

## Austin Stewart

Associate Professor  
Department of Art and Visual Culture  
Iowa State University

Website: [www.austinstewart.xyz](http://www.austinstewart.xyz)

## Education

**2012** MFA, The Ohio State University.  
**2000** BFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

## Academic Appointments

**2013 – 2025** Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Visual Culture, Iowa State University  
Assistant Professor, Sustainable Environments Program, Iowa State University  
**2012 - 2013** Lecturer, Department of Art, The Ohio State University  
**2010 - 2012** Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

## Solo Exhibitions/Performances

**2025** *Jason Munday and Friends*, London Underground, Ames, Iowa. Live Improvised Performance.  
**2022** *The Beach*, Immersive Installation, Reliable Street Gallery, Ames, Iowa.  
Director Lyndsay Nissen.

**2015** *Second Livestock*, Performance, The Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa.  
Curator Gilbert Vicario.

*Horizon Line*, Black Contemporary, Ames, Iowa. (Curator Peter Goché)

## Group Exhibitions/Performances

**2025** *Open Source*, PS1, Iowa City, Iowa. Juried. (DJ Set)  
*Solstice Speakeasy*, Little Woods Tea Shop, Ames, Iowa. (DJ Set). Invited.

**2024** *OAMF*, PS1, Iowa City, Iowa. International. Juried. (Performance)  
*Activate 432Hz*, Reliable Street, Ames, Iowa. Improvisational Musical Performance. Invited.

**2023** *Tiny Deck Concert Series*, Wheatsfield CO-OP, Ames, Iowa. Musical Performance. Invitational.  
*Art and Visual Culture Faculty Exhibition*, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

**2022** *Future Food*, EyeLove Art Center, Seoul, South Korea. International.

**2021** *20 Artists 20 parks*, Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, Iowa. Regional.  
Virtually Anywhere Featuring Lyndsay Nissen, Ames Civic Auditorium, Ames, Iowa.  
(Video backdrop for live performance)

Hot for the Holidays, video screening, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

**2020** *20 Artists 20 parks*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa. Regional.

**2019** *Vienna Biennale*, Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria.  
Invited by mischer'traxler studio. International.

- Food Revolution 5.0*, Gewerbemuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland.  
Invited by Dr. Claudia Banz.
- 2018** *Food Revolution 5.0*, Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin. Invited by Dr. Claudia Banz.
- For the Common Good*, Design on Main, Ames, Iowa. Art and Visual Culture Faculty Exhibition.
- 2017** *Robotanica*, Amsterdam and Eindhoven (Dutch Design Week), Netherlands.  
Invited by Arjen Bangma.
- Biennale Internationale Design 2017*, St. Étienne, France. Invited by Olivier Peyricot.
- Food Revolution 5.0*, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg. Invited by Dr. Claudia Banz.
- 2016** *FIELD TEST*, Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland. Invited by Zach Denfeld.
- 2015** *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Japan Media Arts Festival*, Tokyo, Japan. Jury: Miwa Masahiro, Okabe Aomi, Sato Morihiro, Takatani Shiro, Uematsu Yuka.
- International Symposium on Electronic Art*, Vancouver, Canada.  
Artistic Directors Kate Armstrong and Malcolm Levy.
- River Vacancy*, Skunk River, Ames, Iowa. Curated by Lyndsay Nissen.
- Astral Edaphon*, Des Moines Social Club, Ames, Iowa  
(Performance in collaboration with Eolian Mollisol).
- Astral Edaphon*, The Lift, Des Moines, Iowa (Performance in collaboration with Eolian Mollisol).
- 2014** *Art Vacancy*, (Exhibition took place in vacant storefronts) Ames, Iowa.  
Curated by Lyndsay Nissen.
- Art + Tech*, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Curated by Sooyun Im.
- Digital Technological Detritus*, A2RU Conference, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa  
Installation in collaboration with interdisciplinary faculty and students from ISU.  
Coordinator/Curator: April Katz
- 2013** *In The Year 2000*, Texas Christian University. Ft. Worth, Texas. Curated by Nick Bontrager.
- 2012** *Department of Art Visiting Artists and Lecturers Exhibition*, The Ohio State University.
- Prospectives 2012*, International Festival of Digital Art, Reno, Nevada.  
Juried by Joseph DeLappe.
- Art and the Environment Art Auction*, Ohio Environmental Council, Columbus, Ohio.
- ComFest*, Columbus, Ohio. Curated by ComFest Organizing Committee.
- Columbus Arts Festival*, Columbus, Ohio. Curated by Matt Smith.
- Public Lighting*, 421 W. Rich, Columbus, Ohio. Curated by Ry Wharton.

*Next Wave: MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Urban Arts Space, Columbus, Ohio.

*Crossroads Exhibit*, eTech Ohio Educational Technology Conference. Columbus, Ohio.  
Curated by Brooke Hunter-Lombardi.

**2011** *Columbus Moving Image Art Revue*, Columbus, Ohio. Curated by Matt Smith.

*Hello Science, Hello Art*; City Center Gallery, Delaware, Ohio. Curated by Jessi Walker.

*Hungry Planet*, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus Ohio. Juried by Michael Mercil.

*First Year Show*, Hopkins Hall Gallery, The Ohio State University.

**2010** *Gallery Crawl*, Gunnison, Colorado. Organizer Jonathan Houck.

**2009** *Open Studio Tour*, Gunnison, Colorado. Organizer Beth Marcue.

## Publications

**2025** *Unknown Road*, Full Length Album (LP), Seven Villas The Voyage, Spain.  
<https://sevensvillasvoyage.bandcamp.com/album/unknown-road>

**2018** *New Models for Collaboration: Creating a Culture of Innovation in an Interdisciplinary Design Studio*, conference proceedings, 2018, Cumulus Conference Paris 2018.

**2017** *Food Revolution 5.0*, exhibition catalogue, 19 May – 29 October 2017, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany.

**2016** *FIELD TEST*, exhibition catalogue, 11 March – 5 June 2016, Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.

Wagner, Mimi and Austin Stewart (June 2016). Vegetated Floating Island (VFI) Fabrication for Water Quality Enhancement Technical Specification. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: Des Moines Iowa.

**2015** *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Japan Media Arts Festival*, exhibition catalogue, 4 February – 15 February 2015, National Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

Kate Armstrong, *ISEA 2015 Disruption*, exhibition catalogue, 14 August – 18 August 2015, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.

**2014** Sooyun Im, *Art + Tech Exhibition Catalogue*.

**2012** *The Gardening Robotic Wanderer: An Experiment in Remediating Our Relationship with the Earth Through Technology*, One:Twelve, Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University.

**2012** *The Militant Gardener - MFA Thesis*, The Ohio State University

**2007** *Mississippi Pilgrimage: The Journals of Venerable Jotipalo Bhikkhu and Austin Stewart on a Spiritual Journey up the Mississippi River Valley*. [UrbanDharma.org](http://UrbanDharma.org)

## Lectures, Conference Papers, and Panels

**2018** *New Models for Collaboration: Creating a Culture of Innovation in an Interdisciplinary Art & Design Studio*.

Paper presented at Cumulus Conference in Paris, France. (Double-Blind Peer Reviewed)  
International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design, and Media.  
Co-Presenter: Ryan Clifford.

- 2017** *Guest Speaker Panel*, A2RU Emerging Creatives Summit, University of Florida. Panel.  
Moderator: Anthony Kolenic With: Nan S. Smith(Artist), Laura Chessin(Artist).

*Art and Science of Vegetated Floating Islands*, Livable Communities,  
Paper presented at Central States ASLA Conference, Des Moines, Iowa.  
Co-Presenters: Mimi Wagner, Nuo Man.

- 2016** *Art and Activism: Agents of Change*, Science Gallery, Dublin, Ireland. Panel.  
With: Oron Catts(Artist), Emily Robyn Archer(Artist). Moderator: Zach Denfeld

*Convolution*, Iowa Arts Summit, Des Moines, Iowa. Lecture.

*Horizon Line*, presentation. CEAH Research Symposium, Iowa State University.

- 2015** *Defiant Intelligence and Creative Humor in Media Art – Presentation of Award-winning Works from the Art Division vol. 1*, panel discussion.  
Japan New Media Arts Festival. Tokyo, Japan.  
With: Ivan Henriques(Artist), Ruben Pater(Artist), Austin Stewart(Artist)  
Uematsu Yuka(Jury Member, Curator of The National Museum of Art Osaka),  
Satow Morihiro  
(Jury Member, Professor of Visual Culture Studies, Kyoto Seika University).  
Moderator: Kudo Takeshi(Curator, Aomori Museum of Art).

- 2013** *New Faculty Lecture*, Iowa State University.

*Visiting Artist's Lecture*, Iowa State University.

- 2012** *Unattended Baggage, Prospectives 2012*, University of Nevada.

Artist's Lecture, The Ohio State University.

- 2011** *Artist Talk, Hello Science, Hello Art Exhibition*, City Center Gallery, Delaware, Ohio.

- 2004** *Protest Arrested, or How I Learned to Love Wrongful Arrest*,  
Western State University of Colorado.

## Project Management

- 2023-present** *Super Hair Club*. Dance Event in Ames, Iowa.  
Description: Super Hair Club is a dance-focused recurring event that addresses a community need for a dance venue outside of the campustown bar/club culture. Originally a quarterly event, in September 2024 SHC became a monthly event.  
Duties: Build and maintain sound system. Acoustically treated event space. Resident DJ for Super Hair Club. Promote/Advertise events. Book additional DJs.

- 2020-present** *Bean Palace Studios*. Art studio in Ames, Iowa.  
Budget: ~\$300,000.  
Duties: Opened an artist studio space with digital and printmaking resources.

**2017-present** *Reliable Street Non-Profit and Lockwood Cafe.* Design and Renovation of Grain Elevator in Ames, Iowa to house both entities.  
Budget: ~\$400,000.  
Collaborators: Lyndsay Nissen, Austin Stewart, Sharon Stewart, Elliot Thompson.  
Duties: Collaborated on design of space and preparation of site plans, directed buildout of Cafe and Gallery space, and continued to develop the space in line with our mission.

## Residencies

**2022** *Iowa Lakeside Lab AIR*, Funded, Lakeside Lab, Milford, Iowa.  
Two week funded residency.

## Grants

**2022** *City of Ames Arts Capital Grant*  
Used to fund publicly accessible digital arts technology.  
Award: \$5,000.

**2019** *Steganos. 20 Artists 20 Parks Iowa DNR Celebration of State Parks*  
Used to fund an art installation and resulting video.  
Award: \$1,500.  
Co-PI: Austin Stewart  
Co-PI: Omar de Kok-Mercado

**2018** *Regenerative Recovery. 2019 Fieldstead & Company Endowment for Community Enhancement*  
Used to fund a year-long project and curricular experience for the Sustainable Environments program assisting with the longterm post-tornado recovery effort in Marshalltown, Iowa.  
Award: \$7,400.  
Co-PI: Austin Stewart  
Co-PI: Mimi Wagner  
Co-PI: Alex Braidwood  
Co-PI: David Swenson

**2016** *Developing and Structuring Pre-Collegiate STEM Education and Outreach: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Education as the Model.*  
Used to fund a design studio and student workers to develop education and outreach materials for IPM and for further work on development of existing curricular tools.  
Award: \$271,643.  
Co-PI: Austin Stewart  
Co-PI: Ryan Clifford  
Co-PI: Daren Mueller  
Co-PI: Jay Staker

*Convolution.* Iowa Arts Council.  
Used to support the production of 5 programmable audio synthesizers for STEAM education workshops in rural communities in Iowa.  
Award: \$2900

*Critical Contemplations: The Fountain.*  
Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Iowa State University. Used to support the production of an installation artwork that merges contemplative practices and activism.

Award: \$4056

- 2015** *Lake Laverne Nutrient Pollution Reduction: Water Quality Enhancement in Small Ponds and Lakes Using Vegetated Floating Islands as Public Art.*  
Watershed Improvement Review Board Grant, Iowa Department of Agriculture.  
Used to support the development, installation, and monitoring of Vegetated Floating Islands on Lake Laverne. This project was both a research station and public artwork.  
Award: \$45,210.00  
Co-PI: Austin Stewart (70%)  
Co-PI: Mimi Wagner (15%)  
Co-PI: John Downing(15%)
- 2015** *Foreign Travel Grant*  
Funded travel to Tokyo, Japan to present work at the 18<sup>th</sup> Japan Media Arts Festival.  
Award: \$958.50
- 2014** *Horizon Line*  
CEAH Summer Research Grant, Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Iowa State University. Used to develop a site specific art installation focused on the rapidly changing rural landscape and the ephemeral nature of all of our fabrications.  
Award: \$5,000.00
- 2013** *Second Livestock*  
GCAC Materials Grant, City of Columbus  
Used to fund the purchase of materials for project.  
Award: \$500.

## Awards and Honors

- 2019** University Early Achievement in Research Award, Iowa State University  
Award: \$1500.
- 2017** Research Award, College of Design, Iowa State University  
Award: \$500.
- Award of Merit: Research, Central States ASLA.
- 2012** Fergus Family Materials Grant, The Ohio State University  
Funding to Support MFA Thesis Exhibition. \$600.
- Graduate Teaching Associateship, The Ohio State University
- 2011** Hungry Planet Exhibition Honorarium, Franklin Park Conservatory  
Honorarium Amount: \$1000.
- Graduate Teaching Associateship, The Ohio State University  
Half-Time Appointment
- 2010** Graduate Teaching Associateship, The Ohio State University  
Half-Time Appointment
- 1995** Eagle Scout

## Community Development

Reliable Street, Board Secretary. 2017-Present

Reliable Street is a non-profit organization dedicated to arts-centered community development.

The organization is actively engaged in redeveloping an abandoned grain mill and surrounding site into a unique, inclusive center for arts and community.

Duties: As board secretary my duties have included preparation of development materials for presentation to municipal staff, outreach, public engagement, event coordination, etc.

## Bibliography

### Online Periodicals

- 2019** Bruno Surace, "Visori e galline nel Web of Beings. Second Livestock fra goliardia, semiologia e filosofia," *Ocula*. Dec. 2019.
- 2018** Sanne van der Beek, "Getting rid of that bit of unspoiled green," *The Dots Magazine*. June, 2018.
- 2017** Giovanna Dunmall, "10 Dutch Design Week Highlights," *Interior Design*. Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.  
Katharine Schwab, "11 Robots Designed to Help the Planet, Not Hurt It," *CO.Design*. 2017.  
Clara Rodriguez Fernandez, "Science and Art Join Forces to Challenge our Anthropocentric Worldviews," *Labiotech*. 2017
- 2015** Daniel Kelly, "New Vegetated Floating Islands for Lake Laverne", *Lake Scientist*. May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.  
Anthony Capps, "Grant Funds Lake Laverne Improvement", *Ames Tribune*. February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- 2014** Colin Shultz, "A Professor Proposes Creating the Matrix for Factory Farmed Chickens", *Smithsonian.com*. May 19th.
- R.A., "Chicken Business", *TheEconomist.com*. May 21st.
- "RÉALITÉ VIRTUELLE – L'illusion d'une vie en plein air pour les poulets de batterie", *bigbrowser.blog.LeMonde.fr*, May 19th.
- Jacob Kastrenakes, "Virtual reality for chickens would simulate a blissful free-range life", *theVerge.com*. May 15th.
- Rhiannon Williams, "Virtual reality for chickens: fair or fowl?", *telegraph.co.uk* May 16th.
- James Vincent, "Is this real life or is this just battery? 'Virtual reality for chickens' lets them live free range", *independent.co.uk*. June 30th.
- Sydney Brownstone, "Could 'Second Livestock' Give Chickens a Virtual Free Range?", *fastcoexist.com*, May 15th.
- Dylan Matthews, "The case for raising chickens in virtual reality", *vox.com*. May 19th.
- "Κότες virtually αλανιάρεις στο Second Life Κοτέτσι", *skia.gr*, May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- "Burhøns luras med virtual reality", *dn.se*, May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- "にわたりのためのヴァーチャル・リアリティ： Second Livestock", *scivis.hateblo.jp*. May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Andrzej Spyra, "Dzięki technologii Virtual Reality kury będą biegały po wirtualnych farmach?",  
giznet.pl. May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Justine Alford, "These Virtual Reality Headsets Make Farmed Chickens Believe They Roam Free",  
iflscience.com. May 20<sup>th</sup>. (78,600 Facebook shares)

Ben Richmond, "Why Strapping Oculus Rift onto a Chicken Isn't Totally Insane",  
motherboard.vice.com. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Terrence O'Brien, "Even Chickens have their own Virtual Reality", engadget.com. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Darrell Etherington, "Freedom to Roam Without the Roaming", techcrunch.com. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

"'Second Livestock' Asks if Virtual Reality for Chickens can be the Future of Fake 'Free Range'  
Meat", huffingtonpost.co.uk. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

"Professor Austin Stewart Proposes Virtual Reality for Chickens", businessinsider.com. May 15<sup>th</sup>.

"養雞工廠新點子：讓雞戴上虛擬眼鏡過一", lthome.com.tw. May 19<sup>th</sup>.

"Austin Stewart Dreams of Drawing Art from Science", improbable.com. May 16<sup>th</sup>. (Annals of  
Improbable Research – Ignobel Awards).

"Virtueller Hof gaukelt Hühnern Auslauf vor", 20min.ch. May 17<sup>th</sup>.

"Дополненная виртуальная реальность для куриц на птицефабриках", techne.com. May  
21<sup>st</sup>.

Ian Alshevsky, "Американец разрабатывает шлем виртуальной реальности для кур",  
tech.onliner.by. May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Print**

**2014** Tamar Stelling, "Een beter leven voor de plofkip. Virtueel dan", NRC Handelsblad, May 27th.

Ashish Sharma, "Unreal Estate", New Delhi Business Standard, May24th/25th.

"Michael Morain's Picks of the Week: Fowl Art", The Des Moines Register, Des Moines, Iowa.

Gavin Aronsen, "ISU Design Professor Envisions Virtual Reality Lives For Farm Animals,"  
The Ames Tribune.

**2011** Michael Grossberg, "Conservatory Exhibit on Food Choices is Designed to Eat at Visitors",  
The Columbus Dispatch.

## **Radio**

**2015** Ben Kieffer, Interview, River to River, Iowa Public Radio, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**2014** Carol Off, Interview, As It Happens, CBC Radio. May 16th.

Ben Kieffer, Interview, River to River, Iowa Public Radio, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jodi Henke, Interview, Living the Country Life, National Public Radio, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Television and Online Video**

**2017** "Second Livestock", NowThis, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Video. (10m views)

**2015** "Floating Islands Help Lake Water", Agribusiness Report. WHO-TV. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Television.

ISU News Service. "Floating Islands Added To Lake Laverne To Improve Water Quality",



YouTube.com. Video.

"Floating Islands Growing Fast", Agribusiness Report. WHO-TV. September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Television.

- 2014** "Russell Howard's Good News: Series 9 Episode 4", Russell Howard's Good News. BBC 2. November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Television. (1.3m viewers)
- Animalist. "Virtual Reality Headsets for Chickens!" YouTube.com. Animalist News, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Video.