

Fascinated by the subliminal, the unseen, and the secretive, my practice has long dwelled within the shadowed realms of digital subcultures such as political conspiracies, whistleblower leaks, esoteric technologies, and the soft mythologies emerging from unstable networks. I collect fragments like leaked documents, speculative theories, distorted truths, and digital ephemera, using them as raw material for works that reflect how dominant media, belief systems, and collective memory shape our shared reality.

In recent years, my focus has shifted from uncovering hidden truths to tracing their gradual disappearance. Increasingly incorporating artificial intelligence, my intention is to create temporal vessels—artworks capable of conversing simultaneously with the future, present, and past, however transient these interactions may be. I explore the paradox inherent in using unstable tools, coded logic, and the visual language of AI to reconnect with echoes of the past, lost voices, and forgotten rituals, often interweaving my Irish identity into the process.

The diverse projects I develop serve as frameworks rather than definitive statements. They unfold within open systems, shaped through dialogue and collaboration. I often invite collaborators from outside the traditional art world, such as hackers, singers, folklorists, theorists, whistleblowers, former intelligence operatives, alongside generative AI systems and datasets. Together, we create installations and image-worlds that often appear familiar at first glance, yet carry more speculative or contested narratives beneath their surface.

Medium remains secondary to intention. I work across drawing, sound, computation, video, installation, and object-making. I blend antique materials with neural networks, merge archival remnants with imagined futures, and approach obsolescence poetically, crafting works as resonant hybrids and transient monuments marking the fleeting intersections of human memory, machine logic, and collective imagination. Through these hybrids, I strive to illuminate subtle connections that bridge our fragile grasp of truth and memory.

In exploring what it means to make meaning within a world increasingly defined by decaying truths, unstable memories, and automated voices, I treat myth and storytelling as equally valid pathways to understanding as facts and rationality. In today's public discourse—dominated by opinion, conviction, and belief—I deliberately incorporate the erosion of truth into my practice, embracing its collapse as a form of contemporary ritual. My interest is less in discerning what is objectively real and more in discovering what still feels genuinely true, however briefly that may be.

Seán Hannan (2025)