

Ben Shirken

Curriculum Vitae

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Ben Shirken is an artist, music technologist, composer and curator living in New York City. Working with cutting-edge technology for multimedia performance, production, sound installation, and AI, his work contemplates how our tools for understanding and containing the world fundamentally alter our relationship with it.

Education

2027 MFA in Visual Arts | Sound Art | Columbia University

2024 School For Poetic Computation | The Musical Web

2023 Interactive Media with Max MSP | Index Space

2019 BFA in Recorded Music | Tisch School of the Arts, New York University (NYU)

Residencies

2024 - Avaloch Farm Music Institute

Work Experience

2020 - Present

29 Speedway | Founder | Brooklyn, NY

- 29 Speedway (29S) is a creative audio production studio and record label that serves as a curatorial platform for experimental artistry and multimedia. 29S melds composition, mixing, AI, and post-production audio with auditory world-building for exhibitions, films, music, games, and immersive experiences.
- Lead on curation, event production, and audio technical direction for artists, brands, films, retail, and advertisements worldwide
- Past Clients, Partnerships, & Projects: Rhizome, Pioneer Works, ESSX, Festival de Cannes, Onassis, BAM, Public Records, New Museum, Laser Days Studio, Ormside Projects, WSA, Nowadays, Red Bull, Ermenegildo Zegna, MTV, Blade Study Gallery, Ace Hotel, Matta Gallery, Sony Music, Blade Study, Resident Advisor

2024 - Present

Sensorium Works | Lead Audio Specialist, Composer | New York, NY

- Sound installation design, production, and immersive composition for *The Vivid Unknown*, an ongoing immersive experience by John Fitzgerald and Godfrey Reggio
- Work with proprietary AI models & software trained on Philip Glass' original score
- Premiere at BAM Brooklyn, Frost Planetarium and Festival de Cannes Immersive

2015 - present

Music Composition and Performance

- Tour worldwide, selling records as *Ex Wiish*, *Ben Shirken*, *Beshken*, and *Nu Jazz*

- Stream millions of plays online. Work with various record labels.
- Performed at Pioneer Works, WSA, New Museum, Dripping Music And Arts Festival, NYC Winter Jazz Fest, Public Records, Cafe Oto, Trauma Bar, Station Gare Des Mines, Long Play Festival, Hyperreality Festival, Echoplex and Nowadays

2020 - 2024

5950.exp | Studio Manager, Engineer | Queens, NY

- Led studio in engineering & production projects for Future Classic, NNA Tapes, Ghostly, Chemical X [Mad Decent], Sony, & Republic
- Worked with artists such as Deli Girls, Machinegirl, Embaci, Photay, Leya, Jaimie Branch, Beak Trio, James K., Chuquimamani Condori, Pavel Milyakov, Yawning Portal, Sycco, The Dare, MIZU, Lowrntown, Thoom, and A2B2

2019 - 2020

Jupiter Sound | Audio Production | New York, NY

- Sound production for events at Guggenheim, Moma, Moma PS1, and corporate events

2018 - 2020

Palto Flats | Assistant | Brooklyn, NY

- Work with archives, foundations and distributors to creatively release new records and reissues by artists such as Midori Takada, Yasuaki Shimizu, and Mariah

Skills

<i>Audio</i>	Ableton Live, Max MSP, Pro Tools, IZ RX, Spat. Recording, mixing, design, FMod
<i>Events</i>	Production, Live Sound, curation, A/V, Art Handling, Set Design, Lighting, Logistics
<i>AI</i>	Audio model training. RAVE, Somax II, SP-Tools, Google DDSP, Gradio, Claude.
<i>Programming</i>	HTML, CSS, Javascript, P5.js, Web Audio API, Python [beginner], Cursor
<i>Video</i>	Premiere, Touch Designer, After Effects, Lumen, LZX Industries Vidiot,
<i>Managerial</i>	Archival, documentation, PR and distribution.

Releases *Ben Shirken (solo), Ex Wiish (solo), Nu Jazz (jazz band), Beshken (band)*

2025

Ben Shirken H.D. Reliquary, LP [29 Speedway]

2024

Ex Wiish 29 Speedway: Ultrabody [Compilation Vinyl]
Nu Jazz Live Jazz. Recorded at Pioneer Works & Long Play Festival, NYC [Self]
Nu Jazz Nu Jazz - Intro (Live at Cafe Oto, 3/6/24) [Plot Toy: Lucky Compilation]

2023

Nu Jazz Vol. 1 [Self]
Ex Wiish Shards of Axel, LP [Incienso]
Beshken Pressure Bump EP [29 Speedway]

2022

Ex Wiish 29 Speedway: Channel Plus [Compilation]
Beshken Pantomime LP [29 Speedway]

2021

Ex Wiish 29 Speedway: Zero Space [Compilation]

Exhibitions, Installations, & Gallery Performances

2025

Constellation Cycles | Mythologies For A Spiritually Void Time, Group Show.
Offline Gallery, NYC
Generative video & installation with Will Freudenheim. Sound, video, television.

H.D. Reliquary | Intercomm Gallery, NYC
Generative multichannel installation. Sound, video, sculpture.

Blade Study [Panopticon II] | Heart Gallery, NYC
Live machine learning performance. TikTok, iMessage, Ircam Somax II, Ableton Live

The Vivid Unknown - John Fitzgerald & Godfrey Reggio | BAM, NYC / Festival de Cannes, FR
Composition, real-time immersive sound, multichannel mixing

2024

Corpus | Blade Study Gallery, NYC
Software-based improvisational performance | Ben Shirken, Tommy Martinez, Axine M, Karol K.

Leviathan | PWA Gallery, NYC
64-channel spatial audio performance

Rhizome: 7x7 Conference | New Museum, NYC
AI model and interface design | Ben Shirken, Reggie Watts, Dr. Stephon Alexander

2023

Scattered Cipher | Container Group Show. Intima, NYC
Generative multichannel audio installation

Shards of Axel | Pipe Dream Group Show. The Living Gallery, NYC / KWIA, Berlin.
8-channel audio installation

2022

29 Speedway x Laser Days | Pageant, NYC
Multimedia, motion tracking dance exhibition

Scoring & Composition

2025

Telharmonium - John Menick | Artissima, Turin / Matta Gallery, Milan [late 2025]
Generative Film

Eureka! - Samson Jeter & Matt Ericson | [late 2025]
Short Film

Acid City - Jack Wedge & Will Fredudenheim (Laser Days) | [late 2025]
Short Film, animation

Mr. Art Needs A Break | Rhizome World. WSA, NYC
Composition, Dance performance & Ballet

2024

Entanglements | Zora Upload Imagination. NYC
Short. Sound & Laser

I Dance All The Time - Isa Spector | Pageant, NYC
Dance Performance

2023

Sleep - Bing Cao
Short Film

Xenoplex - Connor Cook & Darren Zhu | Benjamin Bratton, Antikythera
Short Film

Select Live Performances | Ben Shirken, Ex Wiish

2025

Europe
Standalone, London
UFONIC | Jardins Do Bombarda, Lisbon

Dripping | Nowadays, NYC
Ben Shirken presents H.D. Reliquary, Sigrid Lauren, Cardopusher, K Wata, Cry

2024

Nina Night | Nowadays, NYC
Ex Wiish, Dj Lostboi, Pavel Milyakov, James K, Cousin

2023

Outlaw | NYC

Ex Wiish [Live], Zutut, Sausha, Yaki, Cienfuegos, Truthspeaker, Drumloop, Cd Player

Oasis | Nowadays, NYC

Miss Parker, Connor Wrong, Ex Wiish [Live], X3butterfly, Silas

Seven | Public Records, NYC

Ex Wiish & Issei Herr

2022

Dripping | Nowadays, NYC

Ex Wiish & Laser Days [A/V], Ben Vida & Lea Bertucci, Gryphon Rue & Stuart Meyers

Select Performances & Curation | 29 Speedway

2025

29 Speedway x Mesma | Stone Circle Theater

Hiro Kone, Ben Shirken, Karim Kahar

Europe

29 Speedway x Mesma: Flora Yin-Wong, Ben Shirken Zarya | Le Carmen, Paris

Orchestroll, Ben Shirken, Visio, CECILIA, Spike Fern (DJ) | Ormside Projects, London

Orchestroll, Ben Shirken | Cane Studios, Milan

Orchestroll, Ben Shirken | Bar Neun, Berlin

Giri, Berlin

2024

29 Speedway: Ultrabody Release Show | Public Records, NYC

Pent, Ex Wiish & Dorothy Carlos, Muein, James Hoff, Eric Frye, Tati Au Miel, Kamran Sadeghi.

Arushi Jain, Contour [Live], Daytona 500, Drumloop, Isabella Koen [Live] | Nowadays, NYC

Significant Other, Ex Wiish, I-Sha, Cajm, Box5iv | Spanners, London.

29 Speedway x Xenoplex | Kwia, Berlin

Axine M, Cybermission, Ex Wiish, Muein, Xenia Reaper.

Rhizome Forever Party | WSA, NYC

Young Boy Dancing Group, Poncili Creación, Elekhlekha อีเลอะเซอะเซอะ, Umfang.

29 Speedway 3-Year Anniversary | LSD, NYC

Bookworms, Relaxer, Mizu X Kennie Zhou, Ex Wiish X Laser Days, James K, Palto Flats (Dj).

2023

Kanyon [Live], Cades [Live], Yumi, Contractor, Ex Wiish [Dj] | Bossa Nova Civic Club, NYC

29 Speedway x Co:Clear | The Dream Machine, Glasgow
Nitro, Ex Wiish, Conna Haraway, Muein

Ormside Projects, London
Flora Yin Wong [Dj], Aircode, Maxwell Sterling, Ex Wiish, Nexcyia, Angel Steele [Dj].

29 Speedway x Infinite Drift | Fitzroy, Berlin
Nas Tea, Mathis Ruffing, Color Plus, Ex Wiish, Blume.

29 Speedway x Index Records | 90mil, Berlin
Pavel Milyakov, Color Plus, Ex Wiish, Games, Conna Haraway [Dj], Nitro, Muein.

29 Speedway x Conditioner | LSD, NYC
Shinetiac, Pent B2b Jake Muir [Dj], Ex Wiish (Dj), Eric Frye [Live], Viiian (Dj).

29 Speedway Residency | Ace Hotel, Manhattan
Kowloon Baby, Ben Bondy, Sheepshead, Palto Flats, Ex Wiish, Axine M, Rage Inald, Ronan,
Mui Mui, Matt Bent, Bowman

James K. [Dj], Ex Wiish [Dj], Phi Phi | Floyd, Miami

J. Albert, Will August Park, Ex Wiish, Viv Lira | In Sheeps Clothing HQ, LA

Quantum Piñata | Pioneer Works, NYC
Poncili Creación & Laser Days, Nu Jazz, Evicshen, Ex Wiish, Alex Tatarsky.

UCC Harlo, Ex Wiish Ensemble, J. Albert & Will August Park, Sanna | T.J. Byrnes, NYC

2022

29 Speedway X Slagwerk | Secret Location, NYC
DJ Healthy, Color Plus [Live], Trngs Otis, Ex Wiish [Dj], Celes [Live].

Lydo, Isabella Koen [Live], Ex Wiish [Live], Axine M [Dj], Sam Clarke | Secret Location, NYC

Acemo [Live], Photay, Carlos Niño, Celia Hollander, Lxv, Ex Wiish | Secret Location, NYC

James Hoff, Kamran Sadeghi, Dorothy Carlos, Palto Flats [Dj] | Visaural, NYC

29 Speedway: Channel Plus Comp Release Pt. 2 | Bossa Nova Civic Club, NYC
Pent [Live], Ian Kim Judd, Rage Inald B2b Raw Unkut, Ex Wiish [Dj], Evilo.

29 Speedway: Channel Plus Comp Release | Secret Location, NYC

K Wata, J. Albert, Xen Model [Live], Axine M., Ex Wiish [Live], Kowloon Baby

Special Guest Dj, Ben Bondy, Windowseeker, Ex Wiish [Laser Days] | Pageant, NYC.

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe, Hisham A. Bharoocha, Dj Nathan Harrington. | IRL Gallery, NYC

Rachika Nayar, Yawning Portal, Significant Other, Ex Wiish | Pageant, NYC

James K, Bergsonist, Pent, Dorothy Carlos, Ex Wiish | IRL Gallery, NYC

Debit, Ohyung, Axine M, Kowloon Baby | IRL Gallery, NYC

Photay, Hisham Bharoocha, Ex Wiish, Jio | IRL Gallery

Select Performances | Nu Jazz

2025

Residency | Nu Blu

w/ Alfredo Colon, Tomoki Sanders, The Narcotix

w/ Jason Lindner, HxH, Two Girls NYC, Key Hutch

w/ Elias Stemseder, Trap Music Orchestra, C. Spencer Yeh & Kwami Winfield

2024

Elder Ones (Amirtha Kidambi) | Union Pool, NYC

Nuke Watch, Trae & Solomon | TV Eye, NYC

Clara Joy Presents | 526 West 114th Street

Europe

La Station, Paris

Yes, Manchester

Preston Jazz Fest, Preston

Quarry, Liverpool

Cafe Oto, London

Botanique, Brussels

OCCII, Amsterdam

Kinnet, Kusel

Kantine/Soft Spot, Nurnberg

Baumann & Sohn, Cologne

Jazz Is Dead Festival, Torino

Hyperreality Festival, Wien

Punctum, Prague

Trauma Bar Und Kino, Berlin

Jazz Jantar Jazz Festival, Gdansk

2023

Evicshen, Poncili Creación, Laser Days, Ex Wiish, Alex Tatarksy | Pioneer Works, NYC
Dj Haram, Aquiles Navarro, Bullshit Jobs | Public Records, NYC
Nu Jazz Record Release | Trans Pecos, NYC
New York Winter Jazz Fest | Baby's All Right, NYC

2022

The Narcotix, The Beak Trio | Trans Pecos, NYC
Poncili Creación, Dreamcrusher, Adam Markiewicz, Kuthi Jin & Voronhil | Market Hotel, NYC
Blue Jazz Tv, Tomoki Sanders, Palto Flats | Nu Blu, NYC
Jason Lindner, Bookworms | IRL Gallery, NYC

2021

Machine Girl (Dj), Kush Jones, Leya, Lea Bertucci, Rachika Nayar | Market Hotel, NYC

Press

The New York Times - Can Bam Be A Trailblazer Again Through A.I?
Catalogue.Works - This Archive's Alive: Entering Ben Shirken's 'H.D. Reliquary'
Dj Mag - 11 Labels Blurring The Boundaries Of Ambient, Dub Techno & The Dancefloor
Art Basel - Why Artists Should Learn How To Use AI Tools
Observer - Rhizome's 7x7 Models A Deeper Collaboration Between Art & Science
Paper Magazine - Rhizome Forever Party Turned The Digital Visceral
Document Journal - Rhizome Throws Annual Gala Afterparty With 29S
Nina Protocol - 29 Speedway In Europe: Tour Diary
Resident Advisor - Ex Wiish: Shards Of Axel [Review]
Clot Mag - Ben Shirken [Ex Wiish], Getting Lost In Generatively Based Soundscapes
Futurism Restated [Philip Sherburne] - Ex Wiish: Shards Of Axel [Review]
Dazed - New Music Friday: 6 Albums To Stream This Week
Document Journal - "Quantum Piñata" Is A Talent Show For The Artistically Aware
Resident Advisor - 29 Speedway: Channel Plus [Review]
Office Mag - Beshken: When You Have A Block, Make It A Sphere [Interview]
4:3 Boiler Room - Beshken: When You Have A Block, Make It A Sphere