

THE COMMERCIAL

MITCH CAIRNS

b. 1984, Sydney
lives Sydney

EDUCATION

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

ORGANISATIONS/COLLECTIVES

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

2015 *FINCHES*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
2014 *Dip or Skinny Dip*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
Cigarette cm, TCB art Inc., Melbourne
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, my, gone, 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

2014 *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
Ten out of Ten, curated by Rob and George Adams, MOP Projects, Sydney
2012 *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
Salon, Eastern Bloc, Sydney
2010 *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
The Shilo Project, curated by Chris McAuliff, Ian Potter Museum,
 Melbourne
 2008 *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
I am a Good Boy, curated by Elise Routledge, Firstdraft, Sydney
 2007 *Victory! Triumph!*, performance with Agatha Gothe-Snape, Firstdraft 21st
 Anniversary Smash Hits, Parramatta Artist's Studios, Sydney
Deck, MOP Projects, Sydney
 2006 *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
 2005 *Six*, Mary Place Gallery Sydney
Punch, MOP Projects, Sydney
 2004 *Last show of the year*, King Street Gallery on Burton, Sydney
Art on the Rocks, ASN Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
Salon de Refuses, S.H Ervin Gallery (Wynne Prize), Sydney

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 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.eyecontact.com
 Danny Ford, 'Heavy Lifting: Piano Removalist', *Shift focus without
 warning*, 04 March 2012,
[http://www.shiffocuswithoutwarning.com/2012/03/04/heavy-lifting-mitch-
 cairns-piano-removalist-at-boxcopy/](http://www.shiffocuswithoutwarning.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-

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 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

Artbank, Sydney
Deloitte Art Collection
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (Ergas Collection)
Wollongong University Art Collection, Wollongong