

EDDIE BOTHA born in South Africa, is a well-travelled multiculturalist, dreamer, comedian, nature lover and activist whose search for cultural identity and sincere relationships is expressed through his highly detailed drawings and paintings of people and society. Using pen, paint, newspaper and collage, Eddie depicts intricate, intimate scenes filled with a cacophony of characters who colour the everyday streets, producing work that is both personal and indifferent, sentimental and light as he examines human interactions deeply.

Nothing in Eddie's works is by chance. Combining a love of street art with the sensitivity of penmanship, a series of conversations about human nature, people, technology, media, politics and sexuality unfold before us using a complex language of colour, symbolism and metaphor. Upon first glance you will smile at familiar individuals as they are depicted in their most candid states: a beach bum, a suited man, a young punk. However, further contemplation of these seemingly sweet figures reveals a darker, more profound meaning embedded within each work- one that touches on the psychological and the humanitarian. Whether in groups or alone, each figure is revealing of one of society's many sentiments- from brave excess, humility and beauty to greed, fetish and despair.

Although dominated by recurring human faces and bodies, Eddie's work also touches on the interaction between people and nature, people and technology, animals and animals. For him, nature and the technological often underpin many of our human experiences. By juxtaposing us with them, hard with soft, biological with material, Eddie prompts us to reflect upon the ways that contemporary contexts shape ourselves and inform our behaviors.

EDUCATION

- 2014 -current Full time Artist (Melbourne)
- 2010 - current Part time Artist (Newcastle, London, Sydney, Melbourne and South Africa)
- 1998 - 2014 Landscape Architect and Artist (Malaysia from 2001-2008)
- 1997 Graduated from Pretoria University (TUKKIES)
- 1993 Matriculated from Oos Moot High School in Pretoria, South Africa

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Artonica: music for everyone*, Off the Kerb Gallery, Collingwood.
World Art Organization Exhibition, group show, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2017 1st Sumok Ink Drawing Biennale, Mokpo, South Korea.
7th Beijing International Art Biennale, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China.
Happy Birthday cake eating party, Solo show, Conartist Collective, New York.
- 2016 17th Asian Art Bienalle, Dhakar, Bangladesh.
Shwoosh, No Vacancy Gallery QV, Melbourne.
Makan, Solo Show, Instinc Gallery, Singapore.
Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Shah Gallery, Singapore.
Draw the line, Solo Show, Instinc Gallery, Melbourne.
Artonica, Solo Show, Lane's End Projects, Melbourne.
Poh Chang International Art Workshop, Bangkok.
- 2015 *Repeat*, Group Show, Artshole, Melbourne.
Technorganic, Colaborative Show curated by Eddie Botha, House of Bricks, Melbourne.
Re-mortilization, Solo Show, Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne.
Nocturnal, Performance Art, Dandenong Harmony Square, Melbourne.
Australia Now and Then, Performance Art, Art not Apart Art Festival Canberra.
- 2014 *Befuddled*, Solo Show, Walker Street Gallery, Melbourne.
Midsumma Festival, Dark Horse Gallery, Melbourne.
- 2014 *The Moving Image*, Solo Show, Red Gallery, Melbourne.
Outside the Box, Solo Show, Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne.
- 2013 Manyung Gallery, Group Show, Melbourne.
Socialty, Tacit Contemporary Art Gallery, Melbourne.
Neutral, House of Bricks Gallery, Melbourne.
Spot the difference, Solo Show, BSG, Melbourne.
Here, there, everywhere, TUSK Gallery, Melbourne.
Spot the difference, Solo Show, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney.
Terrigal Plein Air 2012, Gosford Regional Gallery, Gosford.
- 2012 *Odd One Out*, Solo Show, BSG, Melbourne.
Urban Art, BSG, Melbourne.
Strange, Stranger, Strangest, ATVP, Sydney.
Solstice, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sydney.
Platform 72's Opening Exhibition, Sydney
International Art Fair, London.
- 2011 Affordable Art Fair Hampstead, London.
Teasing the taught, Solo Show, Arthive Gallery, Newcastle.
Reading Artfair, London.

AWARDS

- 2014 Watson's Art Prize, First prize
- 2013 Newcastle's 'Waste As Art', Runner-up
- 2011 Maitland's 'Waste As Art', Highly commended

RESIDENCIES

- 2017 (April-May) Conartists Mixed media residency
- 2016 (Oct-Nov) Instinct Residency, Singapore
- 2015 (March-June) Heritage Hill Art Residency, Dandenong

PROJECTS

- 2015/19 Art teacher for 'Kids own Publishing' – working with local schools and community, developing educational children's books.
- 2018 Workshops with Chagall Art Schools, Shanghai
- 2017 Steve Madden live art event, Brooklyn New York
- 2016 Art Tram, Melbourne Festival
- 2016 5 Walls Project, Sydney
- 2016 Dandenong Primary school art production for playground
- 2016 Dandenong Mall Hoarding artworks on Community theme
- 2016 Committee of the Arts and Health Leadership Group, Victoria – impacting the community through art
- 2015/17 Noble Park Art Show Committee
- 2015 Illustrative contract work for 'Momentum worldwide' – NBN – Australian's new broadband network
- 2015 Art Teacher at Noble Park English School, working with refugee children
- 2012 Collaborative artist for 2012 Terrigal Landart (30 x 40m) with local aboriginal artist Gavi Duncan as part of the 5 lands walk festival

FOX
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