

THE COMMERCIAL

GUNTER CHRISTMANN



FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 6-8pm

exhibition: 22/02/13 - 16/03/13

open Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm

Special Screening: Saturday 09/03/13, from 3pm
Gunter Christmann slide carousels of the 1970s and early 1980s

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Image: AVEAGOYAMUG, 2011/2013, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 76cm

It is with great pleasure that The Commercial Gallery presents the first solo commercial exhibition of Gunter Christmann's work in Sydney in over seven years. Since the early 1960s, Christmann (b. 1936, Berlin) has been making paintings but also sound sculptures and photo-based works that blur the distinction between figuration and abstraction. Indeed those visual categories seem redundant in an ever-evolving practice that is principally concerned with time and space as vehicles for the flux of artistic process and the fleshing out of pan-sensory experience. A forthcoming article on Christmann in *Art & Australia* by Meredith Morse describes that the recent paintings "offer the present as a function of the past: it is simultaneously a thick distillation of what has come before, and a moment in a changing sequence within an explicitly quotidian matrix of discarded objects and daily encounters."

The exhibition will consist of a series of paintings worked over the past three years as well as a sound sculpture (*audio-plastik*) made by Christmann in Berlin in 1973. As a special event for Art Month Sydney, there will be a one-off screening in the gallery of four rare slide carousels. During the 1970s and early 1980s, Christmann produced five photographic slide carousels. Each carousel contains eighty slides on a specific theme (e.g. garbage/found slides, split images). These atmospheric works encapsulate the artist's interests in broadening the domain of image making. The carousels will be projected in the gallery on Saturday 9 March from 3pm. Most of these have never previously been exhibited.

[A selection of works on paper from the 1970s is also available from the stockroom.](#)

Christmann has been included in key historic exhibitions including *The Field* at the National Gallery of Victoria (1968), the *XI Biennale of Sao Paolo* (1971) and the 1st and 4th Biennales of Sydney (1973 and 1982). He exhibited at Central Street, Sydney in the 1960s and at Coventry Gallery, Sydney a number of times in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Christmann has exhibited with many high profile commercial galleries in Australia throughout his career.

Christmann's work is in most major public collections in Australia including extensive holdings (over sixty works) in the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. International collections include the Berlinische Gallerie, Berlin, H.R.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands' Collection and the British Museum, London.

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne is preparing a retrospective of Christmann's work for 2014, curated by Lesley Harding. This will be the first major overview of Christmann's distinguished career by a public institution in Australia.

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