

ALEX ASCH

Drawn to materials that are weathered and worn, Alex Asch reinterprets found objects in the construction of his unique sculptures presenting new ways to examine our environment. Discarded materials are favoured in his constructions as they reveal remnants of a past life, often weathered by the elements of nature as well as altered or marked by tools and fittings. These characteristics of his media indicate the previous value of his materials as a whole object, now seen as composite elements in an entirely new structure. Alex is interested in the capabilities of association between object and form, deconstructing elements to a simplified, symbolic form to create new representations of the world around him. The houses of his childhood in America continue to inspire his practice, whilst formal ideas of abstraction and an increasing interest in the language of painting are reflected in his beautifully crafted façades. The constructed collages and tableaux, arranged carefully behind windows and doors, provide us with a glimpse and social critique of contemporary society. Eminent art critic and historian, Professor Sasha Grishin, says of Alex: "Engaging, humorous and increasingly confronting, Asch is now emerging as one of the serious artist critics of contemporary Australia and of its broader context."

Alex Asch was born in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and was involved in university art programs in Los Angeles and New York before moving to Australia and studying art at the Australian National University in 1988. He has provided technical assistance to a number of arts organisations around Canberra, and has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia. In 2008, Alex was awarded the Rosalie Gascoigne Award by the Capital Arts Patrons Organisation (CAPO) and was the recipient of the Workplace Research Associates Award by CAPO in 2015. Alex's work has recently been collected by the National Gallery of Australia and is also included in the collections of Artbank, ACT Legislative Assembly and Canberra Museum and Gallery as well as corporate collections in Australia, USA, UK and Netherlands.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1965 Born Boston Massachusetts, USA
- 1985 Visiting artist, Purchase College, University of New York, USA
- 1987 Photographer, Ethnic Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA
- 1988 Visual Diploma, Australian National University, Canberra
- 1990-91 Technical assistant, Print Making, Australian National University, Canberra
- 1998 Australian Citizenship
- 2002 Deputy Director, Australian National Capital Artists, Canberra
- 2003-07 Technical Assistant, Craft ACT
- 2008- Technical Assistant, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2009- Arts tutor, Messengers Arts Program, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra
- 2010 Set Designer, *Red dress* theatre production, Denmark

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 "Strange couplings", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2015 "Under construction", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2012 "façade", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 "Toy boys", Jas Hugonnet Gallery, Canberra
- 2010 "Murus", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- "Bull's head", Jas Hugonnet Gallery, Canberra
- 2009 "The Cube", Canberra Contemporary Arts Space, ACT
- 2008 "Recent works", Jas Hugonnet Gallery, Canberra
- 2006 "Hm. Truths", New England Regional Art Gallery, NSW
- 2004 "Distillation", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- "House", Barry Stern Gallery, Paddington, NSW
- 2002 "Rooms", Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT
- "New Works", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 2001 "Landscape", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 2000 "Housed", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 "Rms", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 1998 "Boxed", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1997 "Some of my Father's Toasters", Artstop, ACT
- 1996 "Aquifer", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 "State of Combustion", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, ACT
- "Enshrined", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 "Signs", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra

- 1993 "Land Affected", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
1992 "Landscape Constructions", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
"New Works", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 "Contour 556", National Library of Australia, Canberra
"Bird Connections", 107 Projects, Redfern, NSW
"30 years, 30 artists, 30 works". Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2015 "small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Peculiar Library", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"CAPO Auction", Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra
Opening of Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres, Canberra
- 2014 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne (Beaver Galleries)
"Mash Up Glue Up", Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Manuka, Canberra
- 2013 Sydney Contemporary 2013, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)
"Shaping Canberra – The Exhibition", ANU School of Art Gallery, Canberra
"Digest", Canberra Glassworks Gallery (curated by Scott Chaseling)
"Triangle", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
"Intensity of Purpose", Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Transit of Venus", School of Art, ANU
"End of the world", Canberra Contemporary Art Space
- 2011 "Atonement", Bega Valley Regional Gallery, NSW
"Pin-wonderwall", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Lakeside", Tuggeranong Arts Centre, ACT
- 2010 "Something in the air", Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT
"Recent works", Giraffe designs, Mitchell, ACT
"Winds of change", Weereewa Sculpture Walk, Weereewa, NSW
- 2009 "COPY Cat", Canberra Contemporary Arts Space, ACT
"Sculpture by the Sea", Denmark
"Cut –Paste", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 2008 Bega Regional Gallery, NSW
25 Capital Arts Patrons Organisation Auction, National Archives of Australia, Canberra
"Skin Deep" Auction, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, ACT
"Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, NSW
"Sculpture by the Sea", Cottesloe, WA
"Inaugural Exhibition" Gather", The Q Arts Centre, Queanbeyan, NSW
- 2007 "Sculpture by the Sea", Bondi, NSW
"Urban Gothic", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Shifting Perspectives", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Phoenix Prize", Australian National University, Canberra
- 2006 "Haze", Kamberra Wine Company, Canberra
"Domain Project 2006", Alinga Street West, Canberra
"Occupation Resistance reliance", Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Armidale, NSW
"Five", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 2005 "Composite", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Sculpture 2005", Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney
"Tsunami auction", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 2004 "Sculpture", Maunsell Hughes gallery, Sydney
"Box", ANCA Tenants Exhibition, ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"24...7 Instored", Woden Plaza, Canberra
- 2003 "By George", Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney
"New Sculptures", Maunsell Hughes Gallery, Sydney
"Packs saddle", New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
- 2002 "Catalogue exhibition", Barry Stern Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 "Reflecting Canberra", Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT
"Peer Pressure", Access Contemporary Art Space, Sydney

- 2000 "Termenos", Festival of Contemporary Arts, ACT
"Landscape", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
"Prelude", permanent collection exhibition, Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT
"Australian Contemporary Art Fair 8", Melbourne
- 1998 "Dog's Breakfast", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"New Works", Helicopter Hangar, Garangular, NSW
"Australian Contemporary Art Fair 6", Melbourne
- 1997 "Question Exhibition", Healthpact, Canberra
"Rhythm of light, 2 artists", ACT Legislative Assembly, Canberra
"South Port Art Festival", St Alban, Qld
- 1996 "Gulp", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"Reconstructed Guitars", Festival of Contemporary Arts, ACT
- 1995 "Installation", Festival of Contemporary Arts, ACT
- 1994 "Survey", Lindhurst Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
"Images 2", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
"Australian Contemporary Art Fair 3", Melbourne
"Clear Case", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1992-7 "Survey", Access Contemporary Art Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 "On the Wall, On the Floor, Two Artists", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1990 "Rugs to Wrought Iron", Sister Gallery, Yass, NSW
"Affinities", School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
"Artist Made", Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra
- 1989 "Uncertain Vessel", Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
- 1988 "Asch Warming", University of Southern California Gallery, USA
- 1987 "Ethnic Diversity within LA", University of Southern California Gallery, USA
"Two Sides of China", University of Southern California Gallery, USA
- 1985 "Two Artists", Fire Side Lounge, University of New York, USA

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2015 Winner, The Workplace Research Associates Award, Capital Arts Patrons Organisation, Canberra
- 2013 Inductee to the Queanbeyan Cultural Honours Gallery, The Q, NSW
- 2009 Finalist, Blake Prize
- 2009 Finalist, Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, NSW
Invited artist to represent Australia
Sculpture by the Sea, Denmark
- 2008 Finalist, Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe, WA
Winner, Rosalie Gascoine Award, Capital Arts Patrons Organisation, Canberra
- 2007 Finalist, Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi, NSW
Finalist, Phoenix Prize for Spiritual Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2006 Selected artist, Domain Project, ACT
- 2003 Highly commended, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, ACT
- 2001 Awarded materials grant Arts ACT Cultural Council
- 1999 Catalogue Production grant, Arts ACT
- 1998 Development grant, Arts ACT
- 1995 Materials grant, Arts ACT
- 1994 Materials grant, Arts ACT
- 1993 Visual Artists award, Canberra Critics Circle, ACT

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Catalogue, Brenda May Gallery, Sydney
- 2015 "Top 5 artists pick for 2015", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*
"Footy Fever explores art and Sport", Peter Haynes, *Canberra Times*, 25 September
- 2014 "Mash Up", Sally Pryor, *Canberra Times*, 1 Feb
- 2013 "Processing culture", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 4 June
"Enjoyable yet pointed show", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 22 June
"The art of recycling", David Butler, *The Queanbeyan Age*, Oct 13
- 2010 "Finding a life in sculpture", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 9 November

- 2009 "Something in the air", catalogue, Canberra Museum and Gallery, June -October
2008 "Cut-Paste", Lyn Mills, *Canberra Times*, July
Art Monthly, October
Art Almanac, September
"Weereewa Sculpture", Cayla Dengate, *Canberra Times*
2007 "Six ACT Sculptors", Jenna Price, *Canberra Times*, October
2006 "Haze", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, December
"Composite look", Ron Cerabona, *Canberra Times*, December
"Domain 2006", *Capital Magazine*, November
2005 *Vogue Living*, Betsy Brennan, September
"Undiscovered Artists", Sasha Grishin, *Australian Art Collector*
"Composite", Philipa Kelly, *Art Look*, iss. 9, March
2004 "Distillation", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, November
2003 "Totems of Modern Life", Kezia Geddes, *Muse*, August
"By George", Ron Cerabona, *Canberra Times*, March
2002 "Rooms", Emily Ang, *Muse*, December
2001 "Reflections of Canberra", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, March
"Lakes Edge", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, July
Inside Out, August
2000 "Reproduced", *The Chronicle*, January
1999-2000 "Reproduced", *Muse*, No.191, December-January
1999 "Asch", Artist Colour Catalogue 1992-99
"Reproduction", *Canberra Times*, November
1998 SMH Galleries, Bruce James, April
1997 "Colour and Movement", Cassie Proudfoot, *Canberra Times*, April
1996 "Reproduce", *Belle Magazine*, November
1995 "Reproduce", *Temenos*, No.1 Autumn
"Reproduction/Review", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*
1994 "Landscapes of Rusted Iron", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, June
Images 2: Contemporary Australian Painting, Nevill Dury, Craftsman House, Roseville East, NSW
"Critics Circle Awards 1994", *Muse*, November
1993 "Exposure to Contrast", *Australian Weekend*
1991 "Sensitive Witty and Wooden", Sonia Barron, *Canberra Times*, October
"On the Wall", Kerry-Ann Cousins, *Muse*, December

COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Australia, Artbank, ACT Legislative Assembly; Canberra Museum and Gallery, ACT; Wesley Art Foundation, private and corporate collections in Australia, USA, UK, Denmark and the Netherlands.