

THE COMMERCIAL

MITCH CAIRNS	
b. 1984, Sydney l. Sydney	
Education	
2003-2006	Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours, National Art School, Sydney
Solo Exhibitions	
2020	<i>Waylaid S T O O P</i> , The Commercial, Sydney <i>MINUTES/BEANS</i> , Ankles, Sydney
2019	<i>TASTE etc ...</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
2018	<i>Mitch Cairns – Soliloquy Workshop</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
2017	<i>TUG OF WAR (rope): TUG OF LOVE (bon-bon)</i> (with Matthew Tumbers), KNULP, Sydney
2016	<i>Mitch Cairns - Stray Geranium</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
2015	<i>The Reader's Voice</i> , curated by Linda Michael, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne <i>Mitch Cairns - FINCHES</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
2014	<i>Mitch Cairns - Dip or Skinny Dip</i> , The Commercial, Sydney <i>Cigarette cm</i> , TCB art Inc., Melbourne <i>Studio Leak - Drawing Wall #14</i> , curated by Elise Routledge, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Vic
2013	<i>Masters Resting</i> , KALIMANRAWLINS, Melbourne
2012	<i>Bass Principals</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney <i>Piano Removalist</i> , Boxcopy, Brisbane <i>Blue Period</i> (with Mathew Tumbers), curated by Susan Gibb, Society, Sydney
2010	<i>Man Rose</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney
2008	<i>Written and Recorded by Ringo Starr</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney <i>Slow dancing</i> , Locksmith Project Space, Sydney <i>Hey, hey, hey, my, my, my, gone, gone, gone</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney
2007	<i>I want my pants ripped off by someone wild</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney
2006	<i>We got the bright lights shining on our backs</i> , Firstdraft, Sydney <i>Re-establish something of a bond</i> (with Nana Ohnesorge), MOP Projects, Sydney
Group Exhibitions	
2022	<i>Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State</i> , curated by Sebastian Goldspink, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
2021	<i>The National: New Australian Art</i> , curated by Abigail Moncrieff, Carriageworks, Sydney <i>This is a poem</i> , curated by Melissa Keys, Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne <i>The Commercial – Mitch Cairns, Nigel Milsom, Jude Rae</i> , Explore Sydney Contemporary, The Commercial, Sydney
2020	<i>NEXT</i> , The Commercial, Sydney <i>The Kings School Art Prize</i> , The Kings School, Sydney
2019	<i>The essayist</i> , curated by Jasmin Stephens, Cross Art Projects, Sydney <i>Waiter Waiter</i> , The Commercial, Sydney <i>The Whiteley at 20: Twenty Years of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship</i> , S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney <i>Electric! Portraits that Pop!</i> National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
2018	<i>The Horse</i> , curated by Noel McKenna, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney <i>National Art – Part One</i> , National Art School Gallery, Sydney

	<i>Bowerbird: Clinton Bradley and the Art of Collecting</i> , curated by Kent Buchanan, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, NSW
	<i>Unreal City</i> , curated by Sarah Rees, Firstdraft, Sydney
	<i>The drawing is just not there</i> , curated by Patrice Sharkey & Christopher L. G. Hill, Westspace, Melbourne
2017	<i>Grounded</i> , curated by Judith Blackall, National Art School Gallery, Sydney
	<i>The Commercial</i> , Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks (Stand E06), Sydney
	<i>Game</i> , Bowerbank Ninow, Auckland, New Zealand
2016	<i>Painting. More Painting</i> , curated by Max Delany, Annika Kristensen and Hannah Mathews, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
	<i>The Commercial</i> , Auckland Art Fair, Auckland, New Zealand
	<i>Un Leg</i> , curated by Nick Strike, 55 Sydenham Rd, Sydney
2015	<i>DEADPAN</i> , curated by Abigail Moncreiff, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn, NSW
	<i>The Commercial</i> , Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks (Stand A01), Sydney
	<i>Writing Art</i> , curated by Scott Donovan, Artspace, Sydney
	<i>TPOLR</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
	<i>21st Century Heide: The Collection since 2000</i> , Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
	<i>Outside Thoughts</i> , curated by Wes Hill, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Hobart
	<i>Six people in a room</i> , KNULP, Sydney
2014	<i>Now the heart is filled with gold as if it were a purse</i> , curated by Glenn Barkley, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne
	<i>No fond return of love</i> , Institute of Contemporary Art Newtown, Sydney
	<i>The Commercial</i> , Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Centre, Melbourne
	<i>OUI we</i> , The Commercial, Sydney
2013	<i>The Knock-Off Show</i> , curated by Liang Luscombe and Brook Babington, SLOPES, Melbourne
	<i>Relationshippal – Mitch Cairns, Susan Jacobs, Tim Silver</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney
	<i>Ten out of Ten</i> , curated by Rob and George Adams, MOP Projects, Sydney
2012	<i>Sprezzatura</i> , OK Gallery, Perth
	<i>Cool World</i> , ALASKA Projects, Sydney
	<i>The Drawing Room</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney
2011	<i>Eastern Seaboard</i> , curated by Reuben Keehan and Melanie Oliver, Artspace, Sydney
	<i>Salon</i> , Eastern Bloc, Sydney
	<i>Out of the Comfort Zone</i> , Curated by Virginia Wilson, Customs House, Sydney
2010	<i>Redheads & Power Chicks & Men who sew</i> , curated by Barbara Flynn, Deloitte Building, Sydney
	<i>BREENSPACE</i> , Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Hall, Melbourne
	<i>Alpha Romeo – Mitch Cairns, Christopher Hanrahan, Nigel Milsom</i> , curated by Matthys Gerber, Peloton, Sydney
	<i>They call them Pirates out here</i> , curated by David Elliot, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
	<i>Group Show</i> , BREENSPACE, Sydney
	<i>20/Twenty</i> , curated by Ron and George Adams, University of Technology Sydney Gallery, Sydney and Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo, NSW
	<i>In Temperance</i> , curated by Mark Titmarsh, City of Sydney Laneways Project, Sydney
2009	<i>What I think of When I think about dancing</i> , curated by Lisa Havilah and Susan Gibb, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
	<i>Adam, Adam, Mitch, Nigel & Ron – Big Painting</i> , Fraser Studios, Sydney
	<i>Reality Check</i> , curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie, NSW
	<i>Video Time</i> , curated by Abigail Moncreiff, MOP Projects, Sydney
	<i>Colleagues & Peers (hokey-pokey)</i> , The Cosmic Battle for your Heart, Sydney
	<i>The Shilo Project</i> , curated by Chris McAuliff, Ian Potter Museum, Melbourne
2008	<i>Locksmith Annual</i> , Locksmith Project Space, Sydney

	<i>30th Anniversary Exhibition</i> , Wollongong City Gallery, Wollongong, NSW
	<i>Downtown</i> , curated by Firstdraft, City of Sydney Laneways Project, Sydney
	<i>Rimbaud/Rambo</i> , Neon Park, Melbourne
	<i>Rookie Show</i> , curated by Ron and George Adams, Inflight, Hobart
	<i>Stupid Little Dreamer</i> , curated by Ron & George Adams, Inflight, Hobart
	<i>I am a Good Boy</i> , curated by Elise Routledge, Firstdraft, Sydney
2007	<i>Victory! Triumph!</i> (performance with Agatha Gothe-Snape), Firstdraft 21st Anniversary Smash Hits, Parramatta Artist's Studios, Sydney
	<i>Deck</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney
2006	<i>The Year in Art</i> , S. H Ervin Gallery, Sydney
	<i>Plastic Myth</i> , curated by James Steele, Firstdraft, Sydney
	<i>Drawcard 06</i> , National Art School, Sydney
	<i>Cones of Zontact</i> , Loose Projects, Sydney
	<i>Post-it</i> , Peloton, Sydney
	<i>Six</i> , Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
2005	<i>Punch</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney
	<i>Last show of the year</i> , King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
2004	<i>Art on the Rocks</i> , ASN Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
	<i>Salon de Refuses (Wynne Prize)</i> , S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Curatorial Projects	
2020	<i>KNUCKLES, ANKLES and KNULP</i> , Sydney
2019	<i>Primavera 2019: Young Australian Artists</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney
	<i>PLATES, ANKLES</i> , Sydney
	<i>Nouveau Think</i> , ANKLES, Sydney
	<i>TAP SUCCESS</i> , ANKLES, Sydney
2018	<i>Composite Order</i> , ANKLES, Sydney
2012	<i>Cool World</i> , Alaska Projects, Sydney
2010	<i>New Apartment</i> , 'NICE' at The Cosmic Battle for Your Heart, Sydney
2008	<i>Look out Wembley Arena</i> , MOP Projects, Sydney
Collective and Artist-led Organisations	
2018-present	Founder/Director, ANKLES, Sydney
2009-2011	Founding member, The Cosmic Battle for Your Heart, Sydney
2007-2008	Committee member, MOP Projects, Sydney
2006-2007	Volunteer, Firstdraft, Sydney
2005-2007	Studio Assistant to Adam Cullen
Selected Bibliography	
2022	Bradley Vincent, 'Spectral State', <i>2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State</i> , Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 2022, pp.42-45
2021	Daniel Mudie Cunningham, 'Mitch Cairns', exh. text, <i>The National: New Australian Art</i> , Carriageworks, Sydney, 2021
	Courtney Kidd, 'The National 2021: New Australian Art', <i>Artist Profile</i> , no. 55, 2021
2020	Michael Snape, 'Mitch Cairns - Waylaid S T O O P', exh. text, The Commercial, Sydney, 2020
2019	Mitch Cairns, 'Making Sense as Language Forms', <i>Primavera 2019: Young Australian Artists</i> , exh. cat., Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2019, pp. 9-12.
	'Mitch Cairns', <i>The Whiteley at 20: Twenty Years of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship</i> , exh. cat., National Trust of Australia (NSW) and S. H, Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 2019, pp. 40-41.
2017	'Mitch Cairns wins the Archibald Prize', <i>Blouin Art Info</i> , 1 August 2017.

	Andrew Frost, 'Archibald 2017: objections to winning work are merely whinges over style', <i>The Guardian</i> , Saturday 29 July 2017.
	'Mitch Cairns wins \$80,000 Archibald Prize', <i>Artforum</i> , 29 July 2017.
	Marese O'Sullivan, 'Sydney artist Mitch Cairns wins \$100,000 Archibald Prize', <i>SBS</i> , 28 July 2017.
	Riley Stuart, 'Archibald Prize: Mitch Cairns wins 2017 portrait gong for painting of his partner', <i>ABC News</i> , 28 July 2017.
	'Archibald Winner Mitch Cairns was Led by Love', <i>Australian Financial Review</i> , 28 July 2017.
	Eoin Blackwell, 'Mitch Cairns Takes Archibald Prize for Portrait of His Partner', <i>Huffington Post</i> , 28 July 2017.
	Jane Albert, 'Sydney Artist Mitch Cairns wins 2017 Archibald Prize', <i>Broadsheet</i> , 28 July, 2017.
	Garry Maddox, 'Mitch Cairns' portrait of Agatha Gothe-Snape wins Archibald Prize', <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 28 July 2017.
	Wes Hill, 'Around Town', <i>Frieze</i> , 9 February 2017.
2016	Stephanie Berlangieri and Hannah Matthews, 'Mitch Cairns', <i>Painting. More Painting</i> , exh. cat., Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, pp. 54-57.
	John Cruthers, 'Stray Geranium', exh. cat., The Commercial, Sydney, 2016.
2015	Mitch Cairns, <i>The Reader's Voice</i> , artist book, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2015.
	Dan Rule, 'Mitch Cairns: Poetics and Pragmatics', <i>Vault</i> , September 2015, no. 11, pp. 20-23.
	Matthew Holt, 'Midnight All Day: Notes on Mitch Cairns' New Work', <i>Mitch Cairns – FINCHES</i> , exh. cat., The Commercial, Sydney
2014	Mitch Cairns, <i>Dip or Skinny Dip</i> , Gang Atelier, 2014, 94p.
	Ash Kilmartin, 'Condensity', <i>Mitch Cairns – Cigarette cm</i> , exh. cat., TCB art Inc., 2014.
2013	Owen Craven, 'Emerge: Mitch Cairns', <i>Artist Profile</i> , no. 22.
	Susan Gibb, 'Collector's Love', <i>Australian Art Collector</i> , no. 63.
2012	Erik Jensen, 'Blue Period', <i>Runway</i> , no. 21, pp. 66-69.
	Susan Gibb, 'Sensitive Art', <i>Base Principles</i> , exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney, 2012.
	André Hemer, 'Discussing Painting without Irony – Bass Principals', <i>EyeContact</i> , 20 June 2012.
	Danny Ford, 'Heavy Lifting: Piano Removalist', <i>Shift Focus Without Warning</i> , 4 March 2012.
	Rachel Fuller, 'Piano Removalist', exh. cat., Boxcopy, Brisbane. 2012.
2010	Agatha Gothe-Snape and Shane Haseman., 'Man Rose', exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney, 2010.
2008	Shane Haseman, 'Written and Recorded by Ringo Starr', exh. cat., BREENSPACE, Sydney, 2008
	Anneke Jaspers, 'Conversation with Mitch Cairns', <i>Runway</i> , no. 11.
	Kerrie Davies, 'New Work', <i>Art World Magazine</i> , February/March 2008, no. 1.
2006	James Steele, <i>Twenty Love - Firstdraft 20th Anniversary</i> , exh. cat., Firstdraft, Sydney, 2006.
	Annemarie Lopez, 'Artists of Tomorrow', <i>Australian Art Review</i> , March-June 2006, no. 10.
Grants and Awards	
2020	The King's School Art Prize, The King's School, Sydney (finalist)
2017	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (winner)
	<i>Arthur Guy Memorial Art Prize</i> , Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, Vic (finalist)
2015	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (runner-up)
2014	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (runner-up)
	Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong Gallery, Geelong, Vic (finalist)
2013	Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (finalist)

	Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, Juniper Hall, Sydney (finalist)
2012	Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship (winner)
	Linden Art Prize, Linden Contemporary, Melbourne (winner postcard prize)
2011	Fishers Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney (finalist)
2010	Doug Moran National Portrait Prize, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney (finalist)
	Redlands Westpac Art Prize, nominated by Nell, Sydney (finalist)
2009	Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney (finalist)
2008	Redlands Westpac Art Prize, nominated by Vanila Netto, Sydney (finalist)
2007	Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney (finalist)
	SOYA, Qantas Spirit of Youth Art Prize (finalist)
	Redlands Westpac Art Prize, nominated by Newell Harry, Sydney (finalist)
2006	Helen Lempriere Travelling Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney (finalist)
	ABN AMRO Emerging Art Award (finalist)
	Waverly Art Prize, Sydney (winner)
2005	Clitheroe Foundation Painting Scholarship, Sydney (winner)
	John Olsen Drawing Prize (finalist)
2004	Gruner Landscape Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (highly commended)
2003	Gruner Landscape Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (winner)
Collections	
	Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	Artbank
	Deloitte Art Collection
	Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
	Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
	Murray Art Museum Albury, Albury
	Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney (Ergas Collection)
	National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
	Wollongong University Art Collection, Wollongong