2008

**Founder and Director - FRED** - an annual festival of site-specific works across Cumbria. With over 50 artists in excess of 100 sites annually it became Europe's largest annual festival of site-specific art.

2007

**Senior Producer - DOTT07.** Producing the Sustainable Tourism and International Design Camp strands for the UK's first Design Biennial in the north east. For the Design Council and OneNorthEast

1993 - 2002

**Freelance photographer and journalist.** Based in Glasgow covering editorial features for the broadsheet weekend supplements and for the UK music press.

1987 - 1993

**Photographic Technician.** Senior technician for a specialist photographic laboratory in London. Part of a team which produced the first entirely digital magazine cover.

**Frequent presentations and lectures** at academic institutions including Lancaster University, Teeside University, The Slade, London, and the Suzhou Institute of Art & Design Technology, China.

**Conference presentations** on the role and value of culture and place, and art and sustainable tourism in the UK, Sweden and China.

**Workshops** for architects and planners on '*Colour in the Landscape*' and '*Contemporary Design in Protected Landscapes*' in the UK and Sweden.

## Profile

Steve Messam is an environmental artist based in County Durham, UK and working internationally. His ephemeral site-specific installations re-imagine the everyday, interrupting historical landscapes and vacant architecture to help us perceive the familiar environment in a new way.

Working on a scale that is typically 'bigger than a house', his works explore the colour and scale of place. His inflatable textile works include a suite of pieces that filled historic ruins in a Scottish castle gardens and wrapped a seating shelter in Blackpool.

Other works include '*PaperBridge*' (2015) - a functioning packhorse bridge made from 22,000 sheets of paper in the Lake District; and '*Hush*' (2019) - a lead-mining scar in the North Pennines landscape filled with over five kilometres of saffron-yellow fabric. He created the first off-site installation at the 2006 Shanghai Biennial and created a number of site specific installations across the Venetian Lagoon during the 2009 Venice Biennale.

## Contact

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