

~ Jackson Darby CV ~

Jackson Darby is a multi-media visual artist, musician, producer, engineer and DJ. Having been active in numerous collaborative projects such as Fantasy Academy, Persons, Freaky Boos, Body Hammer and MAW Collective his primary solo endeavour is called NPNP. With a BFA in Electroacoustics and Intermedia Art from Concordia University his background with sound is largely in multi-channel composition, sound sculpture and installation however more recently his focus is on heavy ambient and unique approaches to jazz and electroacoustics both in the studio and in live performance. He occasionally redirects his focus towards eclectic, wonky, high bpm dance music as DJ Fire Belly and sound-collage hip-hop production with Fantasy Academy.

His visual practice extends from digital collage renderings, oil painting and video. Across media his work explores texture, erosion, repetition, and the tension between digital and analogue modes of production through abstraction. Often painting onto digitally generated images that function as underpaintings, the visual works mirror the logic of signal degradation and transformation present in his music and experimental phonograph record-cutting processes.

He currently lives and works between Marseille, FR and Montreal, QC where he runs a mastering and vinyl record cutting business called Personal Touch and acts as the label head for Personal Records and Cold Cache Records. His last solo record, *Harmony in a Vacuum*, was released in 2024 on Halocline Trance Records.

~ Education ~

2023 **Simon Fraser University**, Burnaby, Canada

Completed graduate-level course with Professor Emeritus Barry Truax, Tutorial for the Handbook for Acoustic Ecology

2017 **Souri's Automaten**, Hosskirch, Germany

Completed training on the VR-T560 Vinyl Record Cutting Lathe with technician Ulrich Sourisseau

2014 **Concordia University**, Montreal, Canada

Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Electroacoustics; a program that emphasizes different compositional approaches, audio production, recording, engineering and sound design

~ Work ~

Personal Touch (2017 - Current) Owner and sole operator of mixing/mastering/production studio in Montreal, QC that specializes in short-run vinyl record cutting for DJs, bands and record labels.

~ Selected Discography ~

NPNP with Jairus Sharif- Hammond (2025) - Self released duo record

NPNP - Dance in People (2025) - Self released solo record

NPNP / L Con - Tape Process (2025) - Duo recording with Lisa Conway where we both perform reel-to-reel tape manipulations

Fantasy Academy - We Dance and Spin (2025) - Duo with Colin Fisher

NPNP - Harmony in a Vacuum (2024) - Solo record released on Halocline Trance Records

NPNP Trio - Isolated Plastic Bag (2023) - Trio record featuring James Goddard and Evelyn Charlotte Joe released on Personal Records

Tape Loops (2022) Ambient LP featuring reel-to-reel tape experiments

NPNP / A Hutchie - Graph Attack 12" (2021) Split 12" dance record release by Cold Cache Records

NPNP / A Hutchie - COCO 12" (2021) Split 12" dance record released by Cold Cache Records

N_A / Decoy Zeniths - Split 7" (2021) Split 7" released by Personal Records

Freaky Boos - Here Comes TINA (2021) 7" released by Personal Records

NPNP - Bombina (2021) Solo EP self-released as 10" EP

NPNP - I see you go (2020) Full-length solo album self-released as 12" LP

Persons - Persons 7" (2020) 7" released by Personal Records

NPNP - Interrupt // Erupt (2020) Solo EP released on 12" vinyl by Personal Records

Freaky Boos - I'm Exposed (2019) Full-length album released as 12" LP by Personal Records

NPNP - NPNP (2018) Full-length album released as cassette by HAVN Records

Persons - Persons (2016) Full-length album released as cassette by HAVN Records

~ Selected Performances/Exhibitions ~

Western European Tour (2025) - NPNP with Jairus Sharif on tour in France, Germany and Belgium

ONSOUND (2025) NPNP Trio perform live and give workshop on improvised music and modular synth integration Sound Symposium in St John's, NFLD

Western Canada Tour (2025) - NPNP with Jairus Sharif perform as a duo throughout western Canada

POP Montréal (2024) NPNP Trio with Erika Angell, Montreal, QC

Best Out of Town Festival (2024) NPNP solo performance, North Bay, ON

Electric Eclectics (2024) Long form live/DJ hybrid set as DJ Fire Belly, Meaford, ON

Sled Island (2024) NPNP Trio opening for Irreversible Entanglements, Calgary, AB

Hose Shows Series (2022) NPNP solo in Berlin, Germany

X Avant Festival (2022) - NPNP Trio at the Music Gallery Toronto, ON

Electric Eclectics Festival (2022) - NPNP Trio in Meaford, ON

MUTEK Montreal (2021) - Showcased live electroacoustic performance with spoken word/dance by Katie McDonald in Montreal, QC

Art Lotto (2021) - Contributed an experimental/conceptual 12" record cut with multiple grooves per side featuring different iterations of an ambient composition in Hamilton, ON

I'm Exposed Tour (2020) - Ontario/Quebec tour with Freaky Boos trio doing live performances followed by Q/A sessions and conducting workshops on improvised music and deep listening.

Spring Tour USA - (2019) - Tour throughout the north-eastern USA with Persons

Strangewaves Festival (2019) - Solo live-electronics set as NPNP in Paris, ON

Electric Eclectics Festival (2018) - 5 hour marathon DJ set as DJ NPNP in Meaford, ON

Art Gallery of Hamilton (2018) - Video installation as part of "Hamilton Now: Object" group show at AGH with Persons in Hamilton, ON

Cross the Border Tour (2018) - North American tour featuring 20 shows in the US and Canada with Persons

PRIDE Toronto (2017) - Live set with Persons in Toronto, ON

Supercrawl Festival (2017) - Live set with Persons in Hamilton, ON

Ottawa Explosion Festival (2017) Live set with Persons in Ottawa, ON

Suoni Per Il Popolo (2017) Live set with Persons in Montreal, QC

Long Winter (2017) - Live set with Persons in Toronto, ON

CAFKA 16 (2016) - Semi-permanent public art installation as part of MAW Collective in Kitchener, ON

Persons + Guy Madonna Tour (2016) - Tour throughout eastern Canada with Persons
Casino Art Space (2016) - Solo art installation entitled “I Can’t See I Can’t Hear I’m Underwater” featuring painting and kinetic sound sculpture in Hamilton, ON
Galerie CK2 (2015) - Sculptural installation entitled “No One Will Believe” as part of MAW Collective in Montreal, QC
Parisian Laundry (2014) - Large-scale sculpture installation entitled “Deflective Skepticism and Critical Plinking” as part of MAW Collective in Montreal, QC
Puebla Museo de la Imprenta (2013) - Untitled Sculpture installation as part of MAW Collective in Puebla City, Mexico
New Shit Studio (2013) - Group exhibition as part of a 1 month residency VON, with MAW Collective in Cholula, Mexico
Nuit Blanche Festival (2013) - Installation at Galerie AB as part of MAW Collective, Montreal, QC
60x60 Electroacoustic Symposium (2012) - Contributed a 60 second electroacoustic composition in Toronto, ON

~ **Curation** ~

Personal Records (2018 - Current) Label head conducting all operations at this short-run vinyl record label creating tangible sonic artifacts for left field music projects.
Cold Cache Records (2020 - Current) Co-founder of the record label releasing forward thinking dance music 12”s.

Personal Touch at Sous Bas (2018-2019) Monthly DJ Residency at Sous Bas nightclub featuring DJ NPNP with guest DJs every month including, Baba Stiltz and Foodman

Casino Artspace (2015-2019) Co-founder and curator of performance space and gallery in Hamilton, ON

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NPNP is Jackson Darby’s latest and current solo music project where he explores electroacoustic techniques, composition and performance

Fantasy Academy is a free-jazz hip-hop duo with Colin Fisher

Persons is an ever-changing group of artists who perform high energy sets of conceptually driven live electronic music, movement and video projection.

Freaky Boos is an experimental trio of musicians pushing the boundaries of improvised music and modern forms of composition.

MAW Collective was a group of 6 artists that made large-scale sculptural installations.