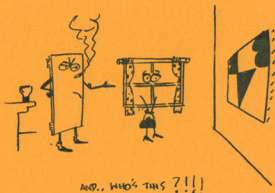


THE COMMERCIAL

MITCH CAIRNS

DIP OR SKINNY DIP



BOOK LAUNCH

and exhibition of cartoons

a small edition book of Mitch Cairns' cartoons
with text intervention by
Brian Fuata

PUBLISHED BY GANG ATELIER

to be launched by Erik Jensen

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER, 4-6pm

exhibition: 08/10/14 - 18/10/14

open Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

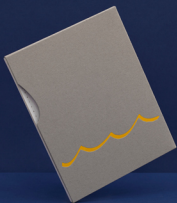


image: Mitch Cairns: *Dip or Skinny Dip*, (with text intervention by Brian Fuata)
published by Gang Atelier, Sydney, 2014, 94 pages, edition 150 © Gang Atelier

top image: Mitch Cairns, *Painting Gag*, 2011, riso print on paper, 15.00 x 18.00 cm (sheet size)

148 ABERCROMBIE STREET, REDFERN, NSW, AUSTRALIA +61 2 8096 3292

office@thecommercialgallery.com

www.thecommercialgallery.com

Dip or Skinny Dip is a compilation of cartoons by Sydney-based artist Mitch Cairns with an accompanying text intervention by Brian Fuata. It is presented as a limited edition, bespoke publication and is the first publishing project by Gang Atelier.

Initially produced as preparation for paintings, the cartoons collated in the book and presented in the exhibition, created between 2011-2013, soon became an autonomous component of Cairns' practice. Cairns gathers content from studio ruminations, political events and linguistic meanderings, constructing a type of poetic visual shorthand.

Following Gang Atelier's invitation to produce a publication, Cairns invited friend, performance artist and poet Brian Fuata to create textual interventions to be dispersed throughout the collection. The publication is a meeting place for both arbitrary and deliberate conversations between text, image and page, part pamphlet, part concrete poem, part page-turner.

Dip or Skinny Dip will be launched by Erik Jensen at The Commercial on Sunday 12 October, 4-6pm. The launch will be accompanied by a two-week exhibition of cartoons from the book.

Brian Fuata is a Sydney-based artist working with text, performance and improvisation. He works both independently and in WrongSolo a performance-oriented art collective. He will present a new work in the upcoming exhibition *Framed Movements* at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne.

Erik Jensen is the editor of *The Saturday Paper* and the author of *Acute Misfortune: The Life and Death of Adam Cullen*, published by Black Inc.

Gang Atelier is an online bookstore and graphic design service set up as a means of presenting works by and in collaboration with artists. Gang Atelier is **Sarah Grieve** and **Mitch Brown**. *Dip or Skinny Dip* is their first publishing project.

GANGATELIER

Mitch Cairns (b. 1984) is a painter and cartoonist. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in painting at the National Art School in Sydney in 2006. He was represented exclusively by BREENSPACE, Sydney, between 2008 and 2013. He presented three solo exhibitions there (2012, 2010, 2008) before the gallery's closure in late 2013. In 2014, Cairns produced a Drawing Wall commission for Shepparton Art Museum (curated by Elise Routledge). Cairns has also held solo exhibitions with TCB inc., Melbourne (2014),

KALIMANRAWLINS, Melbourne (2013), BOXCOPY, Brisbane (2012), MOP Projects, Sydney (2006, 2007, 2008) and Locksmith Project Space, Sydney (2008).

Selected group exhibitions include *No fond return of love*, The Institute of Contemporary Art Newtown (2014); *OUI we*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney (2014); a three-person exhibition with Tim Silver and Susan Jacobs at BREENSPACE, Sydney (2013) and a two-person exhibition at Society, Sydney, with Matthew Tumbers, curated by Susan Gibb (2012); *They call them Pirates out here*, curated by David Elliot, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2010); *What I think of when I think about dancing*, curated by Lisa Havilah and Susan Gibb, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney (2009); *Reality Check*, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, Hazelhurst Regional Art Gallery, Sutherland (2009), *The Shilo Project*, curated by Chris McAuliffe, Ian Potter Museum, Melbourne (2009) and *I am a Good Boy*, curated by Elise Routledge, Firstdraft, Sydney (2008).

Cairns co-founded 'The Cosmic Battle for your Heart' with Kelly Doley, Brian Fuata and Agatha Gothe-Snape, an artist-run space based in Sydney (2009–11), a survey of which, called *Eastern Seaboard*, was exhibited at Artspace, Sydney, curated by Reuben Keehan and Melanie Oliver (2011).

Cairns has been awarded a number of major prizes and residencies, including runner up for the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery New South Wales (2014) and finalist (2013). He was the winner of the Brett Whiteley Traveling Art Scholarship (2012) which included a residency at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris (2013) and the Linden Art Prize (winner postcard prize), Linden Contemporary, Melbourne (2012). He has been shortlisted or has been a finalist for the Geelong Contemporary Art Prize (2014), Doug Moran National Portrait Prize (2013, 2010), the Fishers Ghost Art Prize, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney (2011), the Helen Lempriere Traveling Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney (2009, 2007, 2006), the John Olsen Drawing Prize (2005), the Gruner Landscape Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (2004, 2003).

Between 2005 and 2007, Cairns was studio assistant to the late Adam Cullen.

Cairns' work is held in the collections of Artbank, Deloitte, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (Ergas Collection) and Wollongong University Art Collection.

His first solo exhibition of paintings at The Commercial Gallery, Sydney will be in March 2015.

Dip or Skinny Dip is the first monographic publication on his work and the first exhibition dedicated to his cartoons.

A limited number of books will be available prior to the 12 October launch.

Book specifications:

Softcover, 228 x 176 mm, 94 pages, offset print 1 & 2 colour plates throughout self-covered book with slipcase.

With text by Brian Fuata

Published by Gang Atelier

ISBN: 978-0-646-92203-4

edition of 150

rrp: AUD 50.00 (incl. GST)

(Video flickthrough of *Dip or Skinny Dip* on Vimeo.)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)