

Stanley Street gallery

July 2018

Tom Christophersen

Artist Statement

In September next year I debut new works in an exhibition entitled Interfacing: a curated, collaborative collection of interactions with the digital world. The not so nice ones. The broken ones.

Interfacing exposes the destructive power of technology, the ways we use it to tear at each other and ourselves. The people in my portraits have been changed by technology, often through strange, traumatic experience. These sitters were thoughtfully selected. These portraits tell a story about our digital-social experience. These portraits hold up a mirror.

You have no new likes.

Interfacing focuses on ways people can be neglected by the digital-social platforms designed to remember them. A digital facade we look after so much but which often doesn't look after us.

Our narcissistic palaces.

I am not attempting to judge this development because I am affected by it too.

My posture has changed from looking down at screens. I have debased myself on dating apps. I slave over digital collateral to fill the void.

Even as a digital world connects us, it simultaneously divides, accesses our emails and records our IP addresses.

If you don't appreciate something, you will lose it.

I don't want to lose you.

We have progressed but we are not yet in control.

My intention has always been to make images that create the necessary disturbances in order to provoke permanent, positive change.

My work is intentionally beautiful as its origin, its essential truth, is often brutal and terrifying. After all, you deserve the truth.

I love you,

You can't stop me.

Tom Christophersen

March 31st, 2017

Stanley Street gallery

Bio

TOM CHRISTOPHERSEN is an actor, artist and general arts atrocity. Hailing from Adelaide, Tom grew up performing in Fringe Festivals from a young age. Tom completed his Visual Arts degree, specialising in painting, in 2008 at the South Australian School of Art (SASA) before moving to Sydney to attend drama school at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Art (AADA). After graduating from drama school Tom has created award winning portraiture and has performed in art events such as Marina Abramovic's Project 30 with Kaldor Public Art Projects. Tom has exhibited across the country and has created bespoke commissions for Lady GaGa, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and various Australian based fashion and art houses. Tom is inspired by Twin Peaks, dark-streaks and beautiful things which are bad for your health.

CV

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Performance - Australian Academy of Dramatic Art (AADA) 2010 Bachelor of Visual Arts (Specialisation) - South Australian School of Art (SASA) 2008

Group Art Exhibitions:

2017, The Queer Art Prize, Chapel Off Chapel, VIC
2016, The Contemporary Art Awards Online Exhibition, QLD
2016, The Salon of Infectious Ideas, Stanley Street Gallery, NSW
2016, Heart of Annandale: FUTURE, Annandale Village Church, NSW
2016, Who's Looking At You? Cambridge Studio Gallery, VIC
2016, INTRODUCING, Stanley Street Gallery, NSW
2015, Blacktown City Art Prize, Blacktown Arts Centre, NSW
2015, 10 000, Lethbridge Gallery, QLD
2014, HELL FREEZES OVER, Hell Bent, NSW
2014, Youthscape, RSASA Gallery, SA
2014, Dessin sur Papier, Juxtapose Studios, SA
2013, this is a very loud scream, Juxtapose Studios, SA
2013, Heart of Annandale: LIGHT, Annandale Village Church, NSW
2013, Intimate Spaces, PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, NSW
2012, Folie a Deux, Format Gallery and Zine Shop, SA
2012, ROSEANNE/ANGRY, Format Gallery and Zine Shop, SA
2012, Love Postcode 2010, Vientiane Gallery, NSW
2011, Picture Postcode 2010, PopUP Gallery, NSW
2011, fur, Monstrosity Gallery, NSW
2011, f o r w o r d s, Arcade Lane, SA
2010, Unley High School Centenary Art Exhibition, Wayville Show Grounds, SA 2008, freefall: The Visual Arts Graduates and Honours Exhibition, SASA Gallery, SA 2008, A4 Play, Higher Ground, SA
2007, Snack Bar Art, Palace Nova Cinemas, SA

Stanley Street gallery

2007, Stereo Stereo Stereo, Jive, SA
2007, Munt, Karma Sukha Gallery, SA

Publications:

2017, The Inaugural Australian Queer Art Prize Anthology, QAPA
2016, Stunning Flaws, Self Published Artist Book
2016, Beautiful Bizarre, On e Rise, Issue 0013, June
2015, Annual Semi-Permanent Anthology
2014, Tom Christophersen, Empire Times, Issue 5. Vol 41.
2013, Annual Semi-Permanent Anthology
2013, Luscious Creeps, Self published Artist Book
2012, V Magazine GaGa Memo No. 6, V Magazine, V78
2011, Emergency art: unsustainable truths, Das 500, July 2011
2010, To Die For, Sublime Rush Magazine, Issue 003, June - April 2010

Awards:

2016, Finalist, The 2017 Queer Art Prize, Australia
2016, Finalist, Contemporary Art Awards 2017
2016, Semi Finalist, Cambridge Studio Gallery Portrait Prize
2015, Finalist, Blacktown City Art Prize
2015, Online Finalist, Lethbridge Gallery's 10 000 Small Works Award
2014, Recipient of the Margaret Raymond Prize for Drawing
2012, 1st runner up 'Picture Postcode 2010' photography competition
2008, SASA Graduate Painting Prize