

Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025

BAW

EXTRA Element

2025

electronic sound, emulsion, low-tack tape, muslin, PA system

David Crawforth

Sonic collaborations

2025

BEMS+V (Beaconsfield Electronic Music Studio+Visuals)

Naomi Siderfin

What do you know?

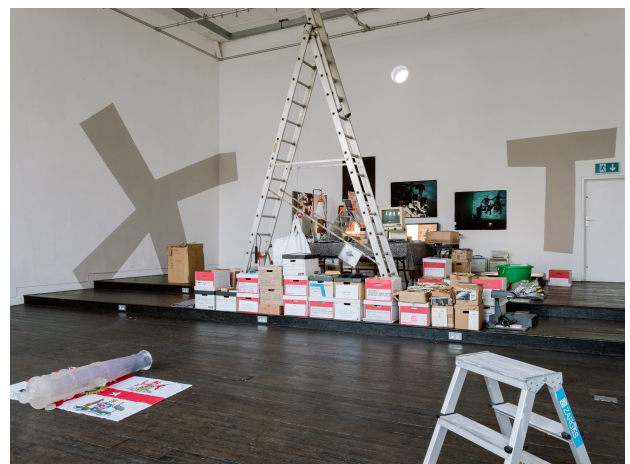
2025

ongoing research into tacit knowledge and neurodiverse forms of knowing

Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation is an evolving 'exhillation'* curated by Beaconsfield's founding directors David Crawforth and Naomi Siderfin who work in collaboration as BAW to set the exhibitionary tone with visual and sonic interventions throughout the show. The project is intended to interrogate the (un)sustainability of contemporary art practice and to propose positive strategies for nurturing creativity.

BAW is the moniker for Naomi Siderfin and David Crawforth in collaboration as Beaconsfield Art Works. Over and above their work as curators, Beaconsfield's founding directors have maintained a collaborative visual arts practice under the moniker of BAW (Beaconsfield Artworks), making numerous critical interventions in public space since 1994. [Read more here](#)

* Naomi Siderfin, *Invisible Stitches: revealing the seam between making and curating*. PhD thesis, Slade School of Fine Art UCL, 2023.



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David Crawforth Lives and works in London as a visual artist and co-founding director of artist-run space Beaconsfield. Crawforth's sonic and object centred work has been complemented by an ongoing preoccupation with the interdisciplinary and collaborative. Over the years he has made a series of innovative performance and synthetic sonic works both solo and in collaboration. Crawforth's works are united by the way in which they serve as interventions in private or public space. Whether it be the meticulous reproduction of a household pest in precious metal or seven tons of moulded concrete placed at the edge of a fjord, the emphasis is always on the crafted, even when a work is infused with irony. Artist collaborators have included Naomi Siderfin, Bruce Gilbert, Shane Cullen, Hayley Newman and Bob and Roberta Smith. [Read more here](#)

Naomi Siderfin is an artist-researcher and co-founding director of the artist-led organisation Beaconsfield with which her personal practice has been closely aligned. The curation of an international programme of visual art projects in this context reinforced her departure from studio-based painting into a situated art practice relying on site and duration to drive it. Appropriating public space as an extension of pictorial space represents, for Siderfin, an engagement with the landscape tradition. Her recent doctoral research at Slade School of Fine Art UCL interrogated the relationship between installation practice and exhibition conventions, and the power dynamics of artist and curator. [Find PhD here](#)

Beaconsfield is an artist-led centre for the development and presentation of contemporary art based in North Lambeth. For nearly thirty years its research-led curatorial programme of commissions and exhibitions has expanded the boundaries of contemporary art and intrigued visitors. BAW believes that artists can catalyse radical change, so they curate a space for experimentation and invite future creatives to share in a feedback loop that hardwires maker, curator, viewer, and participant. The purpose is to nurture creativity and to share and critique an understanding of key debates and developments in contemporary art, culture, and public life. Beaconsfield's site is both a workshop and an experimental artists' forum. BAW curates a reflective space where people can be free to speak and test their perspective, thereby achieving their aim: to sustain a resource of excellence – a beacon – for the development and presentation of international contemporary art – the field.

Curated by its founding directors Naomi Siderfin and David Crawforth since 1994, Beaconsfield has worked with 700+ artists, presenting more than 70 exhibitions and approximately 200 participatory educational or performative events. The commissioning structure is currently delivered through broadly defined strands, with an emphasis on the topical and discursive, generating content-driven experimental work and promoting debate through public events. [Read more here](#)

Beaconsfield was founded by David Crawforth, Angus Neill (co-director until 1997) and Naomi Siderfin in 1994. The building-based organisation emerged from the peripatetic art club project Nosepaint (1991-1994) delivered by David Crawforth and Naomi Siderfin between 1991-1994.