

CHRISTOPHER ZANKO STRANGER AVENUE



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Christopher Zanko uses a visual pattern language to make bold abstractions of residential architecture. His carved and painted surfaces echo the veneers applied to mid-century modern homes. With increasingly systemised techniques and larger formats, Zanko works with a range of tools to develop highly nuanced textures. In the latest work he is making complex choices about how to render depth in relief style. There are now also uncarved painted areas, the grey of a rendered wall, for instance, that further crop and contain the images. Pathways in the foreground cut through the composition in parallel to the high contrast shadows cast onto the houses.

Breeze block patterns are a recurring element. In design, the breeze block has been used as both decoration and screen. It works well in warm countries because it is a permeable wall, allowing airflow but blocking direct sun. But its ubiquity across architecture of utility (think bowling greens, surf clubs, toilet blocks) has diminished these innovative qualities to a nostalgic sign. In Stranger Avenue, Zanko has installed a breezeblock wall. Light cuts through these masonry components, casting shadows and introducing texture to the white gallery. Veiled effect of shadow and decoration are reiterated in the space from within the works. This convergence of effects renders the houses further obscured, a composite image of patterned shapes.

The artist's use of tone is planar and dramatic. There are no gradients. Each surface is distinct, finding parallels between visual order and psychological order. The kinds of surface detail seen here could reveal an instinct by residents to

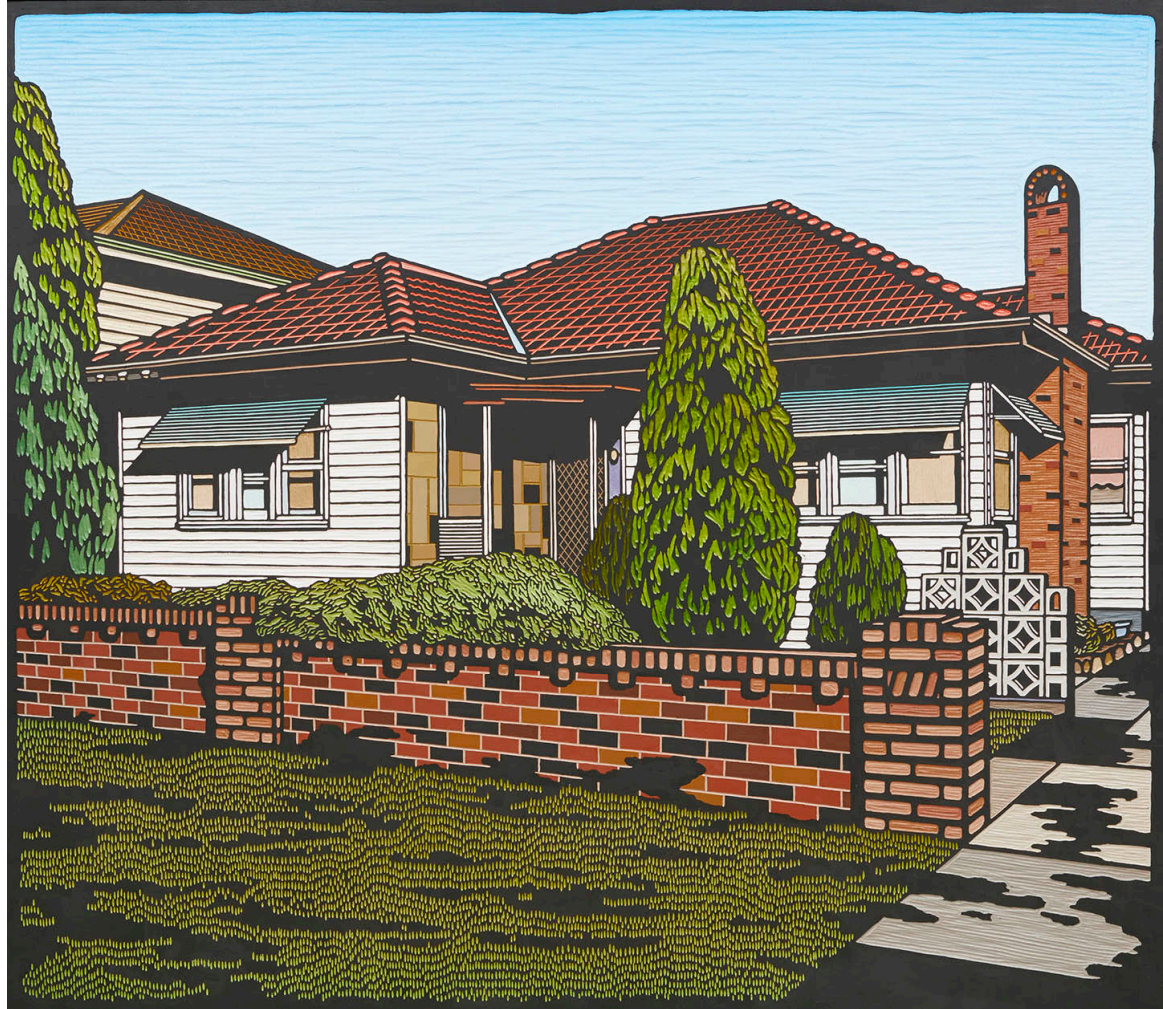
domesticate or soften boxy modernism. The front garden and house is a formal portrait. It continues to serve a symbolic purpose of communicating stability and personal style within rather strict constraints. Planting, sculpted hedges, a carpet of lawn, all are expressions within limited scope serving to framing the structure.

Zanko draws our attention to the beauty available when form meets pattern and when organisation is sweetly interrupted by surface interest. But there is a vulnerability to this era of housing design and his work also acts as a permanent record of its quirks and definitive style.

Born in 1992 in Wollongong, Christopher Zanko has this year been a finalist in the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the National Still Life Award at Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery. Most recently Zanko was a finalist in the Gosford Art Prize. His work is held in the collections of Wollongong Art Gallery and the University of Wollongong Collection. This is his second solo show at The Egg & Dart.

-Melody Willis

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Thirroul Breeze Blocks
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
122 x 140 cm
SOLD

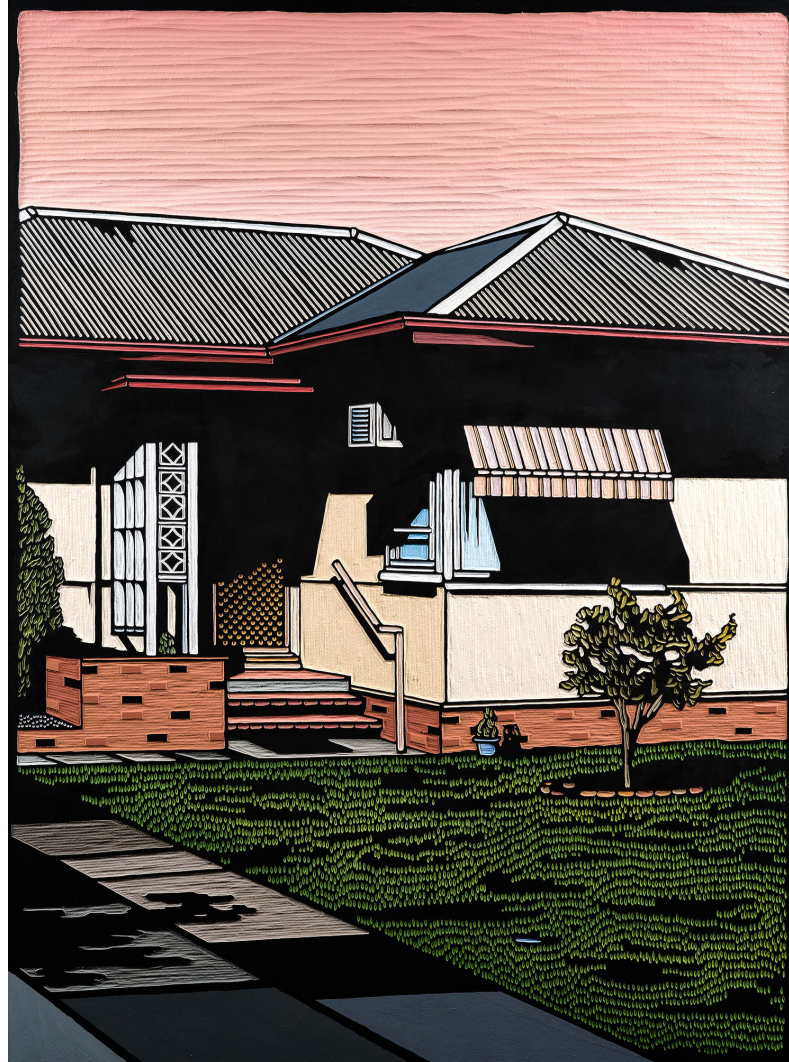
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Mangerton: Bricks and Blue Skies
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
122 x 91 cm

SOLD

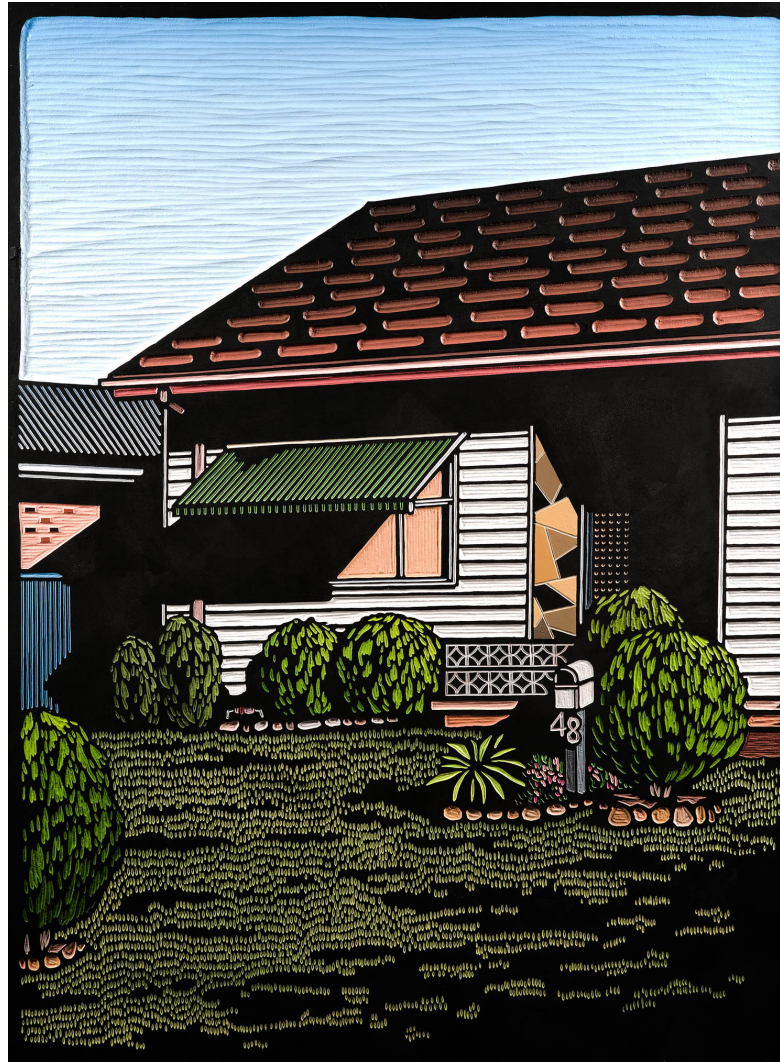
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Evening Fibro Unanderra
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
122 x 91 cm

SOLD

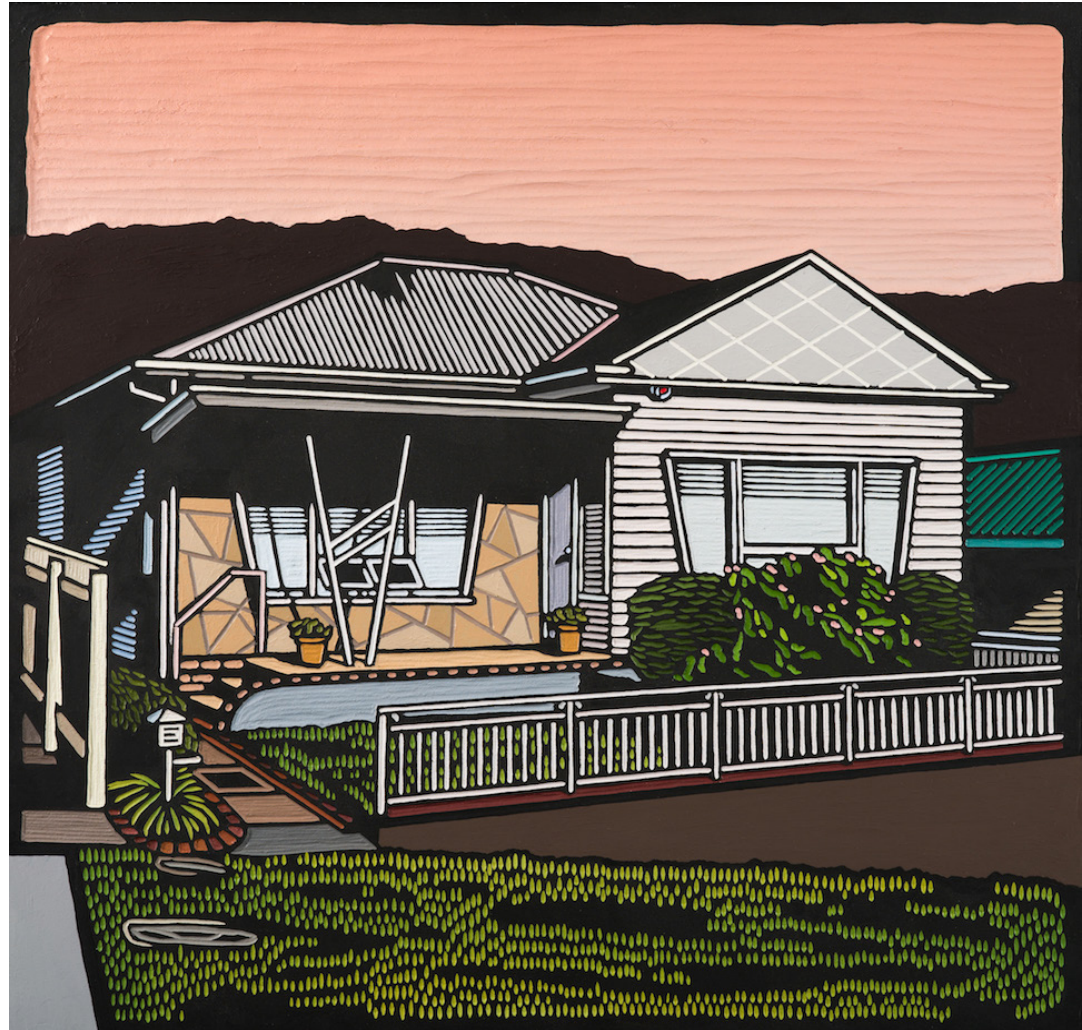
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Faux Sandstone, Windang
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
122 x 91 cm

SOLD

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Stranger Avenue
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
59.5 x 61 cm
SOLD

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Thirroul Twin Trees
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
59.5 x 61 cm

SOLD

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Long Jetty Fibro
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
60.5 x 54.5 cm

SOLD

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Balfour, 1
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Corrimal Modern
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Near the Pass
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Owen St Sunset
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Between Houses
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Lachlan St Evening
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Harbour St
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Fairy Meadow Route
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm

SOLD

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Callouts Only
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm
SOLD

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Woonona Circle Cul de Sac
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
30 x 30 cm

SOLD

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Lawn Bush
2019, acrylic on wood relief carving
Approx. 40 x 44 cm

SOLD

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CHRISTOPHER ZANKO

CV

Born 1992 Wollongong, NSW Australia

Based in Austinmer, NSW Australia

EDUCATION

2015 Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts), UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, Wollongong, NSW

2012 Diploma of Fine Arts, WEST WOLLONGONG TAFE, Wollongong, NSW

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *Stranger Avenue*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

A Different Road Home, EDWINA CORLETTE GALLERY, Brisbane, QLD

2018 *Online Exhibition*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

2017 *Umbra*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 *An Exhibition*, THE EGG & DART, Thirroul, NSW

A Place Called Home, WOLLONGONG REGIONAL GALLERY, Wollongong, 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 Wreckers, 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 - 2019

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

OTHER

2017

Art Box Project, Shibuya, Tokyo

AWARDS & COLLECTIONS, PUBLICATIONS

2019

Still: National Still Life Award (finalist), COFFS HARBOUR REGIONAL GALLERY, Coffs Harbour, NSW

Gosford Art Prize (finalist), GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY, Gosford, NSW

Wynne Prize (finalist), ART GALLERY NSW, Sydney, 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