

CHRISTOPHER ZANKO

SWEET MISGIVINGS



EXHIBITION CATALOGUE
27 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER



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In *Sweet Misgivings*, Christopher Zanko elevates the carved intricacy of his work with increasing surface complexity. He continues with a focus on the mid-20th century home where fibro or brick veneer geometry becomes an armature for all sorts of decorative features. In his paintings we first see the cubic structure neatly placed on the block. From there we may enjoy (as the artist does) all the textural shifts across roof tiling, stairs and gates, the formal gardens, the sculptures and paving stones. Each painting represents a cultural world. Cast concrete planters, conifers positioned like pillars on either side of an entrance, baroque and neo-classical sculptural additions. Ornament gives expression to stories of migration and cultural difference, in some cases also demonstrating the technical skill of an owner-builder (like the Terrazzo brought from southern Europe).

An array of stylistic expressions established a sense of home in a new country while recrafting a house plan to fit the needs of its residents. Zanko mirrors these construction techniques via his own set of tools and skills, carving surfaces or precisely masking up an area to lay out a texture, like formwork is used to frame up a driveway.

In her recent study of mid-20th century migrant housing in Melbourne, Mirjana Lozanovska notes the diaspora aesthetics of the period, describing “a distinct architecture evolving from the interaction between the dwelling habits of migrants that were transported and the material order and form of the detached house.” The modifications to these catalogue homes tell a story of the residents, their habits and their needs. This narrative detail was already evident in Zanko’s work but he has more recently made links with his own family’s history of migration. The paintings in the current show emerged in parallel to conversations with his father about the family’s arrival in Australia, via the United Kingdom, as refugees from eastern Europe.

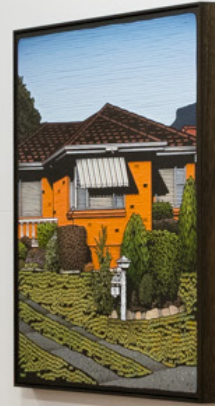
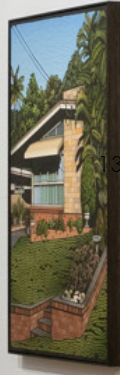
Sweet Misgivings sees a progression in the artist’s work from nostalgic taxonomy to a deeper study of character. Zanko enjoys “the way these houses built from a plan offer so much variation in character and story 60 or 70 years on.” The house and its block is a stage on which elements are all organised to suit the habits and relationships within the household. The paintings in this show are then another kind of stage that honours the varied cultural expressions this built form allowed for.

Christopher Zanko was a finalist in the 2020 Brett Whiteley prize and, significantly, the 2019 Wynne Prize. In 2020 he was part of a commissioning exhibition organised by Hazelhurst Arts Centre, “The Home”, that celebrated art deco residential design in Australia. Another great opportunity has been the recent 70th anniversary commission to paint Rose Seidler House for the Sydney Living Museum Collection. Zanko’s work can also be found in the Wollongong Art Gallery and University of Wollongong collections.

- Melody Willis

Prof. Mirjana Lozanovska presentation, “Migrant Housing. Architecture, Dwelling and Migration”, 21 Dec 2020 https://youtu.be/jVdzX0Y_kyA (accessed 16 October 2021)

Lozanovska, Mirjana 2019 *Migrant Housing: Architecture, Dwelling, Migration*, Routledge.





East Corrimal Bells + Whistles II, 2021

acrylic on wood relief carving

94.5 x 114.5cm

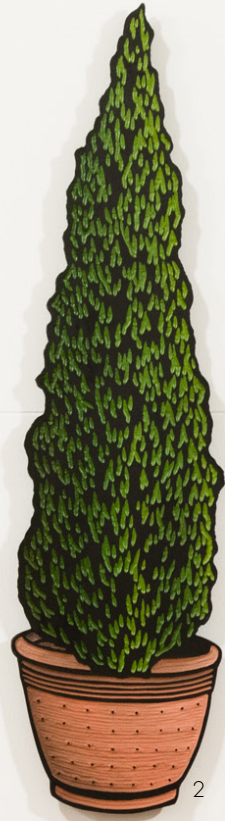
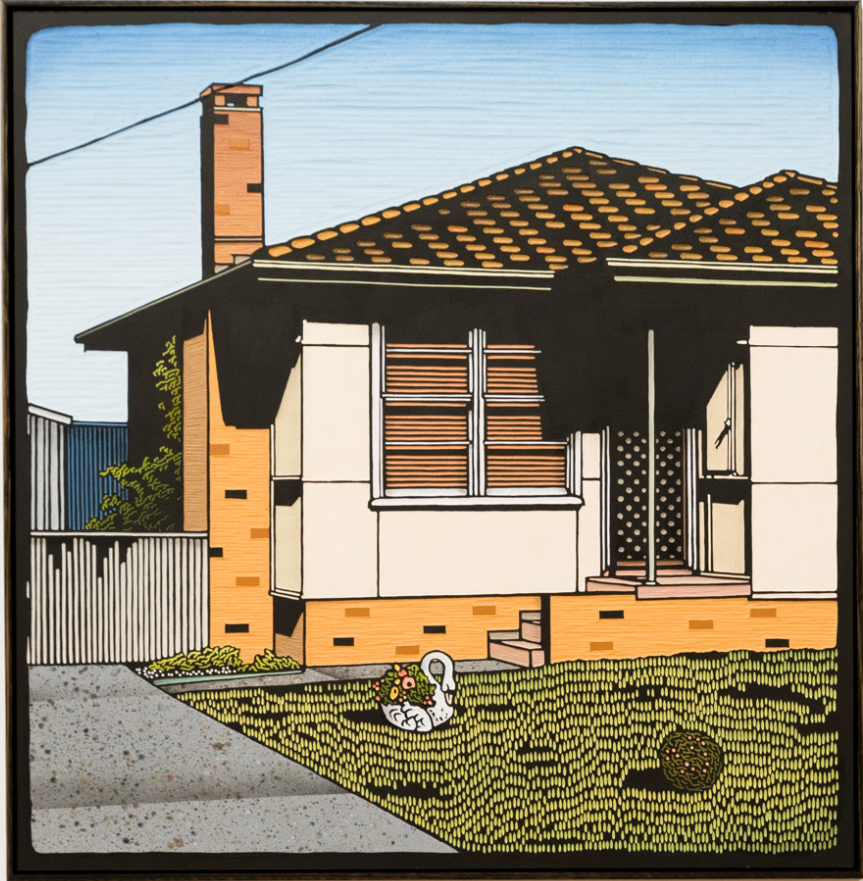
Framed: 96.5 x 116.5 x 4.5 cm

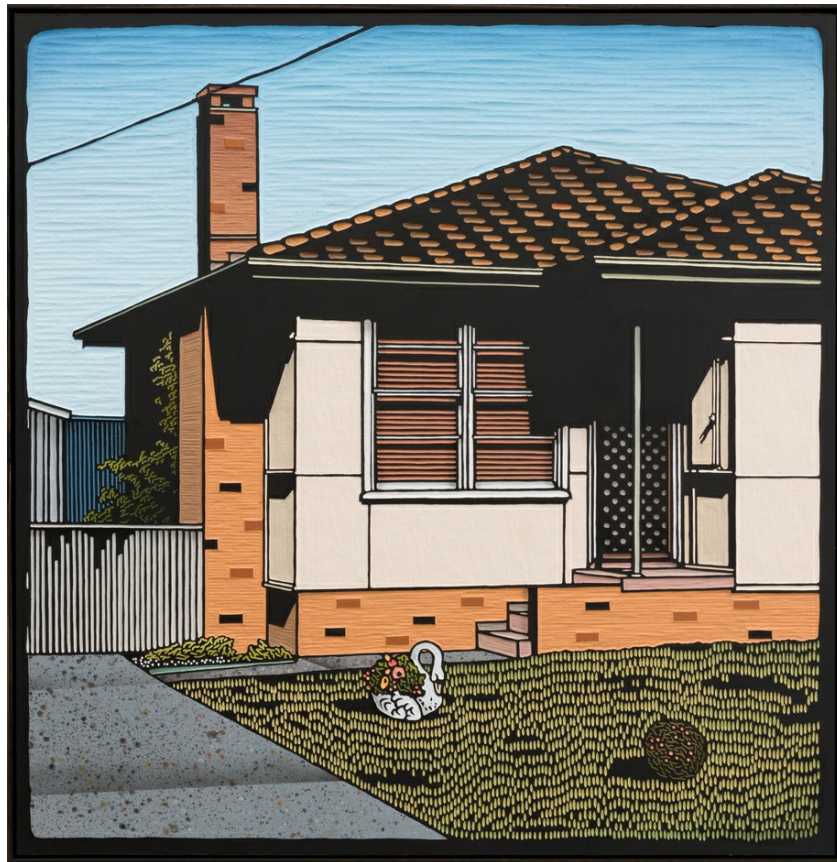
SOLD



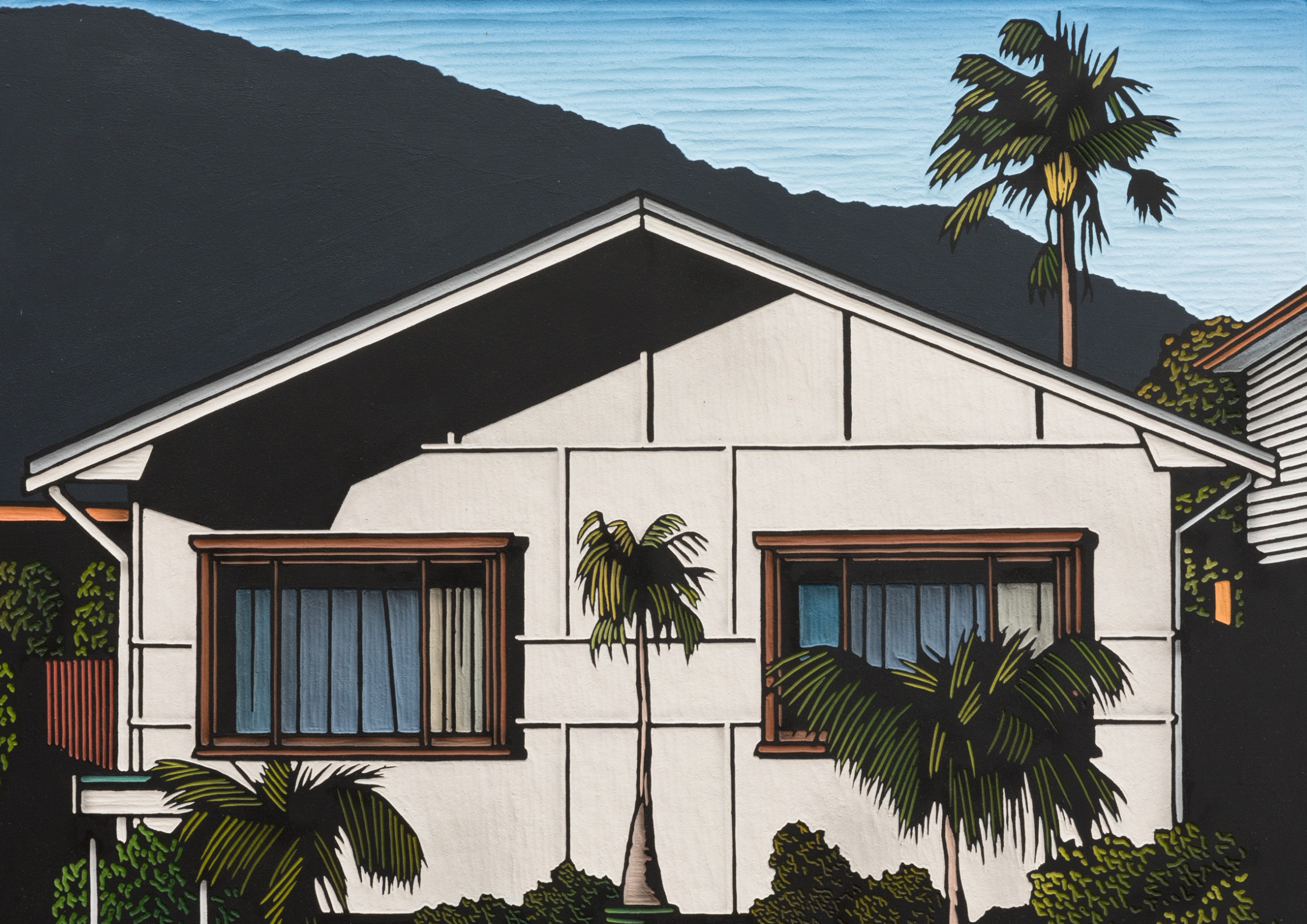


Unanderra Deco, 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
105 x 85cm
Framed: 107 x 87 x 4.5 cm
SOLD





Unanderra Swan Garden, 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
79 x 77cm
Framed: 81 x 79 x 4.5 cm
SOLD





5





Escarpment and Palm , 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
79 x 77cm
Framed: 81 x 79 x 4.5 cm
SOLD







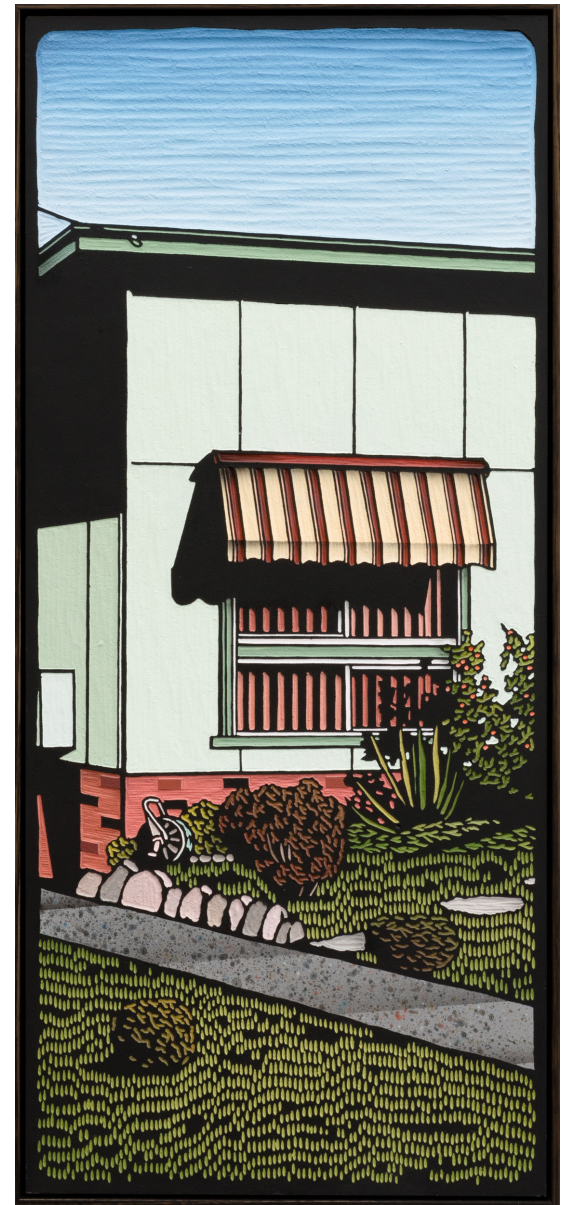
Woonona Awnings + Escarpment, 2021

acrylic on wood relief carving

95 x 115cm

Framed: 96.5 x 116.5 x 4.5 cm

SOLD





North Nowra Fibro, 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
90 x 40cm
Framed: 92 x 42 x 4.5 cm
SOLD





Russel Vale Red Brick, 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
79 x 77cm
Framed: 81 x 79 x 4.5 cm
SOLD

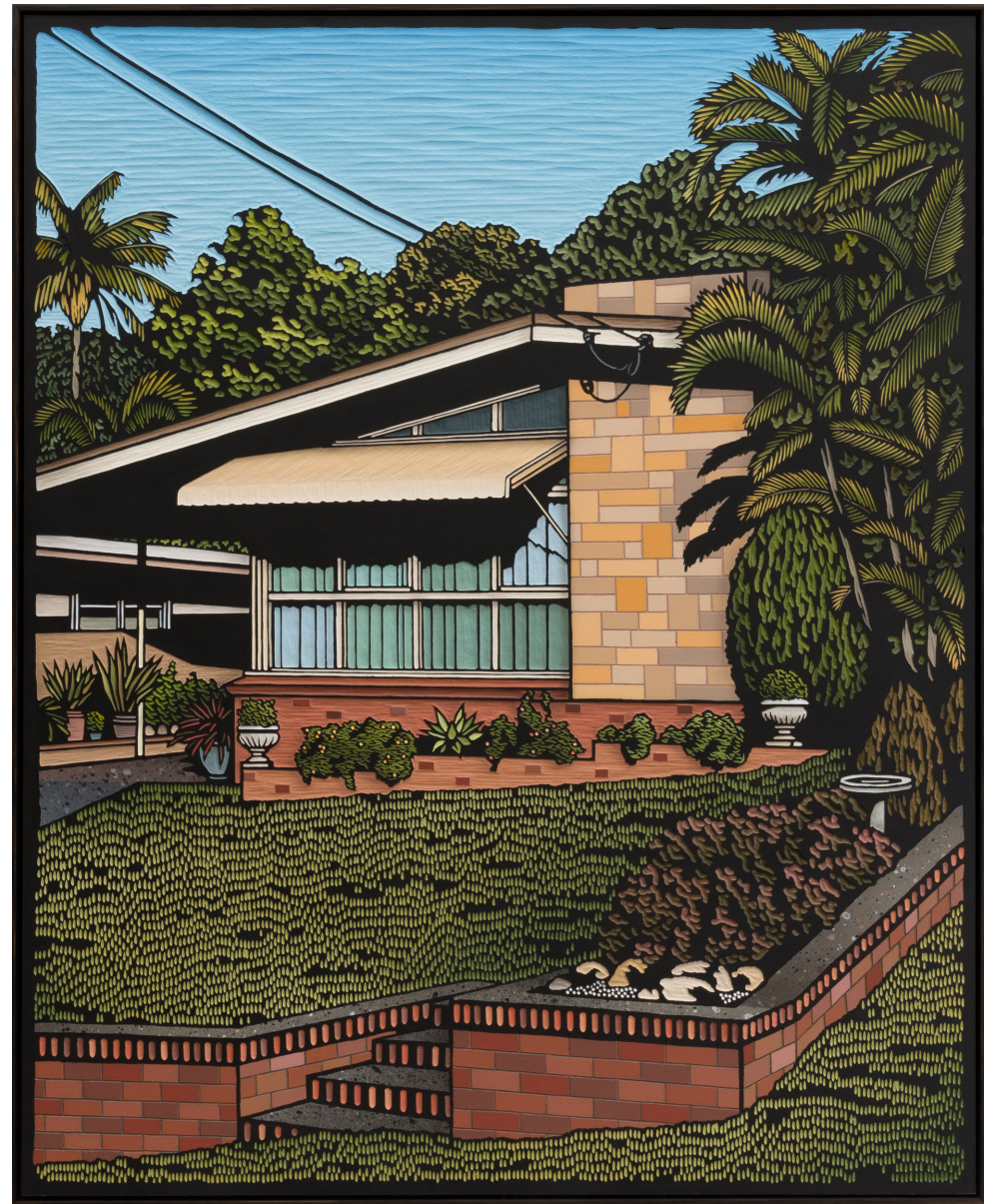


10



11







Thirroul Palms on the Foothills of the Escarpment , 2021

acrylic on wood relief carving

105 x 85cm

Framed: 107 x 87 x 4.5 cm

SOLD





Lake Illawarra Longing, 2021
acrylic on wood relief carving
90 x 110cm
Framed: 92 x 112 x 4.5 cm
SOLD



12



14



15



13



16



CHRISTOPHER ZANKO

BOTANICAL CUTOUTS ARTWORK DETAILS

1. *Ixora Golden Brown*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 52 x 43.5 x 2.5cm
SOLD
2. *Potted Conifer*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 75.5 x 19.5 x 2.5cm
SOLD
3. *Umber Contours*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 36.5 x 33 x 2.5cm
SOLD
4. *Chinese Evergreen I*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 43 x 34 x 2.5cm
SOLD
5. *Brush Bush*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 39 x 33 x 2.5cm,
\$2,200
6. *Stucco Pot*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 52 x 40.5 x 2.5cm,
SOLD
7. *Chinese Evergreen II*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 43 x 38 x 2.5cm
SOLD
8. *Anthurium*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 40 x 31 x 2.5cm
SOLD
9. *Rodgersia*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 27 x 25.5 x 2.5cm
SOLD
10. *Spiral Bush II*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 76 x 18 x 2.5cm
\$2,500
11. *Spiral Bush I*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 76 x 18 x 2.5cm
SOLD
12. *Brush Bush II*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 40 x 19 x 2.5cm
SOLD
13. *Hydrangea Bush*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 19 x 57 x 2.5cm
SOLD
14. *Pansy Pot*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 30.5 x 20.5 x 2.5cm
SOLD
15. *Marigolds*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 45 x 33 x 3.5cm
SOLD
16. *Brush Bush III*, 2021, acrylic on wood relief carving, 34 x 22 x 2.5cm
\$1,800

*all numbers correspond with artworks listed throughout the catalogue

CHRISTOPHER ZANKO

CV

Born 1992 Wollongong, NSW Australia

Based in Austinmer, NSW Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Sweet Misgivings, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2020 Heretofore, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD
- 2019 Stranger Avenue, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
A Different Way Home, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD
- 2018 Online Exhibition, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2017 Umbra, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 93 Bourke & Friends, Ninety Threethree Bourke ARI, S Sydney, NSW
- 2021 Slippin Matters, Tsutaya Books, Tokyo, JP
- 2020 Sydney Contemporary Presents 2020, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
One Off, CANTEEN ARI, Chippendale, NSW
Holding Pattern / Treading Water, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
The Home, HAZELHURST REGIONAL GALLERY, Gymea, NSW
- 2019 An Exhibition, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
A Place Called Home, WOLLONGONG REGIONAL GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
The New Gallery Show, 10, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD
Grown Ocean, CLIFFTON SCHOOL OF ARTS, Coalcliff, NSW
YMO at Home, LEICHARDT HOUSE, Sydney, NSW
Scorcher, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

- 2018 Life in Working Art, HAZELHURST REGIONAL GALLERY, Gymea, NSW
Here + Now, WOLLONGONG REGIONAL GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
On The Aussie Telly, aMBUSH GALLERY, Sydney, NSW

The Wollongong Art Gallery 40th Anniversary Exhibition, WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
The Platform 10, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD
The Castle, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

- 2017 Surf Cassette, GLADSTONE ST WAREHOUSE, Sydney, NSW
Home Wrecker, ASW, Newcastle, NSW
- 2016 The Egg & Dart On Excursion, CASULA POWER HOUSE ART CENTRE, Casula, NSW
Gong'Concrete, MOVING MOUNTAINS GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
Vital Signs, HAZELHURST REGIONAL ART GALLERY, Gymea, NSW
Locals Lonely, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2015-19 The Annual Egg & Dart Christmas Show, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW
- 2014 Boom II, PROJECT CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE, Wollongong, NSW
- 2012 Boom, POP-UP SPACE, Wollongong, NSW

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CV

AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS & COLLECTIONS

- 2021 Sunshine Coast Art Prize (finalist), CALOUNDRA REGIONAL GALLERY, Caloundra, QLD
- 2020 Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship (finalist), BRETT WHITELEY GALLERY, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 Wynne Prize (finalist), ART GALLERY NSW, Sydney, NSW
- Still: National Still Life Award (finalist), Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Coffs Harbour, NSW
- Gosford Art Prize (finalist), GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY, Gosford, NSW
- Country Style Magazine (article), March Issue
- Happy Mag (Interview), February, online issue
- 2017 Wollongong Collection, WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
- 2016 Gosford Art Prize (finalist), GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY, Gosford, NSW
- Gongcrete Prize (winner), MOVING MOUNTAINS GALLERY, Wollongong, NSW
- 2015 Lloyd Rees Memorial Youth Art Award (finalist), LANE COVE GALLERY, Lane Cove, NSW

OTHER

- 2021 Rose Seidler House 70th Anniversary Commission, Sydney Living Museum
- 2020 Farmer and the Owl *Family Values* album art
- 2020 Yours and Owls Stage Design, Wollongong, NSW
- 2017 Art Box Project, Shibuya, Tokyo



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