

## **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**

#### **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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS continued

**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**

**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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS continued

**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, 2000

*Sets and Series*, Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS continued

**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 experimenta 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

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS continued

### **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**

### **2004**

Arts Victoria Project Grant

### **2002**

Cinemedia Digital Media Fund

### **2001**

Australia Council Studio Residency (New York)

### **2000**

Arts Victoria Project Grant

## AWARDS AND GRANTS continued

### 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 Russel Drysdale Memorial Prize (VCA)

## COLLECTIONS

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

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

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**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



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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, *Plastique* (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