

THE COMMERCIAL

MITCH CAIRNS

b. 1984, Sydney
lives Sydney

EDUCATION

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

ORGANISATIONS/COLLECTIVES

2018-ongoing ANKLES, artist-run-initiative, Founder/Director, Sydney
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

2018 *Mitch Cairns – Soliloquy Workshop*, The Commercial, Sydney (inaugural exhibition at Jabez Street)
2017 *TUG OF WAR (rope): TUG OF LOVE (bon-bon)*, with Matthew Tumbers, KNULP, Sydney
2016 *Mitch Cairns - Stray Geranium*, The Commercial, Sydney
2015 *The Reader's Voice*, curated by Linda Michael, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Mitch Cairns - FINCHES, The Commercial, Sydney
2014 *Mitch Cairns - Dip or Skinny Dip*, The Commercial, 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, 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

2018
Unreal City, curated by Sarah Rees, Firstdraft, Sydney
2017 *Grounded*, curated by Judith Blackall, NAS Gallery, National Art School, Sydney
The Commercial – Group Show (E06), Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, 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
- 2015 *The Commercial*, Auckland Art Fair, Auckland
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
- 2014 *Outside Thoughts*, curated by Wes Hill, Contemporary Art Tasmania, Hobart
Six people in a room, KNULP, Sydney
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
- 2010 *Salon*, Eastern Bloc, Sydney
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
- 2007 *I am a Good Boy*, curated by Elise Routledge, Firstdraft, Sydney
Victory! Triumph!, performance with Agatha Gothe-Snape, Firstdraft 21st Anniversary Smash Hits, Parramatta Artist's Studios, Sydney
- 2006 *Deck*, MOP Projects, Sydney
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
 Six, Mary Place Gallery Sydney
 2005 *Punch*, MOP Projects, Sydney
Last show of the year, King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
 2004 *Art on the Rocks*, ASN Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
Salon de Refuses, S.H Ervin Gallery (Wynne Prize), Sydney

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2019 *Primavera: Young Australian Artists*, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018
 2017 'Mitch Cairns wins the Archibald Prize', *Blouin Art Info*, 1 August, 2017
 Andrew Frost, 'Archibald 2017: objections to winning work are merely whinges over style', *The Guardian*, Saturday 29 July, 2017
 'Mitch Cairns wins \$80,000 Archibald Prize', *Artforum*, 29 July, 2017
 Marese O'Sullivan, 'Sydney artist Mitch Cairns wins \$100,000 Archibald Prize', *SBS*, 28 July, 2017
 Riley Stuart, 'Archibald Prize: Mitch Cairns wins 2017 portrait gong for painting of his partner', *ABC News*, 28 July, 2017
 'Archibald Winner Mitch Cairns was lead by love', *Australian Financial Review*, 28 July, 2017
 Eoin Blackwell, 'Mitch Cairns takes Archibald Prize for portrait of his partner', *Huffington Post*, 28 July, 2017
 Jane Albert, 'Sydney Artist Mitch Cairns wins 2017 Archibald Prize', *Broadsheet*, 28 July, 2017
 Garry Maddox, 'Mitch Cairns' portrait of Agatha Gothe-Snape wins Archibald Prize', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 July, 2017
 Wes Hill, 'Around Town', *Frieze*, <https://frieze.com/article/around-town-15>, 19 February, 2017
 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.eyeccontact.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 (winner), 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
MUMA | Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (Ergas Collection)
National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
Wollongong University Art Collection, Wollongong