

CHRISTOPHER LANGTON

Langton is a playful pop sculptor and installation artist who creates gigantic plastic blow-up 'toys' of frightening proportions. As curator Mark Feary has commented of the artists work; "Langton's work makes you feel good, but only sort of." Indeed, despite the bright colours, the smiling faces and fun medium, there is something oddly ominous about his blow-ups. Langton blends the playful naivety of Betty Boop and Astro Boy with the more knowing aesthetic palette of Roy Lichtenstein, creating his own world of bobbing and bopping figures like a toy-maker gone mad.

CHRISTOPHER LANGTON

Born 1954, Johannesburg, South Africa; arrived in Australia 1973

Lives and works in Melbourne

Represented by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

EDUCATION

1991-92

Graduate Diploma in Fine Art, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

1975-77

Diploma of Arts, Bendigo College of Advanced Education

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

Colony, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2018

Phantasmagoria, White Night Melbourne, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne

2014

Christopher Langton, *This Is Not A Life Saving Device*, McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Mornington, Vic

2011

Animal Logic, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

2010

Beyond, Criterion Gallery, Hobart

2009

Blistered, Ryan Renshaw Gallery, Brisbane

Plastorama, 24HR Art, Darwin

2007

Pliant, Ryan Renshaw Gallery, Brisbane

2006

Simian Cutie, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

bLOW, Criterion Galleries, Hobart

Untitled, Harrison Galleries, Sydney

2005

Plasticity, Brian Moore Gallery, Sydney

2004

Bloated, Distended and Deformed, Criterion Gallery, Hobart
Solid Air, Brian Moore Gallery, Sydney

2003

PrOn, Tolarno Galleries Melbourne
Winona's Wonderland, Victoria Gardens, Melbourne

2002

Buoys, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne
Sunflowers, Cairns Festival, Cairns, Queensland

2000

Spinout, Sydney Festival, Queen Victoria Building & The Strand Arcade, Sydney

1999

Puffed Up, Australian High Commission, Singapore

1998

Pneumatic, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, Victoria
Whoever you are, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth, WA

1997

XLR8, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

1996

Transmission, The Basement Gallery, Melbourne
Phantasmagoria, Noosa Regional Gallery, Queensland

1995

Caution: this is not a Lifesaving Device, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne
Sugar the Pill, The Basement Gallery, Melbourne

1994

Souvenir, The Basement Project, Melbourne
Detoxification Zone, The Basement Project, Melbourne

1992

I Love You, Linden Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019

Mine, Simon Denny exhibition and selected sculptural works, curated by Jarrod Rawlins and Emma Pike, MONA, Hobart, TAS

2017

Sculpture at Barangaroo, Barangaroo, Sydney, NSW

@50 Part Three, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

9 x 5 NOW, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

Beyond Belief, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst, NSW

2016

Summer Pop, MAMA Murray Art Museum Albury, Albury, NSW

Spring 1883 art fair, Windsor Hotel, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

Geelong After Dark, Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong VIC

2013

Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

2012

McClelland Sculpture Survey & Award McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Langwarrin VIC

2009

Soft Sculptures, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Trouble in Toyland, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne

Lorne Sculpture Exhibition, Lorne, VIC

Group Action 4, Criterion Gallery, Hobart

2008

Bright and Shiny, Ipswich Art Gallery, Ipswich, QLD

Dream Festival, Birrarung Mar, Melbourne

2007

eye to "I"- the self in recent art, Ballarat Art Gallery, Ballarat, VIC

2006

Dream On, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Hazelhurst, NSW

Chicks, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Melbourne

Creepy Crawlies, Ipswich Art Gallery, Ipswich, QLD

Larger than Life, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, VIC

2005

National Sculpture Prize, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

C/town bling, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Campbelltown, NSW

2004

Swoon, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

2003

This Was the Future... Australian Sculpture of the 1950's, 60's, 70's + Today, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

McClelland Survey & Award 2003, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, Langwarrin, Victoria

Fair Game Response Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Experimenta House of Tomorrow, Black Box, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne
Hothouse: the flower in contemporary art, A Monash University Museum of Art Touring Exhibition
Home & Away, Place and Identity in Recent Australian Art, A Monash University Museum of Art Touring Exhibition
Inflatable Art, Global Arts Link, Ipswich, Queensland

2002

Crime Scenes, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne
Botanica, Gus Fisher Gallery, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Wallflower, National Gallery on Russel, Melbourne
Prime, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

2001

Our Place, Issues of Identity in Recent Australian Art, Palazzo Vaj, Prato, Italy
Botanica, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand

2000

All Creatures Great and Small, Gold Treasury Museum, Melbourne
Facsimile, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart

1999

Facsimile, LAC Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela
Volume and Form, Singapore Art Museum and other venues, Singapore
The Persistence of Pop, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne; and touring Regional Victoria
Sets and Series, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

1998

Osaka Triennale 1998, Osaka Contemporary Art Centre, Osaka, Japan
Recent Painting, Prints and Sculpture from Tolarno Galleries, Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, Victoria
All this and Heaven too, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
hype, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne
Cartoons and Caricature In Contemporary Art, Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong and touring regional Victoria

1997

Wild Kingdom, IMA, Brisbane
Multiplication: the multiple object in art, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
Deacons Graham & James / Arts 21 Award, University Gallery, The University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Melbourne
World Without End, St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne
RAPPORT: Eight Artists from Singapore and Australia, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Canberra and the IMA, Brisbane
The Andy Factor, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
Animal Instincts, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Nothing Natural, Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, Hobart and touring regional Victoria and South Australia

1996

Basement, Teststrip, Auckland, New Zealand

Short, Sharp and Very Current, fifth experientia media arts festival, Lonsdale Street Power Station, Melbourne

Sculpture 3, Austin Campus & Repatriation Campus, Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne

The Field, Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne

RAPPORT: Eight Artists from Singapore and Australia, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore and Monash University Gallery, Melbourne

Nothing Natural, The Basement Gallery, Melbourne

Ruins in Reverse, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne

1995

Lovers, Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne

Decadence, 200 Gertrude St, Melbourne

Steam, Stop 22, Melbourne

Past its shelf life, Meridian Gallery, Melbourne

Blow up, Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney

Continuum and Contrast, McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, Victoria

1994

bad toys, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne

Humanetics, New Media Network, Melbourne

Two Weeks, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

Critical Mass, Arts Victoria Gallery, Melbourne

Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne

Sculpture for Heidelberg, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Melbourne

Plastiche, The Basement Project, Melbourne

1993

Disparities, The University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Ian Potter Gallery, Melbourne

The Art of Collecting, Linden Gallery St Kilda and Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong, Victoria

Derr 1, ether ohntitel, Melbourne

The Forests of Ourselves, Interventions in City Spaces, An independent project associated with the Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennial, City Square, Melbourne

Parcel Post Show, Room 4, Linden Gallery, Melbourne

1992

Non-aligned Sculptors Show, Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne

Objects of Desire, Panorama Contemporary Art Gallery, Melbourne

1991

GAS Outdoor Sculpture Show, Gasworks Park, Melbourne

COLLABORATIONS + JOINT PROJECTS

2003

Premonition (with Martine Corompt and Ian Haig), Span Galleries, Melbourne

2002

Modified Terrain (with Patricia Piccinini), IMA, Brisbane

2000

Reeds (with Garth Paine + Graeme Gerrard), Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne

Plastic Life (with Patricia Piccinini), Level 2 Project Space, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

1996

Tour de Force (with John Meade), 200 Gertrude St, Melbourne

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2012

The McClelland Achievement Prize

2004

Arts Victoria Project Grant

2002

Cinemedia Digital Media Fund

2001

Australia Council Studio Residency (New York)

2000

Arts Victoria Project Grant

1998

Arts Victoria Travel Grant

1997

Australia Council New Work Grant

1996

Arts Victoria Project Grant

1992

Mr & Mrs Peter McLennan Award (VCA)

1991

Sir Russell Drysdale Memorial Prize (VCA)

COLLECTIONS

Artbank

Australian War Memorial Art Collection

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Monash University Collection, Melbourne

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo

Mildura Art Gallery, Mildura

Monash University Collection, Melbourne

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2003

King, Georgia Frances, *Animal Logic* (catalogue), Tolarno Galleries Melbourne, 2011

Nelson, Robert, "Avatars signal an uncanny reality", *The Age* 14 December, 2011

Bell, Anonda, *Fair Game* (catalogue), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003

Brophy, Philip, *Oooh, you're hot* (catalogue), Tolarno Galleries, 2003

Coslovich, Gabriella, 'Inflatable object of desire', *The Age*, 19 July 2003

Givins, Sara, 'Functional Fantasy' (inside) interior review, issue 29, 2003

Nelson, Robert, 'A Look Back at the Future', *The Age*, 12 November 2003

Stanhope, Zara, *All the things you are* (catalogue), Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2003

Stanhope, Zara, *Everlasting* (catalogue), Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2003

2002

Feary, Mark, *Beach Buoys, Beach Girls* (catalogue), Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, 2002

Feary, Mark, *Modified Terrian* (catalogue), IMA, Brisbane, 2002

2000

Genocchio, Benjamin, 'Reality check via plastic bimbo', *Weekend Australian*, 9 August 2000

Kidd, Courtney, 'Getting away with it', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 January 2000

Millner, Jacqueline, *Plastic Life*, (catalogue), AGNSW Contemporary Projects, Art Gallery NSW, Sydney, 2000

1999

Caines, Catherine, 'Blow Jobs', *Australian Style*, Issue 29, 1998/99

Koop, Stuart, 'Commodity Realism', *ART & TEXT #58*, 1999

Timms, Peter, 'Pop reveals its simple powers of persistence', *The Age*, 24 March 1999

1998

Bromfield, David, 'Options for body and soul', *The West Australian*, 16 May 1998

Burt, Cliff, 'An inflated look at ourselves', *Herald Sun*, 15 August 1998

Chapman, Christopher, 'the real deal—simulated reality in contemporary Australian art', *ART IN*

AUSTRALIA Vol. 35, No.3, 1998

Schubert, Robert, 'Road Kill', *All this and Heaven too* (catalogue), Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 1998

Winter, Jove, *West Side Observer*, 5 June 1998

Woolnough, Damien, 'Works that are air apparent', *Herald Sun*, 7 August 1998

1997

Barclay, Alison, 'Power Pop Mix', *Herald Sun*, 29 April 1997

Clabburn, Anna, 'Producing for masses', *Herald Sun*, 29 September 1997

Crumlin, Rosemary, *World without End* (catalogue), St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, 1997

Gregory, Chris, 'PVC Satire', *MESH*, Issue 11, 1997

Lancashire, Rebecca, 'Just blowing up pop culture', *The Age*, 21 May 1997

Lopez, Jorge, 'The Andy Factor', *Globe E-Journal*, Issue 5, 1997

Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, 1 January 1997

Peers, Juliette, 'Three Fragments of an Aberrant Narrative of Australian Identity', *Artlink* Vol. 17, No 3, 1997

Pierini, Esther, 'Awe Inspiring', *Broadsheet* Vol. 26, No 3, Spring 1997

Schubert, Robert, *ART & TEXT* #56 1997

Stuckey, Helen, 'I Luv Christopher Langton', *Globe E-Journal*, Issue 5, 1997

Travis, Lara, *Like #2*, 1997

Warhurst, Myfanwy, 'Shimmer in the cathedral', *The Age*, 20 June 1997

Williamson, Clare, *The Andy Factor* (catalogue), Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 1997

1996

Fereday, Susan, *Ruins in Reverse* (catalogue), RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, 1996

Lin, Tay Swee & Natalie King, *Rapport* (catalogue), Singapore Art Museum, Singapore and Monash University Gallery, Melbourne, 1996

McCulloch, Susan, *Asian Art News*, Vol. 6, No 2, March/April 1996

Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, Melbourne 18 May 1996

Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, Melbourne, 25 September 1996

Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, 9 October 1996

O'Connell, Stephen, *Tour de Force* (catalogue), 200 Gertrude St, Melbourne, 1996

Prerauer, Maria, *The Bulletin*, 24 September 1996

Rooney, Robert, *The Australian*, Melbourne 10 May 1996

Rooney, Robert, *The Australian*, 4 October 1996

Schubert, Robert, *ART & TEXT* #55 1996

Sproul, Linda, 'In Search of a Continuum', *Artlink* Vol. 16, No 2&3, Winter 1996

Stuckey, Helen, *Nothing Natural* (catalogue), The Basement Gallery, Melbourne, 1996

Wilson, Kevin, *Phantasmagoria* (catalogue), Noosa Regional Gallery, Queensland, 1996

Wong, Susie, *The Straits Times*, 12 June 1996

1995

Bennett, Jill, *Blow Up*, *ART & TEXT* #52 1995

Engberg, Juliana, *Lovers* (catalogue), Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 1995

Finkelstein, Joanne, 'Bad toys r us', *Art Monthly Australia*, #77, March 1995

Gregory, Chris, *Caution this is not a lifesaving device* (catalogue), Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, 1995

King, Natalie, *Blowup* (catalogue), Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney, 1995
Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, Melbourne, 25 January 1995
Nelson, Robert, 'Humour is a lifesaving device', *The Age*, Melbourne 9 May 1995
Nelson, Robert, *The Age*, Melbourne, 7 June 1995
O'Donnell, Marcus, *Melbourne Star Observer*, Melbourne, 3 February 1995
Piccinini, Patricia, *Sugar the pill* (catalogue), The Basement Gallery, Melbourne, 1995
Scarlett, Ken, *Continuum and Contrast* (catalogue), McClelland Gallery, Langwarrin, 1995
Sierra-Hughes, Marie, *Herald Sun*, Melbourne 27 Sept 1995
Taylor, Roger, 'Contemporary Voices' *Asian Art News* Vol. 5, No 3, May/June 1995

1994

Gibson, Rachel, *The Age*, Melbourne, 16 Dec 1994
Gregory, Chris, *Detoxification Zone* (catalogue), The Basement Project, Melbourne, 1994
Gregory, Chris, *Souvenir* (catalogue), The Basement Project, Melbourne, 1994
Harford, Sonia, *The Age*, Melbourne, 9 April 1994
Heathcote, Christopher, 'Press the pedal for inflating love hearts', *The Age*, Melbourne 4 May 1994
King, Natalie, *bad toys* (catalogue), Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 1994
Marsh, Anne, *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, 20 Sept 1994
Piccinini, Patricia, *Plastiche* (catalogue), The Basement Project, Melbourne, 1994
Sierra-Hughes, Marie, *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, 14 Dec 1994
Sierra-Hughes, Marie, *Herald Sun*, Melbourne, 21 Dec 1994
Stuckey, Helen, 'Souvenir', *Agenda #36*, May 1994

1993

King, Natalie, *Disparities* (catalogue), The University of Melbourne Museum of Art, Ian Potter Gallery, Melbourne, 1993
Smith, Jason, *The Forests of Ourselves* (catalogue), An independent project associated with the Fifth Australian Sculpture Triennial, Melbourne, 1993

1992

Ericksen, Hilary, *Objects of Desire* (catalogue), Panorama Contemporary Art Gallery, Melbourne, 1992