

24 things I've made

a zine... for 24 hour zine thing project

24 things I've made

a zine... for 24 hour zine thing project

24 Things I've made...

01. gps data music in max/msp
02. visual art videos in isadora
03. clocks
04. knitting
05. pdf picture books
06. screenprint portraits
07. personalized decorated cakes
08. painted flower pots
09. paper
10. floppy disk covered notebooks
11. way too many photos
12. internet radio show
13. skirts / clothes
14. music gigs: sun@mantra
15. websites
16. balcony on moo
17. television systems
18. sound recordings
19. book chapter
20. remix cd: Love You Brisbane
21. mix cds & tapes
22. tekken-dubbed movies
23. videoblogging projects videos
24. (this) zine

01. gps data music in max/msp

In 2005 I was living in the UK for a few months. I've always loved interactive music & visuals in gallery installations, so when I heard about a max/msp course at Goldsmiths College on the weekends, I enrolled for it. For the final week we had to demo a project. I made a gps data music patch. I'd been collecting gps data tracks during various drives in southern England and parts of Europe. The patch read the gps co-ordinates and adjusted an "ambience" plugin which was applied to some sound recordings I'd made at the different locations. There was also an X-Y grid displayed on the patch controller page, so you could follow the gps path whilst listening to the music. It sounded OK - the lecturer, Sebastian Ledor (who runs the INTERface nights in London) said he liked it. He had helped make the patch whilst I was learning max/msp. I'd like to make another version that generates music from the recorded samples - I think that'd be cool. One day when I have more time perhaps.

02. visual art videos in Isadora

Isadora is a video processing program. It's a visual programming system that uses patching technology. There are different patch objects which you can join together with lines, or patch cords. I like this type of programming as I find it quicker and more logical as I can see how the outputs of one object can become inputs for other objects. Maybe it's the human visual-based mind, letting me see how the program is working when it's laid out in a visual manner.

I've made a few videos in Isadora.

"miniX on the beach" - a collage of a few videos taken on Bethell's beach in Auckland - of a girl flying a kite.

"news slices in the snow" - snow X falling in Jerusalem with a mix of news articles from webpages telling of a police hero who had saved people from a terrorist attack.

"nature vs. city" - comparisons of natural life vs urban living inspired by a Philip K Dick course I'd just finished

"got love?" -video of graffiti seen on a Jerusalem wallX asking "got love? + more..." 2

03. clocks

I used to work at a TV station in Brisbane. I'd collect the old hard drives and tape machine parts, then pull them apart and make clocks for friend's presents. Everyone loved to receive one and I loved to make them for people. People would say that I should sell them, but I didn't think it would be right -these were my art! It didn't feel right to sell to people I didn't know and have them take them home. What if they didn't appreciate them or look after them? Perhaps this is a selfish thought of my part..

It was fun to think about the person who I was making the clock for and look at all the pieces and select each component individually. Then lay each piece into position and fasten them together. There was wu involved, as mentioned in "The man in the high castle" (which I've just finished reading).

I've since moved to Sydney & overseas & back to Sydney. The other day I found a few of the clock-bits boxes so I'd like to make some more clocks again soon - it's been a while. I don't have the same kind of friends here though so maybe it won't be the same

04. knitting

I used to knit, and do other crafty things when I was a pre-teen and early teenager. I think it was because Mum was always making some -thing - she made soft toys and jams & cakes etc for markets and school fetes. We often had a market stall on the weekends. But once I was in high school and beyond I didn't work on crafty projects as much.

A few years ago, I saw some knitted toys at an arts/music festival I go to each year (when in country). And then I saw knitted penguin jumpers for soaking up oil spills on their feathers. They were so cute! So I started knitting again. I like writing out the patterns too these days. Knitting is a binary system - knit & purl, yet it's also more than this as you can combine these two stitches into different patterns, as well as varying the ~~XX~~ colours to increase the complexity. I think women have taken back the option to craft as well as work and do anything they want to - to create in any manner they can. I love the mathematical knitting and geurilla / graffiti knitting too. And making toys for my friend's babies/kids.

05. pdf picture books

I started thinking about writing a zine - I've been reading them for a while, but never written one. I've written plenty of letters, postcards and thoughts & lists in my notebooks but I probably wouldn't class them as zines. So I started with picture books made in iphoto on my computer. They are really easy to make. I select the photos, select which position to lay them out and then export as a pdf. My friend told me about pdf compression - it can reduce the ~~XX~~ file sizes quite a lot. Sometimes I scan in my notebooks ~~noted~~ and then add them as an image. It's hard to read my messy handwriting these days - I think it's due to typing on the computer 99% of the time these days - my handwriting skill has lessened over the years.

I've made a few pdf picture books:
"food for digital nomads" - photos of meals I've had over the past five years whilst working and living overseas.

"neon and anouk" - one for my sister with photos of her cats

"luminosity : scenius" - photos and notes from the recent Luminous festival with Brian Eno in Sydne

06. screenprint portraits

I've made a couple of screenprint portraits. One for a friend's birthday, but we drifted apart when he started going out with his girlfriend (now his wife) so I never gave it to him. And another of my cousin's daughter. She looks too old in it though - maybe 10, though she's just turned four. ~~N~~ So I haven't given this to her either. I haven't finished the one of her brother, so I was waiting until I had one of each before giving them the paintings. But I'M not sure they are good enough anyway. At least children are more forgiving.

When I was younger my sister and I sometimes made screenprinted t-shirts and they were OK. I don't think I should give up my dayjob to become a screenprinter though!

I've always liked prints though - Andy Warhol is a favourite artist. I like seeing the registration errors - the imperfections. The eye is quite forgiving of these in real life - creating a softer image in most cases. It's like analog vs digital tv - the eye will correct errors in analog tv pictures, but it won't in 6 digital. We are analog

07. personalized decorated cakes

I haven't made these for years, but recently I found photos of the cakes and even a description of the day we'd made them in a returned, unopened (return to sender) letter to a friend who had moved to Melbourne. I remember making two decorated cakes: a "T.J." cake and a "Stems" cake. TJ was for my friend's birthday. Both were green with black licorice pieces. The Stems cake looked like the cover of their record - we used to listen to this over and over, and even saw them play in Brisbane once. At the time, we used to wear all black clothes - this was in high school. We didn't call ourselves "swampy" as others did at the time, rather, we were "alternative". TJ loved her cake and we took the Stems one to school and had it at morning tea - remember "little lunch"! - I never have time for it these days. Or it's brunch now. Oh to be back at school with hardly a care in the world! And to have all your friends around you all the time. And time to make and decorate cakes even!

II

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

08. painted flower pots

More presents - this time Christmas presents for friends and family a while ago - probably in mid 1990's. Every now and then I get in making frenzies and lookout if it's your birthday coming up or another gift-giving opportunity. I think I decided to make these after seeing some at local markets in the Valley and thinking it was something I could do. They were painted bright, block colours - blue and red, or green and yellow or other combinations. Mum still has hers, or maybe they are hers and my sisters. I remember seeing them on the shelf last time I visited home. At least they've held up well - still ~~XX~~ in good condition. That's the only problem with making gifts - sometimes I worry how long they will last. You don't like to give people things that are going to fall apart too quickly.

But I suppose it's normal these days - we live in an even more disposable, consumer society now. The 1970's and ~~XXXX~~ 1980's were nothing compared to now..

09. paper

I used to make writing paper from used Christmas paper wrapping paper. I have a paper making kit - which I also found again recently. There are a couple of trays, and mesh grid trays for seiving the paper. I used to dry it in the sun on the balcony. I'll put a square of paper into this zine. Some is uneven, or quite thick compared to commercial paper, but it's nice to reuse the old paper and make something new from it - give it a new lease of life. Can paper have life? It had life when it was bark on a tree or branches. But then is transformed into paper - a witing tool. Perhaps one of the most important technologies of humans life? Writing and communicating ideas and leading to other creative pursuits and leading to other technologies. I wonder what humanity would be like had we not evolved to write ideas down? Would our memories be large as they once were? Would we have shared memories as cromagnon man had? Would their be less art, with no paper, canvas to paint on, or paper to write tomes of literature on? Or would we have found another way?

10. floppy disk covered notebooks

I've written in notebooks for as long as I can remember. I use them a lot at work, especially when starting a new role or project - when I need to remember something. I think it's another way of outsourcing my memory. These days I use email too, but still have ~~not~~books. Outside of work I use them to write ideas, lists and thoughts down. In the 1990's, when the larger 5¼" floppy disks were being used less after being replaced by the larger format/capacity 3.5" harder cased floppy disks, I had lots of 5¼" disks leftover. So I reused them as notebook covers. And used cut-up pages of recycled printer paper as the paper. So in most cases I could then only write on one side of the page, but this was enough. I still have a few ~~boxes~~ of disks, so I'm sure they'll be reused again one day too. They might be harder to find in stores these days? I used to use spiral binders to bind the notebooks together. And of course give some to others at work to use too.

These days I mostly write in the A5 sized Moleskine¹⁰ notebooks - pocket sized ones.

11. way too many photos

Having a digital ~~XXXX~~ camera means it's very easy to take lots of photos and record every moment. I take way too many photos. And I keep all of them. I upload them to my to my flickr account (aliak.com), mostly as a backup, though it stores lower quality versions of the pictures. I also have them on hard drives. One backup drive broke whilst I was in Auckland staying in an apartment. It was whilst I was there on a work project so it was a serviced apartment and I think the cleaning lady must have knocked over the drive one day as I found it on its side & it didn't work again. I would have been upset had I lost all those photos.

Susan Sontag says in "On Photography" "Cameras are the antidote and the disease, a means of appropriating reality and a means of making it obsolete." I see her point - photos are only one view of a scene - one perception. They are only a representation. Not always representing all the facets and facts. And yet I still take photos - I "take" them, away from the moment, to try and capture them to store in my own memories. Outsourcing memories to take images..

12. THE NEW RADIO SHOW

I tried some internet radio broadcasts in about 1997-9. Then I started chatting in a few IRC channels in 1998-9. One day one of the guys asked if I'd like to do my own show on their new internet radio station, Pulse Radio. So I started in April 2000 with a test broadcast and kept doing my show for 4.5 years. At times I was doing 1-3 shows, towards the end it was just the single briz:b:e:a:t:s program. I started it when I lived in Brisbane, continued it when I moved to Sydney, but finished up when I moved to the UK. The station then changed format and management too so it was the right time to finish up. In Brisbane, I had guests come in and either DJ or perform live. Once I did a broadcast from London whilst on holidays. I broadcast a few warehouse parties and club events. I used to do publicity/PR for the show and guests too. And some came to play a live set at a club gig I used to organize. There was a great community feel to the station and show - that was one of my favourite parts. And helping the artists in a/my own small way too. The show had a good reputation too - people talked about it & the station. It was a fun time!

13. skirts / clothes

Mostly I made these when I was in my teens and twenties. At high school I'd make skirts for school dances - the "alternative" clothes. In my twenties I made clothes to wear to the dance parties. Everyone tended to make clothes back then as there weren't as many stores with the clothes we wanted to wear. It was a new look at the time. Now the club wear is very popular and easy to find. I suppose when people are younger, they like to use clothes to show others parts of their identity. I'm not very fashion conscious these days - most clothes seem to be for younger people. Now I'm sounding old..

I had a sewing machine but gave it to a friend, so small repairs is my sewing limit today - hand sewing. My sister had an industrial sewing machine as she studied fashion, and she had an overlocker too. I was never good at following patterns - I would want to just sew pieces together without following the rules. Sometimes they turned out OK. I was good at making rectangle skirts - they were very easy to do.

14. music gigs: sun@mantra

Whilst in Brisbane, I organized a weekly Sunday night live electronic music night. Various local bands and up & coming DJs came to play. We finished before midnight or just after so it wasn't a late night for those working the next day. It was also more laid back music styles compared to the harder styles played in Brisbane at the time.

One night a guy said he didn't want to come in~~X~~ as he didn't know the band -s. I told him to just go in and if he liked it then maybe he could come back later and pay the cover charge - which was \$5 or less. He found me later in the night and gave me twice the cover charge and said it was the best kind of night he'd been too in ages - he liked the diversity. That made my night - it was always nice to get good feedback. I think the bands and DJs liked having a place to play too. The genres were mixed and everyone had a X turn to play. It was a great community. Unfortunately the club closed down not long after I left. (I'd moved to Sydney so had to stop doing thenight)

15. websites

I've had websites back since the days of Compuserve - prior to that I posted on BBS' or read them, but they weren't my own page/site, so wouldn't count. There was an angelfire page at one stage, and the ISP webspace page, but the first hand-coded php site was the one I made for AliaK:filter in 1999. It's similar to the content on the current Drupal-CMS site I use today (which was first drupalized in 2003 I think). Originally, the site was arranged so I could copy the text into the emails I used to send out - event notices, arts, music notices and the briz:b:e:a:t:s internet radio show details which included bios of the guests etc. I'm not sure how to classify it... not quite an ezine, as it was always just a big list. Some people would print it out and put on their workplace noticeboards (so they told me). Since then the site is still running, though it's also turned into a travel blog, or bookmarks collection site for me. I've helped build prototype sites for other community orgs such as Undergrowth & NZ's Audio Foundation, though they built their final sites. I'm also working on an archive site: Brisbane Dance Parties

16. balcony on moo

My ex-boyfriend introduced me to BBS' at the time. We dialed in on 14.4kbps or slower modems. The first one might have even been 9k.. I can't remember no. They were text based sites, similar to forums today. You could download files and tiny, efficient programs and art. We'd dial different numbers, some local, interstate and overseas to connect to different servers. Lots were university servers. Then we started using the MUDs/MOOs. My ex's new work mates ran one called "pmcmoo" telnet hero.village.virginia.edu:7777 connect guest @request (character name) for (email address) wait for mail & pwd, then telnet to same place & connect (Charname)(pwd) then use commands @who @join (name) @go unknown species vhw (this was the name of the room we went to) I was Alia, my ex was Maglin or Haywood or Aladrin. I made a balcony with a hammock that would sway in the summer breeze. Other friends were Sweden, Starburst, The big blue bus (scary), Oobadah. Oobadah(Ang) made a shiny spinning orb. There were other moo's too: MOO2000 (sunlab.npac.syr.edu:2000) @create generic portable room called MyTidi

17. television systems

I've worked in tv - broadcast tv engineering / computer systems industry since 1989. Firstly at a FTA station in Brisbane until 2001, then at a cable tv station in Sydney until 2003 when the digital trial was abandoned. Then a satellite broadcast -er in Sydney until 2004. Then I moved to working for a digital tv systems vendor in UK. I've worked for them in various countries and cities and broadcasters. Have traveled a lot - to India (Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai), New Zealand (Auckland), Korea (Seoul), Turkey (Istanbul), Israel (Jerusalem), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and Australia (Sydney). I was officially based in UK (Southampton/Chandlers Ford) but didn't spend much time there. In 2008 I transferred back to the Sydney office but I still travel from there. It's been nice to be home though.

So I've setup computer & broadcast systems for different broadcasters around the world. It's interesting and a great way to travel, but it's very busy and stressful at most times too. Maybe one day I can slow down a bit. I like to keep across arts/music communities as a balance for my technical side. Still love anal

21

18. sound recordings

I take my recording devices whenever I go somewhere new. Usually these days it's my phone, but I have a MD and microcassette recorder too. I seem to record everything. Sometimes I listen back to the recordings and remember the day or what I was thinking at the time and what I saw that day. I record lots of things - street sounds, water, birds, seminars/talks I've attended. Many times the recordings are not that clear or listenable when I listen back - they are not production quality. More as another type of memory trigger for me. I think perhaps this is making my memory worse as I have these other storage systems for it. When I was living overseas I found I missed having some of my recordings nearby - sad, but true. I didn't have time to encode all of them prior to leaving. Some were interview recordings, which I would catch up on transcribing whilst overseas when there was often not a lot to do at nights after work (we'd often finish late). Sometimes it's hard to process a new place at once, so I could listen back later and hear things I'd missed the first time.

19. book chapter

I think I've mentioned videoblogging already - I'm a member of the yahoo-groups videoblogging list, and spin off groups ~~XXXXXX~~ and the newer artists in the cloud., vlogtheory. I Jay Dedman and Joshua Paul were working on a "Videoblogging" book and asked me if I'd like to submit part of a chapter. So I wrote up notes and instructions on "Quicktime text tracks, href tracks and clickable links" and sent it off. They have a section in the book about making clickable links in videos but my notes were rewritten. ~~XX~~ I This is not too surprising as I didn't know the format / style of writing they were using in the book and my writing can become quite scattered at times :) though I'm clearer with technical HOWTO notes as I do these for work at times. Anyway I was listed as a contributor and received a free copy once it was published so it's all good. Maybe one day I'll write a book.. I think it'll be the Brisbane Dance Parties Archive book - at least I hope I finish that one day. I thought I'd start with a zine to be in with, for that project. As it was a diy grass19 roots community & creatures really. time period.

20. remix cd: Love You Brisbane

After I left Brisbane and moved to Sydney, I was (and still am if truth be told) quite homesick for the Bris people & the dance music, sound art & experimental communities. I missed the place too - it'll always be my home. So when the old song "Love You Brisbane" was mentioned on one of the forums, I thought maybe I could arrange a remix project and ask the local artists to contribute. The song was the Channel Seven (TV) theme song in the 1980's. I had worked at Channel 7 from 1989-2001 so it'd only been about 3-6 months since I'd left. I contacted people and they gave me permission to use the song for the project. The guys from audio dept. found the master~~ed~~ copies and sent me a cd of a few versions. Then I sent out an email and posted the source cd to artists wanting to contribute. I had plenty of responses. One of the Pulse Radio guys, Mat mixed the levels of the final remix cd for me so it sounded great. I was planning to do nice artwork, but ran out of time, so I had to make up a quick cd label & then I had a cd duplication/production co. make the cds. I took them up to Bris for the SOOB (Strait OUT of Bris)

21. mix cds & tapes

Boxes hold lots of lost treasures - one such thing was a photo of me making a mixtape when I was about 15 or 16. I'd almost thought it was a dream. Then I read about the day in an unopened letter that had been returned to me and had remained unopened since 1987. It was like opening a time capsule of myself - my previous self. I'd made mix cds in the 1990s and 2000's for friends and to play on the radio, as well as recording live sets I'd done to mp3. But I couldn't remember making them earlier. I could only recall recording songs from the radio or later the Dance Music Show on 4zzZ community radio - which later changed names to Crucial Cutz. I have some of the old tapes from back then, but they are WOWing a lot now. My cassette deck was never that good, and the one I have now - recently bought - isn't that good either. Some of the tapes I'd given up for lost, but there was magick involved the day I found them again, as I was thinking of my friend (RIP) and I'm sure he led me to them. A few of his tapes were in the stash. I couldn't believe how happy analog tape could make me feel.

22. tekken-dubbed movies

These days this has a name - "machinima". But we used to have Tekken II parties when I lived in Auchenflower. About 25 people would come over and we'd take turns playing Tekken - it was a great stress relief and lots of fun. By then end of the night, the guys would be setting up the VHS recorder, and overdubbing the sound and making a mini Tekken movie. Very funny. I need to see if I still have any of the old tapes. Hopefully I didn't record over them.

It's not quite the same as machinima these days which is done on computers but it was sort of the mid-90's equivalent.

They were fun parties. Most of the gang still lives in Brisbane. Though time has passed of course and some have children now. I suppose one day they will play games with their kids like we did then. I wonder what the games of the future will be like? Probably some sort of realistic VR system. At least these days there are games involving full body movements to keep people fit. I haven't played many games for ages. I tried Second Life for a while but it's not the same as X the old Worlds 22 Away avatar world.

23. videoblogging projects videos

Each year the videoblogging group participate in various projects. I usually do the VloMo - Videoblogging Month in November. At least I've done it in 2007 (NaVloPoMo) and 2008 and the Videoblogging Week in 2009. I think vb week has been running since X 2004-5 but I only tried it this year. VB Month is held in November each year, and the aim is to make a video every day. You upload it and tag it and then everyone can see your video and the other participants video. After doing a couple of these projects I began to see patterns in my videos. There's usually a couple of art ones done in I sadora - it's a great chance to practice using it and to try new techniques for a given day's video. Then I seem to go overseas without my Mac, so I do straight out edited travel videos - drive to work, some of the sights on the weekends. Some food and hotel videos. I'd like to do better ones but sometimes time is limited so I figure uploading something is better than nothing. Some of the other people's videos are amazing - usually they are a simple idea of something seemingly mundane which is turned into a thing of beauty - simple things r b

24. (this) zine

Well I've come to the end of this little adventure. And despite very bad typing (sorry about all the 8's instead of 's) it's finished. I'm not sure if it's really a zine as I think it's a bit self-indulgent - it's "all about me", but it is what it is. I would have liked to add pictures, but they wouldn't fit on the pages. I wanted to use the pages from my Moleskine notebooks as these are my favourite for writing in these days. So I think perhaps it's a little bland with just block writing. But there you have it. In the past I suppose letters have been my perzines though they've not gone out into the world - only to a single person. I've enjoyed typing on a real typewriter again - my fingers haven't worked this hard for about 20-25 years! I had a little orange typewriter back then but I can't find it now. I searched in all my packing boxes to no avail. Alas it has gone. And now so am I. I hope you have enjoyed reading about my adventures in making things, albeit small things - over the years. Creativity brings the spark into my life.

Shalom. Peace. Salam. Paz.
 (peace in da middle east - ahnus)

This zine was made by kath
for the 24 hour-zine-thing
project. The concept and
production of the zine was ~~W~~
made within a 24 hour period
in July 2009. Actually I
started it on 29th July @10pm
so I went over into 1st Aug.
oops.

It was typed on a new -old
Gabrielle 25 Adler typewriter
(manual) with a sticky y key.

---kath
aliak77@gmail.com
<http://www.AliaK.com>

<http://24hourzines.com> has
other submissions for 2009 and
previous years.

