

JAMES ZATKA-HAAS

I am an artist and writer working at the borders of disability, art and architecture. I am artistically concerned with movement; how ideas, experience and meaning ebbs and flows through our lives, and through a process of deconstructing, fragmenting and turning ghostly, I produce emotionally charged works which speculate on the lives of (mainly) disabled people. I also work as an art critic, principally for disability arts on-line, and have written extensively about disabled culture, advocating for the wonderful community I am part of. I co-founded the disability centred practice Dis in 2022 with Jordan Whitewood-Neal. We have organised multiple workshops and events, exhibited internationally and currently run teaching units at the London School of Architecture and Central Saint Martins.

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Art / Architecture

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- 2025 **Contributing Artist - Exhibit P* - GE01 - Bold Melon Collective**
 - 2025 **Nominee - Zetteler - 25 for 2025**
 - 2025 **Nominee - Esquire Better Men 2025**
 - 2025 **Shortlisted - Stanley Picker Fellowship**
 - 2024 **Project Manager - Public S/Pacing: Between Art, Architecture and Crip Time***
 - 2024 ***(Dis) Commissioned Artist / Contributing - Design für alle? Vielfalt als Norm - The Museum für Gestaltung, Zurich***
 - 2024 - Present **MA Architecture Tutor (Teaching) - Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London**
 - 2023 - Present **Design Think Tank Leader (Teaching) - London School of Architecture**
 - 2023 **Workshop Lead - DisOrdinary Architecture - Kampnagel, Hamburg**
 - 2023 ***(Dis) Nominated for Manifestos 2023: Architecture for a New Generation - Design Museum London***
 - 2023 **Wayfinding and Access Designer - Seats at the Table - London Festival of Architecture**
 - 2022 ***(Dis) Event Organiser - Invisible Tales - London Festival of Architecture***
 - 2017 **Voting Panel Member - 2017 / 2018 Unlimited Emerging Commission**

Writing

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- 2023 **Lead Consultant on Good Growth By Design project - Greater London Authority**
 - 2023 - 2024 **Many More Parts than M! - Contributor and Alt Text Author***
 - 2018 - Present **Art Critic - Disability Arts Online**
 - 2022 **Awardee - Wellcome Collection x Spread the Word Awards**
 - 2016 **Editor for English Translation of 'The Art of Playing Tombak', by Ramin Rahimi (ARC Music)**

Roles

2022 - Present

Co-founder - Dis

I founded Dis in 2022 with architectural research Jordan Whitewood-Neal. Dis is an award winning disability-led collaboration using art and alternative design methodologies to advocate for the value of disabled experience within space and culture, working against the increasing isolation and atomisation of disabled people in art and architecture. Over the course of 2023/24, our output and reputation has grown significantly, and as a result we are frequently invited to give lectures and workshops to students.

2019 -2023

Admin Assistant - Royal College of Art

The role required being the first point of contact for current and prospective staff and students, as well as overseeing databases and finances and organising school-wide events. Before covid, I sat on the college's sustainability panel and organised a recycling station for the Architecture Studios. In 2021, I advocated for a Deaf Student and secured for them full BSL coverage for the duration of their masters, along with a teacher for the deaf, paid for in full by the college. In 2023, I submitted a brief (on behalf of Dis) to run a unit for the newly developed Design Practice MArch Programme. If recruitment numbers are met, the programme will begin in September 2024.

2017- 2018

Unlimited Trainee - Artsadmin

During my traineeship I was a key contact for commissioned playwright Jack Dean . I acted as their main point of contact for all queries relating to their commission and provided advice on access, audience and budgeting. I also regularly updated the Unlimited blog, running a series called 'Who's Who', which provided insights into the various people working at the organisation. I co-organised a trip to the Edinburgh Fringe and Brussels for 8 cultural workers (including myself). Whilst there I acted in a supportive role, ensuring everyone was cared for. At the end, I was the subject for the yearly 'Unlimited Trainee film'.

2021 - 2022

Pedal Power Finsbury Park - Cycling club for teenagers and adults with learning disabilities and complex needs

2018

London Film Festival

Voluntary

Graduated 2013

University of the Arts London - BA(hons) Culture, Criticism and Curation

References:

**Dr Helen Stratford - helenstratford@hotmail.com
Dr Neal Shasore - neal@the-isa.org**

Education