

Artist Talk: Jol Thoms

**Note: this video was edited for length and content.*

>> My name is Jol Thoms. I am two kilometres beneath the surface of the Earth in the SNOLAB in Sudbury. I am a visual artist. I make audiovisual compositions, but I work with detectors and laboratories and philosophies and people, and that translates into installations with research and moving images and experimental music. I am really interested in environmental studies and in physics and in the histories and philosophies of the unknown and so that translates through shifts and perspective throughout time which include arts, sciences, philosophies and other disciplines. And I like to try to think with large sites and objects. So, if a site like SNOLAB exists, and it does, we are here underneath it, what other things can we think with, with this as our type of thought? I see myself maybe more as a poet. I like to try to put things in much broader context than they are usually delivered to us. So, at a site like SNOLAB, it is a kind of holographic place. There are many different layers of knowledge and desire and expectation here. So, a lot of people probably already know but we are here because millions of years ago a meteor or a comet landed here and that forced nickel to emerge from the Earth which later had miners come here and still later had physicists come here but it is all, of course, on this Anishinabek territory. So, there are all these different layers of what constitutes, for me, different scales of the imperceptible. So here, they are searching for imperceptible particles. If they exist or not, no one is sure but then there are other elements forcing this site like the relationship of resources to economies. And I am, kind of, interested in how a site like this and how a sort of research experiment can try to grapple with these different layers.

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