

NIAGARA

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GUNTER CHRISTMANN

Gunter Christmann (b. 1936 – d. 2013) was born in Berlin, Germany, arriving in Melbourne in February of 1959. He moved to Sydney and started painting in 1962. Christmann's first exhibition in 1965 was a group show, *25 Young Painters*, at the Argus Gallery in Melbourne. The following year he held his first solo exhibition at Central Street Gallery, Sydney exhibiting regularly since that time, both in Australia and overseas. Christmann showed at Niagara Galleries, Melbourne since 1984. A ground-breaking and subversive artist since the 1960s, Christmann resisted following any trend but instead found inspiration to create innovative new work from the objects and places that surrounded him.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Silhouettes*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Commercial, Sydney
- 2021 *Paintings 1979-1982*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2015 The Commercial, Sydney
- 2014 *Gunter Christmann: Now and Then*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
BEFORE, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Commercial, Sydney
- 2013 *flexicuffstreets.com*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
The Commercial, Sydney
Screening of slide projector works as part of Art Month Sydney, The Commercial, Sydney
- 2012 *Eyes and Mind*, East Sydney Doctors, Sydney
AVEAGOYAMUG: Thus spoke Epimetheus, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 *AVAGOYAMUG*, Society, Sydney
SIDE SHOW MAX, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *KOZMIX*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 *Encore*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2007 *Portrait d'Amour: Recent and Not So Recent Paintings*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2006 *AXION JENNY 2006*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *AUTOMONTAGE*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2004 *10gm OZKAR*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2003 *T.O. Tranceporter*, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 *Christmann 2002*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2000 *WYSIWYG @ niagara Y2K*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1999 *OZKAR*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1997 *G.C. REMIX: Acid House and Garage*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1996 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1995 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1993 *Pleasures of the Mind*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1992 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1991 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

- 1988–90 Consecutively, Garry Anderson Gallery, Sydney
Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney
- 1984–92 Consecutively, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 1982–87 Consecutively, Yuill/Crowley, Sydney
- 1980 Solander Gallery, Canberra
- 1978 Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
- 1977 Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
Riverina College of Advanced Education, Wagga Wagga, NSW
- 1976 Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 1975 Barrington Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
Ray Hughes Gallery, Brisbane
- 1974–81 Consecutively, Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1973 Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, Germany
Albert Hall, Canberra
- 1972 South Yarra Gallery, Melbourne
Inhibodress, Sydney
- 1971–73 Consecutively, 38 Hargrave Street, Sydney
- 1970 John Gould Gallery, Perth
- 1967 J. Walter Thompson, Sydney
- 1966–70 Consecutively, Central Street Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Melbourne Art Fair, The Commercial, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne
- 2020 *The Humanity*, The Commercial, Sydney
- 2017 *Sydney Contemporary*, Niagara Galleries, Carriageworks, Sydney
Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism & Australian Art, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Blue Chip XIX: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2016 *MONS*, KNULP, Camperdown, New South Wales
Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
From Then To Now, NKN Gallery, Melbourne
Auckland Art Fair, The Commercial, The Cloud, New Zealand
- 2015 *Writing Art*, Artspace, Sydney
21st Century Heide: The Collection since 2000, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
The Art of Wool, New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), NSW
Blue Chip XVII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2014 *SNO 106 Returning to the Field*, SNO Contemporary Art Projects, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair, Niagara Galleries, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
Melbourne Art Fair, The Commercial, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
OUI we, The Commercial, Sydney
Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 *Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2012 *Melbourne Art Fair*, Niagara Galleries, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
White Paintings, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne
- 2011 *Forever Young: 30 Years of the Heide Collection*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
Auckland Art Fair, Niagara Galleries, Viaduct Events Centre, New Zealand
Artist Artists, Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria
Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *Muster: A Round Up of Works from the Stockroom*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
Abstraction 9, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne

- Melbourne Art Fair, Niagara, Galleries, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 2009 Song of Sirens, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, Victoria
 3x2x2x3 (curated by Barbra Flynn), Deloitte, Sydney
 2008 Rimbaud/Rambo, Neon Parc, Melbourne
 Blue Chip X: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 2006 Warning: Smoking has been linked to some of the most powerful images of the
 twentieth century, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
 The Summer Show, Liverpool Street Gallery, Sydney
 2005 Blue Chip VII: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 2004 Collection Focus: Gunter Christmann, Dick Watkins and Jenny Watson, National
 Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 2004 6th Art International Zurich, Niagara Galleries, Kongresshaus Zürich, Zurich,
 Switzerland
 2003 Act XII: New Works on Paper, George Adams Gallery, Arts Centre, Melbourne
 and touring UTS Gallery, University of Technology, Sydney and Artspace,
 Adelaide Festival Centre, SA
 Blue Chip V: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 2002 Good Vibrations: The Legacy of Op Art in Australia, Heide Museum of Modern
 Art, Melbourne
 Blue Chip IV: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 Melbourne Art Fair, Niagara Galleries, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 2000 Not The Done Thing!, Niagara Galleries at Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
 1999 Blue Chip II: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 1998 Sixth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Niagara Galleries, Royal Exhibition
 Building, Melbourne
 Blue Chip Choice, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 1996 Joan and Peter Clemenger Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Australian Art,
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 In and Out of Abstraction, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Niagara Galleries, Royal Exhibition
 Building, Melbourne
 1995 Victor and Loti Smorgon Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
 1994 Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 1992 Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 1991 One, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
 1990 Niagara Galleries at Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery, Hill Smith Fine Art Gallery,
 Adelaide
 Second Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 1988 First Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
 1987 Field to Figuration, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Surface and Reflection, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 In Print Vol.1 Artists Books, Power Gallery, Sydney
 1985 Recession Art and Other Strategies, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
 1984 Apocalypse and Utopia, Melbourne University Art Gallery, Melbourne
 Form-Image Sign, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
 1983 Vox Pop, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Romanticism and Classicism in Contemporary Australian Painting, Geelong Art
 Gallery, Victoria and touring
 1982 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
 Fourth Sydney Biennale, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 1981 Perspecta '81, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 1980 Der Baum Bist Du, Ben Wargin Gallerie, Berlin, and the Institute of Modern Art,
 Brisbane
 1979 Kunst in Berlin 1960 Bis Heute, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 European Beginnings, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney

- 1978 *Works on Paper*, Australian Embassy, Paris, France
The Work and Its Context, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, USA
USA Visual Arts Board, Travelling Roadshow No 2
- 1977 Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT), Perth
- 1976 *Sixth Freie Berliner Kunstausstellung (FBK)*, Funkturm Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Soundsculpture, The Sculpture Centre Sydney, New South Wales
Coventry Collection, Armidale, Melbourne and Brisbane
- 1975 Coventry Gallery, Sydney
- 1974 *Overback Gassellshaft: Two-Man Show*, with Hans Sperrschneider, Lubeck, West Germany
Fourth Freie Berliner Kunstausstellung (FBK), Funkturm Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 1973 *First Biennale of Sydney, Australian Painting Now*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Third Freie Berliner Kunstausstellung (FBK), Funkturm Berlin, Berlin, Germany
30 International Artists in Berlin, Bonn, Germany
- 1972 *20 Years of Australian Painting*, New South Wales House, London, UK
- 1971 *Harold Szeeman Show*, Bonython Gallery and the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
XI Bienal de São Paulo, Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1968 *The Field*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Fifth International Young Artist Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
Central Street Gallery, Sydney
International Miniatures 70, Galleries 66, Hofiem/Tauns, Germany
- 1967 *Works on Paper*, Central Street Gallery, Sydney
- 1965 *25 Young Painters*, Argus Gallery, Melbourne

COLLECTIONS

Armidale City Art Gallery, New South Wales
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand
Benalla Art Gallery, Victoria
Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany
British Museum, London, United Kingdom
Chandler Coventry Collection, New South Wales
City of Hamilton Art Gallery, Victoria
Curtin University of Technology Art Collection, Perth
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) / German Academic Exchange Service, Germany
Education Department of Victoria, Victoria
Geelong Regional Art Gallery, Victoria
Holmes à Court Collection, Western Australia
H.R.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Amsterdam
Latrobe University Collection, Melbourne
McClelland Art Gallery, Victoria
Monash University Collection, Victoria
Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Serbia
Myer Collection, Melbourne
National Bank of Australia
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery of Victoria, Victoria
Parliament House, Canberra
Philip Morris Collection, Melbourne

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
State Bank Collection
Sylvester Stallone Collection
University of New England, New South Wales
Victor and Loti Smorgon Collection
Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT), Perth
Wollongong Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
Private collections both Australia and overseas

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS/CATALOGUES

Blue Chip XXIV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2022
Gunter Christmann – Paintings 1979-1982, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2021
Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism & Australian Art, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2017
Blue Chip XIX: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2017
Blue Chip XVIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2016
The Art of Wool, exhibition catalogue, New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), New South Wales, 2016
Blue Chip XVII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2015
Lesley Harding, *Gunter Christmann: Now and Then*, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2014
Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2014
flexicuffstreets.com, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2013
Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2013
Sasha Grishin, *Australian Art: A History*, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2013
Forever Young: 30 Years of the Heide Collection, exhibition catalogue, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2011
Gina Lee (afterword), *SIDE SHOW MAX*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2011
Blue Chip XIII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2011
Abstraction 9, exhibition catalogue, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne, 2010
KOZMIX, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010
Blue Chip XII: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010
Portrait d'Amour: Recent and Not So Recent Paintings, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
Simon Barney, 'The life of ephemera', *AXION JENNY 2006*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2006
T.O. Tranceporter, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2003
Simon Barney, *Act XII: New Works on Paper*, exhibition catalogue, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne, 2003
Gunter Christmann, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2002
Christopher Heathcote, Bernard Smith & Terry Smith, *Australian Painting 1788–2000*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2001

Joan & Peter Clemenger *Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Australian Art*, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1996
 Gunter Christmann – *Pleasures of the Mind*, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 1993
 Gunter Christmann, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 1992
 Gunter Christmann, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 1991
 Daniel Thomas, *Outlines in Australian Art – The Joseph Brown Collection*, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1989
 Neville Drury, *New Art Three*, Craftsman Press, New South Wales, 1989
Surface for Reflexion, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1987
 Robert Lindsay, *Field to Figuration: Australian Art 1960 – 1986 Works from the National Gallery of Victoria*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1986
Australian Perspecta, exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1981
 Karl Ruhrberg, *Licht in der Farbe*, exhibition catalogue, Berlin, Germany, 1973
 Bernard Smith, *Australian Painting: 1788–1970*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1971
XI Bienal de São Paulo, exhibition catalogue, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, 1971
 Mervyn Horton and Daniel Thomas, *Present Day Art in Australia*, Ure Smith, New South Wales, 1969
The Field, exhibition catalogue, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1968

ARTICLES

Patrick Hartigan, 'Outside the box', *The Saturday Paper*, 25-31 October 2014
 Lesley Harding, 'Gunter Christmann Now and Then', *Vault*, issue no. 7, August 2014
 Kathy Wachtel, 'Now and Then: Gunter Christmann at Heide', *Broadsheet*, 19 August 2014
 Megan Backhouse, 'Gunter Christmann: Now and then', *Art Guide*, 2014
 John McPhee, 'Gunter Christmann: Abstract painter embraced realism', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 December 2013
 Meredith Morse, 'Time underfoot: Gunter Christmann's recent paintings', *Art & Australia*, vol. 4, no. 50, May 2013
 Michael Fitzgerald, 'Gunter Christmann', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 6-7 October 2012
 'Open Gallery: Gunter Christmann', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 9-10 March 2013
 Harbant Gill, 'Uncontrollable delights', *Herald Sun*, 1 April 2009
 'Gallery snapshot', *The Herald Sun*, 21 July 2008
 Ingrid Periz, 'The Unexplained', *Australian Art Collector*, no. 41, July 2007
 Sebastian Smee, 'Smoking thrills', *The Australian*, 13 May 2006
 John McPhee, 'MFCs and Gunter Christmann', *Artlink*, vol. 24, no. 3, 2004
 Patrick Hutchings, 'Gunter Christmann', *Australian Art Collector*, no. 29, July 2004
 Anne Loxley, 'Cottier closing and cult hero', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 December 2003
 Jeff Makin, 'The many hues of blue', *Herald Sun*, 10 March 2003
 Jeff Makin, 'Critic's choice: Gunter Christmann', *Herald Sun*, May 2002
 Ann Pilmer, 'Just what the doctor ordered', *The Age*, 1 May 2002
 'Gunter Christmann at Niagara', *Monument*, April 2002
 Jeff Makin, 'Fashion meets art', *Herald Sun*, 14 February 2000
 Peter Timms, 'Abstract appeal a matter of interest', *The Age*, 9 February 2000
 Elizabeth Tarica, 'In House', *The Age*, 26 May 1999
 Robert Rooney, 'Melbourne art: Gunter Christmann', *The Australian*, 4 April 1996
 Felicity Fenner, 'Haunting images from the other side of the social self', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 May 1995
 Christopher Heathcote, 'Dearth of imagination mars artists' shows', *The Age*, 22 October 1993
 L. Fern, 'Harlequin gives the sign', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 May 1992
 'Die Mauer/The Wall/Le Mar, 1989', *The Monash Quarterly* (cover), Melbourne, winter 1991
 Christopher Allen, 'A decade's optimism and pathos', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 August 1990
 Gary Catalano, 'Jomantas sculpture shows obsession with formal theme', *The Age*, 18 July 1990
Tension, vol. 19, December 1990
 Elizabeth Cross, 'Inner calm to anxiety', *The Age*, 18 October 1989
 Christopher Allen, 'Janus up against a wall', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 September 1989

'Portrait of Anna Tomik, 1983-88', *Art Almanac* (cover), October 1989
Gary Catalano, 'Dale Hickey shows the art of teaching paintings to swear', *The Age*, 12 October 1988
'Arts', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 July 1988
'Review', *The Weekend Australian*, 25-26 June 1988
Carol Marando, 'Man and his environment seen through different eyes', *The Eastern Herald*, 23 June 1988
John McDonald, 'An ocean of art in waves of old and new', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 February 1987
Ronald Millar, 'Art', *The Age*, 30 October 1986
Gary Catalano, 'A display of perplexity', *The Age*, 22 October 1986
R. Carmichael, 'Artscene', *Herald Sun*, 16 May 1984
Sue Cramer, 'Paintings of unnerving presence, power', *The Age*, 16 May 1984
Elwyn Lynn, 'Gunter Christmann', *Art & Australia*, vol.10, no.3, 1973
T. Smith, 'The Painting of Gunter Christmann', *Art International*, vol. XV/3, 1973
Terry Smith, 'Colour-Form Painting: Sydney 1965-70', *Other Voices*, vol.1, 1970