

Biography

Kotaro Abe is a Japanese designer currently based in Singapore. After obtaining BA Environmental Information studies in Keio University (Japan), he was a visiting researcher at Keio University as an interaction design tutor. In June 2017, he has finished his MA in Design Interactions at the Royal College of Art (UK).

His design projects often deal with the current social issues and aim to question/ activate our mindset toward these issues. In order to show one of the plausible ways to tackle the specific issue, Kotaro utilises his multidisciplinary skills; prototyping, electric engineering, software coding, visual design, film making and sometimes uses himself as a testee to try out absurd experiments. His works have exhibited globally such as Sonar Festival, Ars Electronica Festival, NTT ICC Open Space, ACM SIGGRAPH ASIA and Laval Virtual.

In six years he has granted several awards from renowned institutes including; D&AD, WIRED Japan, Bloomberg London. And his exhibition, public talk and workshop were held worldwide including London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Barcelona and Bangkok.

Awards

- Wood Pencil, D&AD 2017
- First runners up in Bloomberg divider competition, London, 2017
- Finalist in WIRED Japan Creative Hack Award 2016
- Selected art work in SIGGRAPH ASIA Art Gallery 2013
- SFC Student Award 2012
- Grand Prix / Laval Virtual Award, The 20th International collegiate Virtual Reality Contest, 2011

Education

- 2015-2017 Master, Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom
- 2011-2015 Bachelor, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

Work Experience

- Stuck Design | Singapore  
UX Designer/ Engineer, March 2018-
- Freelance web / interaction designer | London, United Kingdom  
December 2015- November 2017
- Takram | London, United Kingdom / Tokyo, Japan  
Design Technologist, June 2016- October 2016
- Keio Research Institute at SFC | Tokyo, Japan  
Adjunct Tutor/ Visiting Researcher, March 2015- September 2015
- ENERGYMEET | Tokyo, Japan  
Internship, March 2015- September 2015

Group Exhibitions

- 2017  
The SHOW, Royal College of Art, London, UK, 2017
- 2016  
Scenes Unseen, London Design Festival 2016, London  
Sonar 2016, Barcelona, Spain, 2016  
The Language of London, KK Outlet, London, United Kingdom, 2016
- 2014  
Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria, 2014  
NTT ICC Open Space 2014, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013  
JST CREST × Mirikan Open Lab 2013, Tokyo, Japan  
ACM SIGGRAPH ASIA Art Gallery 2013, Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
Open Research Forum 2013, Tokyo, Japan

Workshops

- “Post-conceptualisation”, RCA prototype Design Lab, Tokyo, Japan, 2017
- “Post-conceptualisation”, Fabcafe MTRL, Tokyo, Japan, 2017
- "Energy Gift Mini", Bangkok Design Festival 2015, Thailand, 2015