

THE COMMERCIAL

MITCH CAIRNS

b. 1984, Sydney
lives Sydney

EDUCATION

2003-2006 Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours, National Art School, Sydney

ORGANISATIONS/COLLECTIVES

2009-2011 Founding committee member The Cosmic Battle for Your Heart, Sydney
(Directors: Mitch Cairns, Kelly Doley, Brian Fuata and Agatha Gothe-Snape)
2007-2008 Committee member, MOP Projects, Sydney
2006-2007 Volunteer Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney
2005-2007 Studio Assistant to Adam Cullen

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *TUG OF WAR (rope): TUG OF LOVE (bon-bon)*, with Matthew Tumbers, KNULP, Sydney
2016 *Stray Geranium*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
2015 *The Reader's Voice*, curated by Linda Michael, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
FINCHES, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
2014 *Dip or Skinny Dip*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
Cigarette cm, TCB art Inc., Melbourne
Studio Leak - Drawing Wall #14, curated by Elise Routledge, Shepparton Art Museum, Melbourne
2013 *Masters Resting*, KALIMANRAWLINS, Melbourne
2012 *Bass Principals*, BREENSPACE, Sydney
Piano Removalist, Boxcopy, Brisbane
Blue Period (with Mathew Tumbers), curated by Susan Gibb, Society, Sydney
2010 *Man Rose*, BREENSPACE, Sydney
2008 *Written and Recorded by Ringo Starr*, BREENSPACE, Sydney
Slow dancing, Locksmith Project Space, Sydney
Hey, hey, hey, my, my, my, gone, gone, gone, MOP Projects, Sydney
2007 *I want my pants ripped off by someone wild*, MOP Projects, Sydney
2006 *We got the bright lights shinning on our backs*, Firstdraft, Sydney
Re-establish something of a bond (with Nana Ohnesorge), MOP Projects, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Grounded*, curated by Judith Blackall, NAS Gallery, National Art School, Sydney
Arthur Guy Memorial Art Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo
Game, Bowerbank Ninow, Auckland
2016 *Painting. More Painting*, curated by Max Delany, Annika Kristensen and Hannah Mathews, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne
The Commercial, Auckland Art Fair, Auckland
2015 *DEADPAN*, curated by Abigail Moncreiff, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn
The Commercial, Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney
Writing Art, curated by Scott Donovan, Artspace, Sydney
TPOLR – Mitch Cairns, Agatha Gothe-Snape, Clare Milledge, Robert Pulie, Mary Teague, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney

- 21st Century Heide: The Collection since 2000, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- Outside Thoughts, curated by Wes Hill, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Hobart
- Six people in a room, KNULP, Sydney
- 2014 Now the heart is filled with gold as if it were a purse, curated by Glenn Barkley, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne
- No fond return of love, Institute of Contemporary Art Newtown, Sydney
- 2014 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong Gallery, Geelong
- The Commercial, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Centre, Melbourne
- Archibald Portrait Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (travelling)
- OUI we, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
- 2013 The Knock-Off Show, curated by Liang Luscombe and Brook Babington, SLOPES, Melbourne
- Relationshippal – Mitch Cairns, Susan Jacobs, Tim Silver, BREENSPACE, Sydney
- 2012 Ten out of Ten, curated by Rob and George Adams, MOP Projects, Sydney
- Sprezzatura, OK Gallery, Perth
- Cool World, ALASKA Projects, Sydney
- The Drawing Room, BREENSPACE, Sydney
- 2011 Eastern Seaboard, curated by Reuben Keehan and Melanie Oliver, Artspace, Sydney
- Salon, Eastern Bloc, Sydney
- 2010 Redheads & Power Chicks & Men who sew, curated by Barbara Flynn, Deloitte Building, Sydney
- BREENSPACE, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Hall, Melbourne
- Alpha Romeo – Mitch Cairns, Christopher Hanrahan, Nigel Milsom, curated by Matthys Gerber, Peloton, Sydney
- They call them Pirates out here, curated by David Elliot, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- Group Show, BREENSPACE, Sydney
- 20/Twenty, curated by Ron and George Adams, UTS Gallery, University of Technology and Dubbo Regional Gallery, Sydney
- In Temperance, curated by Mark Titmarsh, City of Sydney laneways project, Sydney
- 2009 What I think of When I think about dancing, curated by Lisa Havilah and Susan Gibb, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
- Adam, Adam, Mitch, Nigel & Ron – Big Painting, Fraser Studios, Sydney
- Reality Check, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, Hazlehurst Regional Gallery, Sydney
- Video Time, curated by Abigail Moncreiff, MOP Projects, Sydney
- Colleagues & Peers (hokey-pokey), The Cosmic Battle for your Heart, Sydney
- 2008 The Shilo Project, curated by Chris McAuliff, Ian Potter Museum, Melbourne
- Locksmith Annual, Locksmith Project Space, Sydney
- 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong
- Downtown, curated by Firstdraft, City of Sydney laneways project, Sydney
- Rimbaud/Rambo, Neon Park, Melbourne
- Rookie Show, curated by Ron and George Adams, Inflight, Hobart
- I am a Good Boy, curated by Elise Routledge, Firstdraft, Sydney
- 2007 Victory! Triumph!, performance with Agatha Gothe-Snape, Firstdraft 21st Anniversary Smash Hits, Parramatta Artist's Studios, Sydney
- Deck, MOP Projects, Sydney
- 2006 The Year in Art, S. H Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- Plastic Myth, curated by James Steele, Firstdraft, Sydney
- Drawcard 06, National Art School, Sydney
- Cones of Zontact, Loose Projects, Sydney
- Post-it, Peloton, Sydney
- 2005 Six, Mary Place Gallery Sydney
- Punch, MOP Projects, Sydney
- 2004 Last show of the year, King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
- Art on the Rocks, ASN Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
- Salon de Refuses, S.H Ervin Gallery (Wynne Prize), Sydney

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2016 Stephanie Berlangieri and Hannah Matthews, 'Mitch Cairns', *Painting. More Painting*, exh. cat. Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA), Melbourne, pp54-57
- 2015 Mitch Cairns, *The Reader's Voice*, artist book, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
 Dan Rule, 'Poetics & Pragmatics', *Vault Magazine*, Issue 11, 2015, pp 20-23
 Matthew Holt, 'Midnight all day: notes on Mitch Cairns' new work', Mitch Cairns – FINCHES, exh. cat., The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 Ash Kilmartin, 'Condensity', Mitch Cairns – Cigarette cm, exh. cat., TCB art Inc., 2014
- 2013 Owen Craven, 'Emerge: Mitch Cairns', *Artist Profile*, Issue #22
 Susan Gibb, 'Collector's Love', *Australian Art Collector*, Issue #63
- 2012 Erik Jensen, 'Blue Period' (review), *Runway*, Issue #15
 Susan Gibb, 'Sensitive Art', Bass Principals exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney
 Andre Hemer, 'Painting without Irony – Bass Principals' (review), *Eye Contact*, 2012, www.eycontact.com
 Danny Ford, 'Heavy Lifting: Piano Removalist', *Shift focus without warning*, 04 March 2012, <http://www.shiftfocuswithoutwarning.com/2012/03/04/heavy-lifting-mitch-cairns-piano-removalist-at-boxcopy/>
 Rachel Fuller, 'Piano Removalist', exh. cat., Boxcopy, Brisbane
- 2010 Agatha Gothe-Snape and Shane Haseman, 'Man Rose', exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney
- 2008 Shane Haseman, 'Written and Recorded by Ringo Starr', exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney
 Anneke Jaspers, conversation with Mitch Cairns, *Runway*, Issue #11
 Kerrie Davies, 'New Work', *Art World Magazine*, February/March, Issue #1
- 2006 James Steele, 'TwentyLove - Firstdraft 20th Anniversary', exh. cat., Firstdraft, Sydney
 Annemarie Lopez, 'Artists of Tomorrow', *Australian Art Review*, March-June, Issue #10

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2017 Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2015 Archibald Prize (runner up), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2014 Archibald Prize (runner up), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize (finalist), Geelong Gallery, Geelong
- 2013 Archibald Prize (finalist), Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (finalist), Juniper Hall, Sydney
- 2012 Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship
 Linden Art Prize (winner postcard prize), Linden Contemporary, Melbourne
- 2011 Fishers Ghost Art Prize (finalist), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2010 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (finalist), State Library of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2009 Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship (finalist), Artspace, Sydney
- 2008 Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize (finalist nominated by Nell), Sydney
- 2007 Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship (finalist), Artspace, Sydney
 SOYA, Qantas Spirit of Youth Art Prize (finalist)
 Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize (finalist nominated by Newell Harry), Sydney
- 2006 Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship (finalist), Artspace, Sydney
 ABN AMRO Emerging Art Award (finalist)
 Waverly Art Prize, Sydney
- 2005 Clitheroe Foundation Painting Scholarship, Sydney
 John Olsen Drawing Prize (finalist)
- 2004 Gruner Landscape Prize (highly commended), Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney
- 2003 Gruner Landscape Prize, Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney

COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney
Artbank
Deloitte Art Collection
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (Ergas Collection)
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Wollongong University Art Collection, Wollongong