



Oscar Dempsey | CV

Scenographer | Visual Artist | Fabricator

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Profile

Cross-disciplinary scenographer, designer and fabricator working across dance, theatre, performance and installation. I collaborate with artists and production teams to develop scenographic concepts, spatial environments and material-led designs that support embodied performance and audience interaction. My practice combines sustainable making, technical fabrication and artistic research, with experience delivering projects across Finland and the wider European arts sector.

Artistic Approach

My practice explores how materials, objects and space shape the relationship between performers and audiences. Through sustainable fabrication and experimental making, I create environments that support movement, participation and embodied experience. I am interested in how scenography can transform everyday materials into immersive and socially engaged performance.

Selected Design Projects

- 2026 – *Stay Hydrated*, Blaue Frau, Helsinki, Finland
Designed, built and installed scenography and props in a found space including water elements.
- 2025 – *Jackie*, Myllyteatteri, Tanssiteatteri MD, Tampere, Finland
Designed and built adaptable stage and costume elements within limited production budgets.
- 2024 – *A Fistful of Funk*, Zodiak, Stoa and Sellosali, Helsinki and Espoo, Finland
Designed extensive modular scenography for touring performances across multiple venues.
- 2023 – *Utopia*, Kaiken Keskus, Kaasukello, Helsinki
Designed and built a modular installation for a game performance using recycled materials.
- 2022 – *Travelling Light*, City of Light Festival, Jyväskylä, Finland
Conceived and directed a light-based performance using wearable sculptural elements.

Selected Artistic & Fabrication Projects

- 2026 – *Supermarket*, Galleria Huuto, Stockholm independent art fair, Sweden
Assisted independent art collective in fabricating furniture for international art stall
- 2025 – *Leaky Teeth*, *Symptoms*, Exhibition by Dafna Maimon, Kiasma, Helsinki
Fabricated a large-scale sculptural installation integrated with video projection.
- 2024 – *Interstices*, Grey Garden Studios, Yö Galleria, Helsinki
Group exhibition exploring material and immaterial traces of studio environments.
- 2023 – *Out of Office*, Grey Garden Studios, Asbestos Art Space, Helsinki
Collaborative group exhibition, co-curated and installed multi-artist presentation.
- 2022 – *Hubris.2*, Linenhall Arts Centre, Castlebar, Ireland
Solo Exhibition, second edition of installation of sculptural creatures in dialogue.

Education

Master of Arts, Design for the Performing Arts, Aalto University, Finland (2020)

- Specialised in scenography, collaborative performance-making and artistic research.
- Completed my Master Thesis directing, designing and creating the performance production and exhibition, *Sublime Humility*.

BA (Hons), Fine Art, Newcastle University, England, UK (2014)

- Developed interdisciplinary studio practice combining fine art, making and critical research.
- Prizes: John Fisher and Photography Award. Initiated and organized multiple group exhibitions.

International Exchange, Contemporary Art, Funen Art Academy, Denmark (2013)

- Collaborated with students and expanded professional network with international organisations

Awards and Grants

- Covid-19 Artist Grant, Arts Promotion Centre Finland (2021)
- Best Student Exhibition Award, Prague Quadrennial (2019)
- Aalto ARTS Scholarships, Espoo (2018 – 2019)
- Winner, RUA Red Gallery Winter Open, Dublin (2017)
- Level 1 Grant, O2 Think Big, London, UK (2015)
- Alumni Association Student Initiative Grant, Newcastle, UK (2015)

Professional Development

- *Hangö Teaterträff*, Finland, festival technical and install team (2026)
- *Baltic Circle*, Helsinki, Finland, festival coordination and technical team (2025)
- *Kesäkirja*, Film, Dir. Charlie McDowell, Prop design and construction (2024)
- *Escape Room Helsinki*, Escape Room concept, design and creation (2017)
- *Hotel Pro Forma*, Copenhagen, Internship for international production house, (2016)

Studios and Professional Memberships

- Board Member, *Myllyteatteri*, Artistic theatre group (2025 –)
- Board Member, *Kaiken Keskus*, Performing arts group (2023 –)
- Board Member, *Grey Garden Studios ry*, Artist Association (2021 –)

Technical and Artistic Skills

- Material & Fabrication: woodworking, metal, casting & molding, textiles, recycled materials
- Spatial Practice: installation, scenography, site-specific construction, audience flow
- Design & Tools: SketchUp, Adobe Suite, model making, digital sketching
- Project Work: budgeting, scheduling, collaboration, workshop-based production