Christie Swallow CV

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Bio

Christie Swallow (MA Cantab, MA RCA, FRGS) is an artist and designer. Their work crafts kinship between species, fosters solidarity through co-creation and encourages exchange through collaborative making.

Christie engages with play as a method, ecology as a subject and the more-than-human as stakeholders. With a focus on hope, joy and accessibility, they work through facilitation, making and spatial design.

Christie is currently in residence at the Young V&A as the Designer in the Shed, where they are co-creating bird housing with young people.
As 2024/25 Design Researcher in Residence at the Design Museum they researched Parakeets and urban ecology.
Christie previously undertook residencies at the European Commission, The University of Birmingham and Hangar CIA.

Christie has exhibited internationally and delivered programmes for organisations including The Southbank Centre, Kew Gardens, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the BBC. They studied at The Royal College of Art and The University of Cambridge, where they also held a visiting lectureship. They are an honorary fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Education

MA Environmental Architecture
Royal College of Art 2022–2023
- → Spatial research programme focussing on climate resilience, new perspectives on ecology and methods of addressing environmental harm. My thesis focussed on the legacies of colonial water policy and its ongoing impact on the **Punjab region**
- → **Engaging with archival material** and sourcing data to understand how the interelationship of policy, state power and treatment of nature has developed

MA Cantab Architecture
University of Cambridge 2017–2020 First Class
- → **Patchwork Palimpsest**, 2019-2020 Explored UK libraries and the role retrofit could play in expanding their services
- → **A PILE OF RUBBISH**, 2018-2019 Researched London's reliance on landfills and transfrontier exporting of waste

Residencies

Young Victoria & Albert Museum - Designer in the Shed 2026
- → Creating sustainable avian architectures in collaboration with young people
- → Developing toolkit of more-than-human design principles
- → Embedding my practice into a public-facing studio and holding regular workshops and co-design sessions
- → Designing and installing birdhousing across the V&A estate and beyond

Buitenplaats Brienenoord - Researcher in Residence 2026
- → Ecological collaboration with Blise Orr on post industrial island ecologies through the lens of the Parakeet
- → Ecological stewarding and more-than-human ambassadorship

The Design Museum - Design Researcher in Residence
- → 2024-2025 Environmental research project investigating **Parakeets and urban ecology** within the anthropocene
- → Delivering a public programme engaging diverse audiences through "green learning" - using walking and being-in-nature as methods of interrogating issues around the climate crisis
- → Building strong relationships with environmental organisations, researchers and artists across the UK

University of Birmingham - Artist in Residence 2024-25
- → Working in collaboration with neuroscientists at the SMQB to **create interdisciplinary art**
- → Delivering workshops to gather feedback on our processes from stakeholders with lived experience of the research area (psychosis and depression)

The European Commission JRC - Maker in Residence
- → 2024 Co-creation project exploring collaborative drawing for interdiciplinary exchange.
- → Designing and implementing a pilot programme of 8 workshops across the JRC campus, engaging over 100 individuals over a 10-day duration

Hangar CIA - Artist in Residence - Lisbon, 2024
- → Research led residency focussing on land surveying and environmental justice, producing public art installations
- → Contributing to a programme of politically engaged art

RIBA Boyd Auger Scholar 2020-2022
- → Research project examining UK waste policy

Designing, Facilitating, Teaching

OURI Labs - Research Associate 2026-
Policy and Systems mapping exploring releasing NHS land for community led housing

Policy Lab - Designer 2025-2026
- → Working within an innovative people-centered design unit across central government and local authorities
- → Developing co-design methodologies to ensure citizens' lived experiences shape policy

British Library - Programme Facilitator 2026
Design and Delivery of a new learning programme in collaboration with Camden Libraries exploring citizen ecology and community mapping

City of London Guildhall Art Gallery – Workshop lead 2026

UCL - Students' Union Workshop lead 2026
- → Leading students in an idea sprint workshop on ways to increase charity outreach

NYU London - Visiting Lecturer 2026
Leading architecture students in ecology workshops

Royal College of Art – Guest Critic 2026
Environmental Architecture MA and MArch Design Practice

Southbank Centre - Workshop Lead Artist 2026
- → Design and Delivery of co-creative workshops during the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary
- → Sessions included a record 1,000-person workshop

New London Architects / London Festival of Architecture
2025-ongoing
Delivering walkshops as part of the festival and regular programming, exploring urban ecologies

Kew Gardens - Workshop facilitator 2025-ongoing
- → Delivering green learning workshops using creative methodologies as tools to engage with nature
- → Working with vulnerable groups including refugees and people with lived experience of dementia

PINC College – Workshop lead 2026
- → Delivering a co-creative workshop series for neurodivergent students at the Design Museum

Furtherfield – Guest Contributor 2026
Workshop contributor for "Reimagine this Coastal Town"

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Designing, Facilitating, Teaching Cont'd

Syracuse University London 2026
Guest tutor for Architecture
BBC - Programme Facilitator 2025
Workshop programme for the BBC Academy Live

The Soanes Centre - Programme Facilitator
2025-Ongoing
Design and Delivery of community archives workshop series

Ardagh Young Creatives - Organiser 2024-2025
→ Delivering workshops and mentoring sessions with young people aged 14-25 in collaboration with Design Can

Tour Guide 2022-2023
→ Delivering independently researched and planned tours of the historic east end of London, focussing on its history of migration, radical politics and Architecture

We Made That - Architectural Designer 2022
→ Working with local residents through co-design events, using co-design to inform design and policy direction

Bureau Bureau - Designer 2021
→ Working with LEGO as part of a multi-agency team to deliver new workplace strategy

University of Cambridge - Visiting Lecturer 2020
→ Lecture series exploring the politics. of architectural representation, bridging the theory/praxis of design

DM Architects - Architectural Assistant 2020-2021
→ Developing designs for artists including Shezad Dawood and Suki Seokyeong Kang

Writing

Victoria and Albert Magazine
Summer 2026 Issue

Artificial Publication
Series of 3 essays for Future Observatory, 2025

Drawing as Talking
Research Paper, European Union 2025

Feral Worlding Inaugural Edition, 2026
"Design without Designers - 4 Scenarios"

The Last Straw Edition 78 – Fire, 2026

Exhibiting

Microscope - Parliament of Birds (Solo) 2026
Immersive series of bird masks installed as a "parliament" to be interacted with by visitors. Designed as a "taking shop" for more-than-human dialogues on ecological love

Surgery Gallery - A Pocket Full of Posies (Solo) 2026
Site specific installation of textile "Exquisite Corpse" speculating on the mineral afterlives of plague pits located beneath Surgery Gallery

KOLO Paris - Terres Fantomes 2026
Installation of Lost Streams Series

SWAB Barcelona - See you in the park 2025
Birdhive series exhibited by Outhouse Gallery

Outhouse Gallery - Outhouse Outfit 2025

The Design Museum - Dwellings, Rehomed 2025-2027
Installation of inaugural Birdhive design

The Fitzwilliam Museum - Earthlings 2025
Site-specific Installation of Earthlings Banner Series

The Design Museum - Artificial 2025
Showing outcomes of Residency, **Paracologies**

Birmingham University SMQB - Frames of Discovery 2025
Showcasing **Myriad Minds** and **Altered Connectivity**

Palimpsest Projects - This Language Rematerialised 2024
Showcasing work from **Enclosure Quilts**

On Queerness and Ecology 2024
Group Exhibition, Safehouse 2

The Art Salon - Happenings II 2024
Installation of **Thirteen Flowers** and **Polarised Vision**

Outhouse Gallery "Boundaries"
Group Exhibition, London May - June 2024
Showcasing **Curtain #1**

Galleria Objects "Inbound Carousel" 2024
Showcasing **Studies in Tortuosity series**

The Art Salon "ClimateSOS" 2024
Showcasing work from **Enclosure Quilts** series

Talking

Whitechapel Gallery x Historic Royal Palaces
Guest Speaker on Reimaging Animals Panel, 2026

The Architecture Foundation's Young Trustees
Guest Speaker for London Festival of Architecture 2026

Royal College of Art Design Products Symposium 2026,
Environmental Architecture Grounding Practice series, 2026

The Bartlett UCL
Visiting Critic, Master's in landscape Architecrture, 2026
Landcapes in Dialogue Speaker, 2025

MOTH Festival of Ideas - Conference Presenter, 2026

Cambridge University – Guest Speaker 2026
→ Speaker on alternative architecture careers panel

Institute for Creative Futures
Guest Speaker for Design Innovation MA, 2026
Flux25: More-than-self Keynote Speaker, 2025.

Feral Worlding Panel Speaker for Launch Event, 2026

Glasgow School of Art Guest Speaker, 2026

Thomas Coram Research Unit Visualising Migration
Panel Speaker, 2025

UT Austin Expansive Practices of Care Seminar Lead, 2025
Delivering a seminar on more-than-human solidarity

Orleans Gallery In Conversation with Gina DeCagna, 2025
Conversation with Artist and Curator Gina DeCagna

Drawing Research Forum Keynote Speaker, 2024

Palimpsest Projects Panel discussion, 2024

Mediamatic Guest Speaker, 2022
Guest contributor to roundtable discussion on neurodivergence within arts education

Press

East London Advertiser 2026

Grow Objects 2026

The Financial Times 2025

Insights of an Eco Artist 2024

Commissions

ClientEarth 2025

Outhouse Gallery 2025

The Fitzwilliam Museum 2025

Repowering London 2024