

ALEX ASCH

Drawn to materials that are weathered and worn, Alex Asch reinterprets found objects in the construction of his unique sculptures and presents 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 medium indicate the previous value of the 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 create simplified and symbolic representations of the world around him. His recent work explores the transformation of the land since European settlement using materials reflective of our rural buildings and concrete cities. Alex labels his landscapes as "premonitions or warnings" and "...unfortunately we have done little over the last quarter century to change our relationship to the natural world and first nations people". Eminent art critic and historian, Professor Sasha Grishin, says of Alex: "His work is quirky, yet tough; humorous, yet serious; brilliantly crafted, but also naïve and understated in its use of stylistic conventions....Alex Asch has become an original and distinctive voice in Australian art."

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 exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions throughout Australia and provides technical assistance to a number of arts organisations around Canberra. In 2017, Alex was awarded the CAPO Fellowship by the Capital Arts Patrons Organisation and was the recipient of the Workplace Research Associates Award by CAPO in 2015. In 2020, Alex worked as an art mentor and tutor for Regeneration an arts organisation working with local bushfire-affected communities. 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, Denmark 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
- 2009-15 Arts Tutor, Messengers Arts Program, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra
- 2010 Set Designer, *Red dress* theatre production, Denmark
- 2016- Art Installer, Australian Defence Force 'Arts for Recovery' program, University of Canberra
- 2020- Art Mentor and Tutor, Regeneration, creative arts project for disaster-affected communities, Batlow

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "axis", assemblages, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2020 "City State", Belco Arts "Going the distance" campaign, online exhibition, Canberra
- 2019 "On the horizon", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 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

- 2020 "Contour 556/2020, Mixing Room Gallery, Canberra
- 2019 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2018 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Contour 556", East Space, Canberra
- 2017 Sydney Contemporary 2017, Carriageworks, Sydney (Beaver Galleries)
Outdoor Sculpture Festival, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra
- 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

- 2005 "Five", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
"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
"Termenos", Festival of Contemporary Arts, ACT
- 2000 "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

- 2020 Grant recipient, Belco Arts, "Going the Distance" campaign
Grant recipient, Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation award
Grant recipient, artsACT HOMEFRONT funding
Grant recipient, The Myer Foundation
- 2017 Winner, Capital Arts Patrons' Organisation Fellowship
Finalist, CGS Harris Hobbs Outdoor Sculpture Prize, Canberra Grammar School
- 2015 Winner, The Workplace Research Associates Award, Capital Arts Patrons Organisation, Canberra
- 2013 Inductee to the Queanbeyan Cultural Honours Gallery, The Q, NSW
- 2012 Visual Artists award, Canberra Critics Circle, ACT
- 2009 Finalist, Blake Prize
- 2009 Finalist, Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney
Invited artist to represent Australia in Sculpture by the Sea, Denmark
- 2008 Finalist, Sculpture by the Sea, Perth
Winner, Rosalie Gascoigne 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

- 2021 "Scavenger gives voice to materials", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 20 February
2020 "In City State...", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*,
2019 "Premonitions urge us to act now", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 5 April
2017 "Asch creates a unique artistic language", Sasha Grishin, *Canberra Times*, 14 March
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
"Something in the air", catalogue, Canberra Museum and Gallery, June -October
2009 "Cut-Paste", Lyn Mills, *Canberra Times*, July
2008 *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