

THOMAS BEY WILLIAM BAILEY  
ARTIST BIO 2024

Thomas Bailey (1977-) is an author, electronic composer, audio documentarian and occasional educator.

Thomas has been active with independent music since the mid 1990s, first acting as office intern and occasional road crew for a Chicago-based record distributor representing artists including Mark Spybey (Zoviet France, Dead Voices on Air), Mick Harris (Scorn, etc.) and others. Since that time, he has been a “multi-role” participant in the experimentally-oriented sonic subcultures of Osaka, Tokyo, Central Europe, Austin Texas and elsewhere. In addition to recording and performance duties, he has acted as a concert organizer, DJ, and radio programmer: as to the latter, he co-hosted the *Blind Spot* program on Chicago’s WLUW in 2004-2005, the *Belsona Academy* electronic music digest on London’s Resonance FM in 2009, and the *Anechoic Chamber* arts and culture podcast from 2020-2022.

His personal sound work is characterized by intense, cinematic pieces that interrogate notions of utopia, social conditioning, anthropocentrism, and media saturation. Increasingly, his focus has been on re-imagining the “therapeutic” uses of sound, particularly its potential to increase a sense of agency and integration within a passive, fragmented, visuo-centric culture.

As a writer, his focal points are cultural extremes and interesting, under-explored aspects of sensory perception and affect. His published material - both full-length books and anthology contributions - has dealt with the peripheries of electronic music and sound art (*Micro Bionic*) the history of self-released audio (*Unofficial Release*), the cultural history of synesthesia (*To Hear The World With New Eyes*) and neuroaesthetics / cultural anthropology (*Sonic Phantoms*, in collaboration with Barbara Ellison). He is now at work on *To Reach the Place Where The poet Last Stood* (a survey of correspondences between art and terrorism), and *Authenticentrism*, a study of idealized authenticity within all genres of art production.

Thomas has collaborated with an array of international artists on record, live, and in other capacities (e.g. as a publisher of recorded material via his new “Fifteen Minutes of Anonymity” label). These include, but are not limited to: Francisco López, Zbigniew Karkowski, Kazuya Ishigami, Roel Meelkop, Susana López, Reverse Image, Maurizio Bianchi, Ralf Wehowsky, Alan Courtis, Leif Elggren, Rick Reed, Brent Farriss, Enzo Minarelli, Norman W. Long, Das Synthetische Mischgewebe, Marc Behrens, Barbara Ellison, Evelina Domnitch & Dmitry Gelfand, PBK, David Lee Myers / Arcane Device, and more.

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