

John Cleater  
Artist Statement 2013

I am an artist who experiments with spatial experience. Although I studied architecture, and spent many years working in that field, I have always considered architecture simply one of the many media with/in which I make work. My projects encompass a wide range of intentions and processes—from translating volumes of sound into physical volumes of space to projection-mapping onto objects and buildings. As a scenic and architectural designer, I employ unconventional techniques that incorporate mechanical systems and structures built to be interactive and mobile. Most recently I have been working with augmented reality (AR), using mobile devices as lenses through which one views and interacts with virtual objects in real space via GPS and camera recognition technologies.

Blurring the threshold between physical and virtual space is an ongoing objective of mine. I deploy a range of technologies, including the use of heat, laser, motion and camera recognition sensors to trigger audio and visual projections meant to somehow alter, enhance, or confuse spatial experience. Not unlike George Melies' use of film to further his magic, I use new technologies to further mine.

- Roger Phillips of BBC said of Cleater's *'I Must Be Seeing THINGS'* installation at FACT, Liverpool UK 2013 *"...it is weird. But its fantastic!"*
- Bruce Sterling of Wired: Beyond the Beyond 2011 said of *'Sky Pavilions'* *"Check out the animation in that floatie. That is grinding it about as hard as a state-of-the-art handset can take it."*
- Clare Henry for STATE Magazine UK states: *"His recent progress into AR came by sheer fluke. 'I went to a meditation class, ... And there I met the guy who introduced me to AR.' As Louis Pasteur once remarked: Chance visits the prepared mind. Shortly afterwards he was busy curating a pioneering outdoor exhibition 'Peeling Layers of Space Out of Thin Air', sited at the OMI International Arts Center. Exhibitors included such high profile names as Vito Acconci, Daniel Libeskind, SITE... and Cleater himself."*
- Charles Isherwood for NY Times on Cleater's scenic design of *House/Divided* by The Builders Association @ BAM 2012 *"...the production's most starkly moving image is a silent one: the gradual disassembling of the house sitting at center stage. I almost didn't notice it when the process began, so caught was I in the sweep of the story, or rather the many stories. Then suddenly the eaves were gone, the stairs were gone, the walls were being carted off. Where there had once been a solid-looking symbol of shelter, there was a barren space. There was nothing at all."*

[www.cleater.com](http://www.cleater.com)  
[john@cleater.com](mailto:john@cleater.com)