

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

- 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

- 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
Works on Paper, Australian Embassy, Paris, France
- 1978 *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
- 1973 *Fourth Freie Berliner Kunstausstellung (FBK)*, Funkturm Berlin, Berlin, Germany
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
- 1968 *XI Bienal de São Paulo*, Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion, São Paulo, Brazil
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

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