

## **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**

### **2022**

*Bad Biology*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne

### **2021**

*Colonies*, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie, NSW

### **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**

### **2023**

*PLANT/LIFE*, Arts Project Australia Gallery, Collingwood Yards, VIC

### **2022**

*Conflated*, Touring regional VIC & NSW

### **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

*Spring1883 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 experimental 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

*Plastique, 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**

Cinemia 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**

**2023**

Kirsty Grant, *PLANT/LIFE* (catalogue) Arts Project Australia, 2023

**2022**

Kelly Gellatly, *Bad Biology*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne Art Fair, 2022

Amy Prcewich, *Audience as explorer in Christopher Langton's Colonies* (catalogue) Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie, 2022

**2019**

Sophie Knezic, *The Shared Ecologies of Microbial Life* (catalogue) Tolarno Galleries Melbourne, 2019



## **2011**

Georgia Frances King, *Animal Logic* (catalogue) Tolarno Galleries Melbourne, 2011  
Robert Nelson, " Avatars signal an uncanny reality", *The Age* 14 December, 2011

## **2003**

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