

# Uma Breakdown

<http://www.umabreakdown.com>



## Statement

I'm Uma, a disabled artist, writer, and award winning game designer interested in animals, horror, and psychic/cybernetic structures which support/inhibit solidarity. Everything I make is about some combination of love, grief, hallucination, and an excess of joy. With Belladonna Paloma I make video games about the divine and occult providence of transfemme existence. I live in Gateshead.

←←←←←**Ancient History:**←←←←←

[[In 2006-2007 I became severely ill, eventually retreating from making art as a result of the permanent changes to my health. I worked extensively in care work and inclusive art education until beginning my art practice in 2015, and this background underpins all of my work.]]

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## Select recent and upcoming exhibitions

### 2024

Earth A.D. 3

QUAD, Derby. (Forthcoming touring solo exhibition and digital artwork 2022-2024)

DIY OR DIE

Container, Bristol. (Forthcoming digital artwork w/ Bella Paloma)

Doppelgänger Rooms

Periphery Space, Gorey, County Wexford. (Collaborative project w/ artist Olivia Normile)

Taking up Space

The Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle. (Group exhibition)

Areas Of Effect: Planar Systems, Critical Roles, and Gaming Imaginaries

Arebyte, London. (Group exhibition )

Peasants Revolt Now!

Prayer Room, Birmingham. (Group exhibition )

Shape Open

London. (Group Exhibition)

### 2023

Earth A.D. 2

FACT, Liverpool. (Touring solo exhibition and digital artwork 2022-2024)

The Well of Sickness Shimmering

Overkill Festival, Amsterdam. (Digital artwork w/ Bella Paloma)

Take Care

Travelling Gallery, Edinburgh/throughout Scotland. (Group exhibition)

Joy of Destruction

Backlit, Nottingham. (Group exhibition )

Elan Vitale

Container, Bristol. (Digital artwork)

### **Out of Scale**

Transmedialle, Berlin. (Group exhibition )

### **2022**

#### **Allied Editions**

Frieze, London. (Art fair)

#### **Hinterlands**

Baltic, Gateshead. (Group exhibition)

#### **Earth A.D.**

Wysing, Cambridge. (Touring solo exhibition and digital artwork 2022-2024)

#### **How to Practise Grieving in Eight Movements**

Klosterruine, Berlin. (Group exhibition)

#### **Surface of Scum**

MAYK, Bristol. (Digital artwork w/ Bella Paloma)

### **2021**

#### **Animal Agency**

17th Athens Digital Art Festival, Athens. (Digital exhibition)

#### **Take The Moonlight by The Tail**

Arebyte, London. (Digital artwork)

#### **Lich Way Party Train**

Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge. (Digital artwork)

#### **Rhizodome**

Gwenba.com. (Digital group exhibition)

#### **Unfolding Shrines**

Shape Arts, London. (Augmented Reality group exhibition)

#### **Post-Doom**

Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart. (Digital artwork)

### **2020**

#### **Animal Agency**

FACT, Liverpool. (Digital artwork)

#### **All Flesh is Grass**

Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga. (Group collaborative exhibition and role playing game)

### **2019**

#### **Polymorph Other**

Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham. (Group exhibition)

### **2018**

#### **Broken Diorama**

Dublin Digital Radio. (Radio play)

#### **Paperworks**

SERF, Leeds. (Performance)

#### **Sex and Other States**

South Kiosk, London. (Performance and group exhibition)

#### **Polymorph Other**

IMT Gallery, London. (Group exhibition)

#### **Its Origins are Indeterminate**

The Whitechapel Gallery, London. (Performance)

#### **The Inhuman Ecstasy of Toxic Waste**

Wormworm.org (digital commission)

### **2017**

#### **Creature of Havoc**

SERF, Leeds. (Solo project)

#### **Waste: A Symposium**

Birkbeck College, London. (video installation)

#### **Janusware**

Res. London. (Group exhibition))

#### **Heretics #12**

Rádio Quântica (Radio play)

### **2016**

#### **Green Fuzz**

Xero, Kline & Coma, London. (Two person exhibition w/ Alfie Strong)

#### **(It's All) Tropical Presents Blind Date**

The Royal Standard, Liverpool. (Performance w/ Alfie Strong)

#### **The Dying Midwest of Thulsa Doom**

Chisenhale Studios, London. (Performance)

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## Education

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### Northumbria- Sunderland Consortium/ PhD

September 2016- September 2020, Newcastle

AHRC funded PhD based in the art department of Northumbria University, title: "Becoming Ahuman: making it desirable to abandon certainty, including certainty of the self and play in this chaotic situation".

### Royal College of Art/ MA

September 2006- July 2008, London

Sculpture school. Funded by RCA fees and maintenance bursary, and award from The Coates Foundation.

### University of East London / First Class BA (hons)

September 2006 - July 2008, London

Fine Art department.

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## Select memberships, residencies, fellowships:

### 2024

2024 International Digital Fellow

Quad, Derby.

Trustee

Broken Grey Wires, Liverpool

### 2023

Shortlisted for The Arts Foundation Award: Digital Art

The Arts Foundation, Manchester.

### 2022

Unseen Futures Fellow

Abandon Normal Devices, Manchester.

Digital Residency with Alice Rekab

Arcade-Campfa, Cardiff.

Access Steering Group Member

Wysing Arts Centre

### 2021

Digital Solitude Assembly Residency

Arc Bucharest.

2nd prize for "Animal Agency"

Athens Digital Art Festival Audience Award,

Access Advisory Group Member

FACT, Liverpool

Net//Work Residency

British Council / Wysing Art Centre, Cambridge.

Post-Doom Residency

Akademie Solitude, Stuttgart.

### 2020

Shortlisted for Adam Reynolds Award

Shape Arts, London

Fact Together Fellowship

FACT, Liverpool.

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## Recent publications

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### 2023

"Trans Death Magic"

Exhibition text for Slug Town, Newcastle.

"Middlesbrough Art Week 2023"

Review in "Corridor8".

"The Graveyard of Extension"

in "Deleuzine Vol. 2".

"Two Plus Two Makes Four: The Auxiliary, Middlesbrough"

Review in "Corridor8".

"The Speculative Dismemberment of Agent Leon Kennedy"

In "A Wet and Heavy Noise". Market Gallery, Glasgow.

### 2022

"Waste Work"

In "TEXTUR Issue 4". Textur, Berlin.

### 2020

"As Plain as its Meaningless Name"

In "On Care". Ma Bibliothèque, London.

### 2018

"Gauge Fanfic"

In "The Bodies that Remain". Punctum Books, Santa Barbara.

"Axpansion"

In "PaperWork Issue 3: lilwimi lipsing". Paperwork, London

"Farmer 9"

In "Alembic". Res., London.

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## Recent teaching, workshops, conference papers, artist talks.

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### 2024

"Tartarus in Bloom".

Public talk with Dr Amy Hale and Belladonna Paloma, at Quad, Derby.

"Undertale Delete".

Guest lecture at SODA, Manchester Metropolitan University.

"Relics".

Public talk with Joseph Buckley, Dr Karen Di Franco and Dr Alice Rekab, at FACT Liverpool.

"Syllabus VII Artist Advisor".

Syllabus Artist development programme, Wysing Arts Centres, Eastside Projects, New Art Exchange, PS2, Spike Island, TACO, Studio Voltaire..

### 2023

"A Knife Made of Refuse".

Public talk at The Center for Discursive Inquiry at CalArts, Santa Clarita.

"Forest of Doom 2"

Workshop for "2023 Youth Festival", Wysing Arts Centre.

"Uma Breakdown and Johanna Hedva".

Public talk at FACT, Liverpool.

"Secret passages and arcane puzzles for the contemporary studio".

Workshop for "Into The Wild" artist development programme at Chisenhale Gallery, London.

"My Coffin is a Spaceship"

Public talk with Evelyn Wh-ell for "Art/Work Association", at Auto-Italia South East, London.

"Put Your Controller on the Floor"

Guest lecture delivered at Reality Check Festival, Enschede

"Associate Lecturer in Fine Art"

Newcastle University, Newcastle.

"Hellbound Hearts or, "I was rooting for Mephistopheles, and contemptuous of Faust"

Guest lecture and seminar, Yale University, Newhaven..

**“Esprit de corps / Corpse Explosion”**

Guest lecture delivered at Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, Oxford.

**“Art as a Road Trip**

Workshop delivered at Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford, Oxford.

**2022**

**“Art as a Monster that Always Comes Back”**

Guest lecture delivered at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

**“An Anthology of Dead Ends”**

Guest lecture delivered at University of Huddersfield.

**“Uma Breakdown in Conversation with Angela YT Chan and Dr. Tom Dillon”**

live online event for Wysing Arts Centre.

**“Worldbuilding and Wellbeing”**

Panel member for “Peer to Peer UK/HK”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong, and QUAD, Derby.

**“Forest of Doom”**

Workshop delivered at “2022 Youth Festival”, Wysing Arts Centre.

**2021**

**“Art as Waking up to a Nightmare”**

Workshop delivered at “Horror Programme”, University of The Underground, Berlin.

**“Art as a Road Trip”**

Workshop delivered at “AMPlify”, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge.

**“Open Screen Panel Discussion”**

Panellist for “Arebyte Open Screen”, Arebyte Gallery London.

**“Dungeon Mechanics”**

Workshop delivered at “Feminist Painting School”, Baltic, Gateshead.

**“Broken Vibes”**

Artist talk delivered at “Merged Futures 3”, Northampton University.

**2019**

**“Coming Soon, From Your Cemetary: Horror / Play / Instability / Desire”**

Guest lecture delivered at Reading University.

**“There is no reason for you to live: ‘No World Dreamers, Sticky Zeitgeist episode 2: Aperitif’ as trans\* Écriture Féminine”**

Conference paper delivered at “Beyond the Console: Gender and Narrative Games”, London South Bank University, London.

**2018**

**“Smeared into The Environment: Queer Horror and The Ahuman”**

Conference paper delivered at “Horror, Cult, Exploitation II”, Northumbria University.

**“Wild Pop: A Symposium”**

Artist talk at Newcastle University.

**“Smeared into The Environment: Queer Horror and The Ahuman”**

Conference paper delivered at “Don't Look: Representations of Horror in the 21st Century Symposium”, University of Edinburgh.

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## Select funding

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### 2022

North East Artist Fund

North East CVAN

Trailblazer Fund

Bristol + Bath Creative R+D

### 2021

Develop Your Creative Practice Bursary

Arts Council England

### 2020

ArtsAdmin Bursary

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## Select press and interviews

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### 2023

“Uma Breakdown: Earth A.D. 2”

Corridor8

“Save Room”

Container

“An Interview with Uma Breakdown”

Art in Liverpool

“Uma Breakdown and Johanna Hedva talk LA Noir”

Two part podcast series at “Unseen Futures Kinopio”, Abandon Normal Devices, Manchester.

### 2021

“Free Your Mind. Death Will Come, Uma Breakdown in Conversation with Johanna Hedva”

akademie-solitude.de

“Unfolding Shrines is some of the most ambitious augmented reality art we have seen in the last year”

The Art Newspaper

“The best virtual things to do at home in April”

TimeOut

### 2020

“In Conversation: Uma Breakdown and Lesley Taker”

Fact.co.uk

### 2019

“Art, The Anthropocene, and the Grim Dark Future of Warhammer 40k”

Roman Road Journal

### 2017

“Interview”

In “Lossy Ecology”. Flat Time House, London.

### 2016

“(It’s All) Tropical present Blind Date”

Corridor8

“Review: Blind Date: (it’s all) Tropical at The Royal Standard”

Art in Liverpool