

SCOTT BENZEL

Born 1968 in Scottsdale, Az. Lives and works in Los Angeles.

EDUCATION

2001 MFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

1995 BA, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

1987 California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

2025 *Psychomanteum*, Phase Gallery, Los Angeles

Bringing Home the May, performance, Apple to Boat Destroyer, Elysian Park, Los Angeles

2024 *Parallel Worlds: Scott Benzel Norman Klein*, Phase Gallery, Los Angeles

2023 *Vestigia*, The Horse Dublin, Dublin, IE

Forget the Labyrinth, performance/lecture, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, organized by Sarah Bay Gachot

Degrade the Threads, performance/lecture, REDCAT, Los Angeles, organized by Andrew Culp

2022 *Mystic Styles: Music from the Cultic Milieu*, performance/lecture, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive

2020 *Mindless Pleasures*, Bel Ami, Los Angeles

2019 *Prelude and Coda to 'Invocation'*, performance, *Invocation of my Demon Brother/Another Movie*, *Kenneth Anger/Morgan Fisher*, / (Slash Art), San Francisco, CA

L. Frank Baum's The Uplift of Lucifer, Treignac Projet, Treignac, France

2018 *V.I.T.R.I.O.L.*, performance, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions

Torcat Tiquacrat Mytics Ahtrae, performance, Blum and Poe, Los Angeles

2017 *Unauthorized Live Score, The Kouroi / The Dilettanti*, performance, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, organized by Sarah Cooper

Mathesis and Mathematikoi, performance, as part of *Knowledges 2017*, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, CA, curated by Christina Ondrus

2016 *ISBN 978-0-9913772-0-6*, reading, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, organized by Keith J. Varadi

Mayakovsky for Instrumental Transcommunication, Voice, and Autotune, performance, Rainbow in Spanish, Los Angeles

- Op. 21: Inner Experience Fellowship/Friends of Crime*, performance, MAK Center for Art and Architecture Fitzpatrick/Leland House, Los Angeles
- Desert Center (Composition 110 Mvmt IV (Dusk))*, performance, Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs and Desert Center, CA
- 2014 Maccarone, New York
- Inverted Capital Spire: Programmatic Architectural Displacement V*, Various Small Fires, Los Angeles
- Programmatic Architectural Displacements I-IX*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, Los Angeles
- 2013 *LAAIR / The Traveller's Companion Addenda*, Shanaynay, Paris
- "*Scott Benzel*" and *What does Possession Mean to You?* Human Resources, Los Angeles
- A Regress*, performance, as part of *The Stand-In*, Public Fiction, Los Angeles, curated by Alexandra Gaty and Lauren Mackler
- ...plays selections from the Billboard Hot 100 for the Week of Feb. 28, 2013*, Dem Passwords, Los Angeles, organized by John Wiese
- W.W.A.R./ Die Dritte Generation*, Art Los Angeles Contemporary, Los Angeles
- The Academy / The Chthonic at Eleusis*, Public Fiction, Los Angeles
- 2012 *(Threnody) A beginner's guide to Mao Tse-Tung, Made in LA 2012*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
- Funhouse in the style of...The Lady from Shanghai*, performance, Ball of Artists, Greystone Manor, Beverly Hills, LAXART/Hammer Museum, part of Pacific Standard Time
- Recombinant Folk History and Non-genre I*, Black Box, Los Angeles, curated by Liz Glynn, part of Pacific Standard Time
- 2011 Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Front Room Exhibition, curated by Laura Fried
- Maldistribution*, Human Resources, Los Angeles
- Variations for Commercial Arcade*, Trespass/Parade, West of Rome, Los Angeles
- Mulching the 20th C*, Human Resources, Los Angeles
- Concentric Circles (before and after David Smith)*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, organized by Jose Luis Blondet
- 2010 *sound. series* concert at King's Road Park, West Hollywood, CA, commissioned by SASSAS
- Inversions I-IV*, Apartment 2, Los Angeles
- 2009 Mandrake, Los Angeles

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *RTRU: Raudive Technocultural Research Unit*, Kaje, New York, curated by Elizaveta Schneiderman and Zane Oncule
- The Ultimate Zone of Unspeakable Horror*, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, organized by Mateo Alfonso, Jonas Hoehn, Frances Sheehy, and Colette Zigelboim
- The Deer Park*, Paramount-Artcraft, Los Angeles, curated by Greg Jenkins
- 2025 *ITB Verbatim: Los Angeles Timing 2013-2025* Gene's Dispensary at Leroy's Los Angeles, curated by Keith J. Varadi
- 2024 *Madness of the Day*, Treignac Projet, Treignac, FR, curated by Sabrina Tarasoff
- The Wilds of Epiphenomena*, Phase Gallery, Los Angeles, organized by Kristin Posehn
- Rare Earth*, Timeshare, Los Angeles
- Ghost Ship*, Massey Klein, New York, curated by Ramiro Hernandez and Bozomag
- Lil' Spitfires*, New Art Foundation at the Hollywood Roosevelt, Los Angeles
- 2023 *Made in L.A. 2023 (as part of Los Angeles Contemporary Archive)*, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
- Epiphenomena*, Kristin Posehn, Los Angeles
- 2022 *Casting Glances*, MAK Center for Art and Architecture Mackey House, Los Angeles, organized by Kristin Posehn and Aurora Tang
- Gestures of Love for Augie*, California Institute of the Arts, organized by Chip Barrett
- 2021 *All Tomorrow's Parties*, domicile (n), Los Angeles, curated by Michael Slenske
- 2020 *Salon de Normandy*, Paris, FR, organized by Sabrina Tarasoff for Treignac Projet
- Drive-by Art*, Los Angeles, organized by Warren Neidich, Renee Petropoulos, Michael Slenske, and Anuradha Vikram
- Portable Documents Formatted for Home Use*, Bel Ami, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Garland*, Treignac Projet, Treignac, France, organized by Sabrina Tarasoff
- L.A. on Fire*, Wilding Cran, Los Angeles, curated by Michael Slenske
- 2018 *#followme*, Desert Center Los Angeles, curated by Michael Slenske
- Homebodies, Away Teams*, UMOCA, Salt Lake City, UT, organized by Emma Kemp, Daniel Wroe
- Futures Reverse Order*, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, organized by Tom Leeser

- 2017 *Imagining Tellus 28*, Harvestworks, New York, curated by Tom Leeser
Ours is a City of Writers, Los Angeles Municipal Gallery, curated by John Tain
- 2016 *Nostalgia for the Present: Two Years of LACA*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, curated by Eli Diner
- 2014 *Golden State*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, Tucson, AZ, curated by Drew Heitzler
"And yes, I even remember you." Aran Cravey, Los Angeles, curated by Eric Kim
- 2013 *"Would you ever Write a Tract?"* Autocenter, Berlin, curated by Marcel Dickhage and Daniel Horn
The Stand In, Public Fiction, Los Angeles, curated by Alexandra Gaty and Lauren Mackler
In the Good Name of the Company, For Your Art, Los Angeles, curated by Jan Tumlrir, Brian Roettinger, Christopher Michlig
- 2012 *An Homage to Mike Kelley*, presented by Gagosian Gallery, MOMA PS1, New York
Venice Beach Biennial, with Mark Hagen, Venice, CA, curated by Ali Subotnick
Made in LA 2012, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
Print Imprint, Actual Size and Cirrus Gallery, Los Angeles
Artists' Tower of Protest, organized by Mark di Suvero, LAXART and Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles
- 2011 *Trespass/Parade*, West of Rome, Los Angeles, organized by Emi Fontana, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and Arto Lindsay
- 2010 *Endless Bummer/Surf Elsewhere*, Blum and Poe, Los Angeles, curated by Drew Heitzler
Animal Style: New Warrior Training, Pepin Moore, Los Angeles, curated by Drew Heitzler
- 2007 *In Abstraction*, Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, curated by Karl Erikson
- 2006 *Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Los Angeles, organized by Rodney Mcmillian
- 2003 *Drive into the Sunset*, The Western Front, Vancouver, BC, organized by David Kordansky
- 2001 *Art/ Tech*, Jean Albano Gallery, Chicago, IL
"Have a Cool Summer, Keep in Touch" Track 16 Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2000 *Hotel Power Emergency*, Stevenson Blanche Deveroux Gallery, Valencia, CA

SELECTED COLLABORATIVE WORK

- 2023 *Collapse*, original score for Kathryn Andrews' installation, as part of *Not my Circus, Not my Monkeys*, Kunstmuseum Thun, DE
- 2019 *Circus Empire*, original score for Kathryn Andrews' exhibition, Nave Koenig, Berlin
- 2014 *Split Chorale for Viljo Revell*, with Kathryn Andrews, Nuit Blanche, Toronto
- 2013 *Part-Objects* with Anita Pace, Perform Chinatown, Los Angeles
- 2012 *A|D* with Liz Glynn, also with Corey Fogel, Giles Miller, Public Fiction, Los Angeles
- Venice Beach Biennial*, with Mark Hagen, curated by Ali Subotnick, Venice, CA
- Opus I for Crude Instruments*, with Kathryn Andrews, Hip-O Ranch, Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, TX
- Bass elegy/Devil's Night for MK*, with Mark Hagen, Part of *Made in LA 2012*, LAXART/Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
- Variations IV*, John Cage, realized by Scott Benzel and Dave Muller, Welcome Inn Time Machine, part of Pacific Standard Time, organized by the Getty Museum, Los Angeles
- 2010 *Mostly Sculpture Show*, with Kathryn Andrews, Sea and Space, Los Angeles
- 2009 *Judson Church Horse Dance*, co-composer, producer, with Mike Kelley, Performa 09, Judson Church, New York
- Destroy All Monsters*, Live performance at *A Fantastic World Superimposed on Reality*, Gramercy Theatre, Performa 09, New York
- ' *A Voyage of Growth and Discovery*' original score Co-composer with Mike Kelley, Sculpture Center, New York
- 2006 *Profondeurs Vertes*, original score co-composer with Mike Kelley, Musee Louvre, Paris
- 2005 *Day is Done*, original score co-composer with Mike Kelley, Gagosian, New York
- 2004 *Destroy All Monsters*, Live Performance at *All Tommorrow's Parties*, curated by Jake and Dinos Chapman, Camber Sands, UK
- Into the Sun*, Live performance with Sam Durant and Tom Recchion, MOCA, Los Angeles
- 2002 *Arena*, original score composer for Andrea Bowers' exhibition, Sara Meltzer, New York, also Chouakri Brahm. Berlin
- 2001 *Democracy's Body*, original score composer for Andrea Bowers exhibition, Art Basel Statements, Basel, Switzerland

CURATORIAL

- 2024 *Forget the Labyrinth/Speaking the Matter*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive/East of Borneo
- 2020 *Time is Out of Joint, Calarts 2020 MFA Postgraduate Exhibition*, MAK Center Mackey House, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Hoard Inaugural*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2015 *Sonatine Bureaucratique*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2013 *Tape Music at the Schindler House*, MAK Center/Schindler House, Los Angeles
- 2012 *Welcome Inn Time Machine*, Welcome Inn, Eagle Rock, CA, part of Pacific Standard Time
- 2011 *Sublimated Los Angeles* film series / *Seven Los Angeles Artists* exhibition, FOCA, Los Angeles

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, RECORDINGS, FILMS

- 2025 *Psychomanteum (Partially Recovered Music I)*, cd, Numero Deux
Preteen Gnosis, essay, Suckcess, Spring 2025, ed, K. Desbois, essay ed. Sabrina Tarasoff
- 2023 *Symbols of the Divine show up in our world initially at the trash stratum*, sound work, part of *Made in LA 2023*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive / The Hammer Museum
- 2022 *Mystic Styles: Music from the Cultic Milieu*, recording, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2021 *Mindless Pleasures*, monograph, ed. Hailey Loman, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2020 *Tania of the Golden West*, essay, *Slouching Towards Los Angeles*, ed. Steffie Nelson, Rare Bird Books
The Social Construction of (Alien) Reality, essay, *Mashacare*, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2018 *Sonatine Bureaucratique*, ed. Ryan Jeffery, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
Home Bodies, Away Teams, eds. Emma Kemp and Daniel Wroe, UMOCA, Salt Lake, UT
- 2017 *Double Issue, Pacific Standard Time Performance festival, 2012*, ed. Irene Tsatsos, The Pasadena Armory
- 2016 *ISBN 978-0-9913772-0-6*, artist's book, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2015 *Sonatine Bureaucratique*, essay, ed. Carlye Packer, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive
- 2014 *Scott Benzel: Part-Objects*, monograph, ed. Eric Kim and Catherine Taft, Human Resources Press
- 2012 *Profondeurs Vertes*, cd, with Mike Kelley, Compound Annex
- 2011 *Maldistribution*, artist's book, Numero Deux

Music from The Trip in the style of a Schoenberg/Gershwin Tennis Match observed in passing by Dr. Oscar Janiger, cd, Oodpress/Numero Deux

- 2010 *Inversions I-IV for String Quartet*, cd/digital recording, Numero Deux
- 2009 *Blak Bloc for String Quartet and Feedback*, cd/digital recording, Numero Deux
- Dance Beats for Baby*, cd/digital recording, with Mike Kelley, feat. Mike Smith, Compound Annex
- 2006 *Day is Done Original Motion Picture Soundtrack*, cd/recording, with Mike Kelley, Compound Annex
- 2002 *Technoscience and the Avant-Garde*, essay, ed. Mark Herbst, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest 1*

ARTIST'S TALKS AND PANELS

Visiting Artist's Talk, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, 2026

Paul Brach Visiting Artist Lecture Series, California Institute of the Arts, 2024

Circumambient Peripherization, a talk about Vestigia, moderated by Matthew Wilkinson, The Horse Dublin, IE, 2023

Mindless Pleasures / Parafictions Research Journal 1, Scott Benzel, Holly Harrell, Misael Oquendo, moderated by Jan Tumlr, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, 2021

New phenomena call for new interpretations, an Artists for Democracy talk, Artists for Democracy, 2020

Back to No Future, a talk about Mindless Pleasures, moderated by Lee Foley and Naoki Sutter-Shudo, Bel Ami, Los Angeles, 2020

Visiting Artist's Talk, University of California Riverside, 2018

Paul Brach Visiting Artist Lecture Series, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA 2016

Visiting Artist's Talk, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA 2015

Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead, Panel Discussion: Scott Benzel, John Welchman, Mary Clare Stevens, et al., Claremont College, Claremont, CA, 2014

Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead, Panel Discussion: Scott Benzel, John Welchman, moderated by Elizabeth Sussman, 2012 Whitney Biennial, The Whitney Museum, New York, 2012

SELECTED ACADEMIC WORK, COURSES, AND LECTURE SERIES

2017-present Full-time Regular Faculty, School of Art, Program in Art and Technology, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2015-2017 Full-time Special Faculty, School of Art, Program in Art, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2023-present *Tulip Hysteria Coordinating*, lecture/discussion, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2023-present *Revelators Akousmatikoi*, , lecture/discussion/lab, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2020-present *Pandaemonium Architecture, ML and AI*, lecture/discussion/lab, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2023 *Degrade the Threads*, performance/lecture, REDCAT, Los Angeles, organized by Andrew Culp

2019 *Mindless Pleasures*, lecture/discussion, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2018 *Pandaemonium of the Sun*, lecture/discussion, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

Hexentexte, The Menace of Unreality, The Anarchist Crowned, Escuela Incierta, Lugar a Dudas, Cali, Colombia

2017 *Torch of the Mystics*, lecture/discussion California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

Synaesthesia, lecture/discussion/lab, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

2016 *Sonatine Bureaucratique*, lecture/discussion, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Steering Committee, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, 2024-present

Advisory Council, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, 2017-2023

Executive Council, School of Art, California Institute of the Arts, 2021

Academic Council, School of Art Representative, California Institute of the Arts, 2018-2020

Co-founder, Organizer, Artists for Democracy (A4D), 2017-2024

Board of Directors, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, 2014-2017

Board of Directors, SASSAS (Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound), Los Angeles, 2010-2012

Head of Video and Audio Production, Mike Kelley Studio, 2003-2014

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND COMMISSIONS

- 2023 *Symbols of the Divine show up in our world initially at the trash stratum*, sound work, commissioned for *Made in LA 2023* by Los Angeles Contemporary Archive and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
- 2017 *Unauthorized Live Score, The Kouroi / The Dilettanti*, commissioned by The Getty Museum, Los Angeles
- 2016 *Desert Center (Composition I10 Mvmt IV (Dusk))* commissioned by The Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA and LAXART, Los Angeles
- 2012 *(Threnody) A beginner's guide to Mao Tse-Tung*, commissioned for *Made in LA 2012* by The Hammer Museum
- Funhouse in the style of...The Lady from Shanghai*, commission for The Artist's Ball, Greystone Manor, Beverly Hills by The Getty Museum and LAXART as part of Pacific Standard Time
- 2011 Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Curator's Lab Award
- Concentric Circles (before and after David Smith)*, commissioned by Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- American Composer's Foundation Subito Grant
- 2010 *sound. series* concert at King's Road Park, West Hollywood, CA, commissioned by SASSAS and The City of West Hollywood
- Durfee Foundation for the Arts Award

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Scott Benzel, psychomanteum at Phase Gallery*, Contemporary Art Writing Daily, 2025
- Vankin, Deborah, *The archive is the art at this Hammer Biennial 'Made in L.A. exhibit*, The Los Angeles Times, September 27, 2023
- Tumlir, Jan, *Scott Benzel Gambles with the Avant Garde*, Frieze, November 2020
- Varadi, Keith J., *Culture is War, Scott Benzel's Mindless Pleasures*, X-TRA, 2020
- Murray, Yxta Maya, *Scott Benzel: Mindless Pleasures, The Brooklyn Rail*, 2020
- Scott Benzel, Mindless Pleasures at Bel Ami*, Contemporary Art Writing Daily, 2020
- Curry, Colleen, *The Culture of Cults*, Galerie, 2018
- El Kholti, Hedi, *Bad and Good Times in L.A., A year of protest and performance in Los Angeles*, Frieze, 2018
- Kretowicz, Steph, *Kenyatta AC Hinkle and Scott Benzel, Getty Museum*, The Wire UK, October 2017
- Diel, Travis, *Cosmic Thing*, Artforum.com, August 2017

Tarasoff, Sabrina, 'Sylvia', C Magazine, Summer 2016

Sutter-Shudo, Naoki, 'Propos 5: s'entretient avec Scott Benzel', Octopusnotes, France, 2015

Nelson, Steffie, 'On a Dark Desert Highway: The Manifest Destiny Billboard Project', East of Borneo, July 2015

Slenske, Michael, 'Sonic Highways: Scott Benzel's mythical, musical journey...', Modern Painters, March 2015

Boucher, Brian, 'Scott Benzel at Maccarone', Art in America, November 2014

Bogart, Aaron, 'Scott Benzel at Maccarone', FlashArt, November 2014

Yerebakan, O.C., 'New York- Scott Benzel at Maccarone', ArtObserved, August 2014

In the Good Name of the Company, exhibition catalog, ed. Jan Tumlir, Christopher Michlig, Brian Roettinger, Picturebox/For Your Art, 2013

Mueller, Kurt, 'In the Good Name of the Company', Artforum.com, March 2013

The Lost Issue/Lost in L.A. exhibition catalog, ed. Lauren Mackler, Andrew Berardini, Public Fiction

Holte, Michael Ned, 'Made in LA 2012', Artforum, October 2012

Ellegood, Anne, 'Material Urges', Made in LA 2012, Hammer Museum/Delmonica Prestel

Mueller, Kurt, 'Scott Benzel', Made in LA 2012, Hammer Museum/Delmonica Prestel

Swed, Mark, 'Music review: John Cage in a motel room as part of PST', Los Angeles Times, January 30, 2012

Griffin, Jonathan, 'Frieze: Best of 2011: Scott Benzel at Human Resources', Frieze, Jan. 2012

Holte, Michael Ned, 'Artforum Best of 2011: Scott Benzel at Human Resources at Cottage Home', , Dec. 2011

Berardini, Andrew, 'The Year in L.A. Art', L.A. Weekly, Dec. 2011

Taft, Catherine, 'Scott Benzel at Human Resources', Artforum, Oct. 2011

Berardini, Andrew, 'Scott Benzel at Human Resources', ArtReview, Oct. 2011

Prina, Stephen, 'Artforum: Best of 2009: Music: Scott Benzel Blak Bloc', Artforum, Dec. 2009

Smith, Roberta, 'Performa 09: Mike Kelley's Extracurricular Activity', The New York Times, 2009

Kimmelman, Michael, "Scary Games for Adults- Mike Kelley's Day is Done", The New York Times, 2006

Waters, John "You've Made an Epic- Mike Kelley's Day is Done", Flash Art, Nov/Dec. 2005