

Tamiko Thiel – Biography

Tamiko Thiel is a visual artist exploring the interplay of place, space, the body and cultural identity. Her works encompass objects, digital prints, videos, interactive 3d virtual worlds and augmented reality.

Thiel received her B.S. in 1979 from Stanford University in Product Design Engineering, with an emphasis on human factors. She has an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1983 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), with a focus on human-machine design at the Biomechanics Lab and computer graphics at the precursors to the MIT Media Lab. She then earned a Diploma (Master of Arts equivalent) in Applied Graphics in 1991 from the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, Germany, specializing in video installation art.

Her work has been exhibited internationally in venues such as the Istanbul Biennial, the International Center for Photography in New York, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the Institute of Contemporary Art in London and in Boston, the ZKM in Karlsruhe, the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, the Fondazione Querini Stampalia in Venice and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, at festivals such as Siggraph, ISEA, Ars Electronica, DUMBO and the ZERO1 Biennial and at art fairs such as Art Gwangju, Contemporary Istanbul, UNPAINTED Munich and Moving Image New York.

A founding member of the cyberartist group Manifest.AR, she participated in the pathbreaking augmented reality (AR) intervention “We AR in MoMA,” an uninvited guerilla takeover of MoMA New York. Videos of Thiel’s *Art Critic Face Matrix* at MoMA were featured in articles in the New York Times and on WNYC (National Public Radio). In 2011 she led the Manifest.AR Venice Biennial AR Intervention, placing her work series *Shades of Absence* in St Marks Place, the Venice Giardini and in the German National Pavilion. This led to an invitation to participate in the ISEA UNCONTAINABLE official parallel program to the 2011 Istanbul Biennial and to the ZERO1 Biennial in Silicon Valley, USA.

Her work is in the collections of the San Jose Museum of Art, the ZKM Karlsruhe, the Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art at Cornell University, and the Smithsonian Institution. She has had commissions from Seattle Art Museum, ZERO1 Biennial, for FACT Liverpool’s 10th anniversary exhibition, for the Corcoran Gallery in Washington D.C., for the Nikolaj Kunsthal for the Copenhagen Art Festival and for the Goethe-Institut of Germany.

In 2017 Thiel is a GoogleVR Tilt Brush VR artist in residence, an Eyebeam New York mentor, and is part of a Boston Cyberarts commission funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. She was a 2013 Macdowell Colony fellow, and 2011-’14 visiting artist at Duke University’s Experimental and Documentary Studies program. As Artistic Advisor for the Caribbean Cultural Center/African Diaspora Institute she helped win a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation Innovation Fund for an AR project in Spanish Harlem. Earlier awards and fellowships include the IBM Innovation Award for Artistic Creation in Art and Technology, Art Council England, Wellcome Trust, WIRED Magazine, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Japan Foundation and the Berlin Capital City Cultural Fund. She was a nominee for the World Technology Award in Art and Technology and for a Rockefeller Foundation New Media Award.

Thiel’s work is featured in Whitney Museum media art curator Christiane Paul’s reference book *Digital Art* (Thames and Hudson World of Art series), DAM gallerist Wolf Lieser’s large format *The World of Digital Art* and Stanford professor Matthew Smith’s *The Total Work of Art: From Bayreuth to Cyberspace*. Professor Smith also published a monograph on Thiel’s work, “Liquid Walls: The Digital Art of Tamiko Thiel,” in the *Performing Arts Journal* (PAJ). Thiel is a featured artist in “Not Here Not There,” a special issue of *Leonardo Electronic Almanac* which is the seminal publication on augmented reality as an art form, edited by Lanfranco Aceti, Richard Rinehart and Ozden Sahin. Additionally, reviews of her work have appeared in *Flash Art*, *Kunstforum*, *the New York Times*, *WIRED Magazine*, *El Pais*, *Kunstzeitung*, *Die Zeit* and the *Washington Post*. JWT Intelligence featured her AR work in their “Future 100 2017” trends report.

Thiel has taught and lectured internationally at Carnegie Mellon University, the MIT Media Lab, the Bauhaus-University Weimar/Germany, University of California/San Diego, University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television, the Berlin University of the Arts and the Nanyang Technological University School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) in Singapore.