

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

- 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

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| 2021 | <i>Disexion</i> , Solo Show, Fox Galleries, Melbourne. | Square, Melbourne. |
| 2021 | <i>These Days</i> , Group Show, Fox Galleries, Melbourne. | <i>Australia Now and Then</i> , Performance Art, Art not Apart Art Festival Canberra. |
| 2019 | Black Cat Gallery, Animalias Solo Show, Collingwood | <i>Befuddled</i> , Solo Show, Walker Street Gallery, Melbourne. |
| 2018 | <i>Artonica: music for everyone</i> , Off the Kerb Gallery, Collingwood. | Midsumma Festival, Dark Horse Gallery, Melbourne. |
| | <i>World Art Organization Exhibition</i> , group show, Seoul, South Korea. | 2014 <i>The Moving Image</i> , Solo Show, Red Gallery, Melbourne. |
| 2017 | 1st Sumok Ink Drawing Biennale, Mokpo, South Korea. | <i>Outside the Box</i> , Solo Show, Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne. |
| | 7th Beijing International Art Biennale, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China. | 2013 Manyung Gallery, Group Show, Melbourne. |
| | <i>Happy Birthday cake eating party</i> , Solo show, Conartist Collective, New York. | <i>Socialty</i> , Tacit Contemporary Art Gallery, Melbourne. |
| 2016 | 17th Asian Art Biennale, Dhakar, Bangladesh. | <i>Neutral</i> , House of Bricks Gallery, Melbourne. |
| | <i>Shwoosh</i> , No Vacancy Gallery QV, Melbourne. | <i>Spot the difference</i> , Solo Show, BSG, Melbourne. |
| | <i>Makan</i> , Solo Show, Instinc Gallery, Singapore. | <i>Here, there, everywhere</i> , TUSK Gallery, Melbourne. |
| | Affordable Art Fair Singapore, Shah Gallery, Singapore. | <i>Spot the difference</i> , Solo Show, Gaffa Gallery, Sydney. |
| | <i>Draw the line</i> , Solo Show, Instinc Gallery, Melbourne. | <i>Terrigal Plein Air 2012</i> , Gosford Regional Gallery, Gosford. |
| | <i>Artronica</i> , Solo Show, Lane's End Projects, Melbourne. | 2012 <i>Odd One Out</i> , Solo Show, BSG, Melbourne. |
| | Poh Chang International Art Workshop, Bangkok. | <i>Urban Art</i> , BSG, Melbourne. |
| 2015 | <i>Repeat</i> , Group Show, Artshole, Melbourne. | <i>Strange, Stranger, Strangest</i> , ATVP, Sydney. |
| | <i>Technorganic</i> , Colaborative Show curated by Eddie Botha, House of Bricks, Melbourne. | <i>Solstice</i> , Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sydney. |
| | <i>Re-mortilization</i> , Solo Show, Off the Kerb Gallery, Melbourne. | Platform 72's Opening Exhibition, Sydney International Art Fair, London. |
| | <i>Nocturnal</i> , Performance Art, Dandenong Harmony | 2011 Affordable Art Fair Hampstead, London. |
| | | <i>Teasing the taught</i> , Solo Show, Arhive Gallery, Newcastle. Reading Artfair, London. |

AWARDS/COLLECTIONS

- 2019 Mokpo Ink biennale residency and solo exhibition
2018 Art Series Hotel Group
2017 Beijing National Gallery
2016 Bangladesh National Gallery
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

- 2021 Fawkner bowls club community mural featuring about 500 local community members.
- 2021 Captain Covid zine for Moreland council
- 2021 Pascoe vale South primary school final year art project 'puzzle pieces' which included involvement of 200 students
- 2020 Kids Art museum in Seoul South Korea, 2020
- 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