

Christopher Zanko.

b. 1992, Wollongong, Australia

Lives and works in Wollongong, Australia

'Zanko creates permanence through the action of carving and simultaneously gives these homes and memories an enduring place to survive.'

Christopher Zanko is an artist based in the Illawarra/Dharawal region of the New South Wales south coast. Pulling from the architecture, culture, and history of his hometown, Zanko transforms his suburban environments through his unique ways of seeing, bringing to life his lived experience in the everyday.



Heavily influenced by the process and aesthetics of Japanese woodblock carving, Zanko seeks to distinguish the individualism of the red brick and prefab suburbia. The elements that make a house a home – tyre swans, water features, specialty terrazzo porches, are carefully noticed in his subject matter. Through hours of meditative carving, deeply considering forms and colour palettes, Zanko creates a sense of permanence to his quiet subject matter, fixing them to this sense of place unique to him. By directing his gaze at the communities down the coast to Wollongong, the outer suburbs and regional cities of Australia, Zanko acknowledges quiet histories and of memories formed through action and objects, now preserved in his artworks.

Finalist of the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship prize, Sulman and Wynne Prize, and Kings School Art Prize, Zanko's work can also be found several significant collections including: The White Rabbit Collection, Macquarie Group, Museums of History New South Wales, Wollongong Art Gallery and University of Wollongong collections.

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EDUCATION

2015 BCA University of Wollongong

2012 Diploma of Fine Art, West Wollongong TAFE

AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

2025 Still Art Award, Yarilla Art Museum, Coffs Harbour (finalist)

2024 Gang Gang Residency, Yuin Country (Cuttagee NSW)

Fishers Ghost, Campbeltown Art Centre, Campbeltown NSW (finalist)

Wynne Prize, AGNSW Sydney, NSW (finalist)

Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney NSW (finalist)

Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Caloundra QLD (finalist)

Waverley Art Prize, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney NSW (Highly Commended)

The Blake Prize, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Casula, NSW (finalist)

2023 Create NSW, Visual Arts Commissioning Grant recipient

Kings School Art Prize (finalist)

The Bank Residency, Port Kembla

2022 Salon De Refusés, S.H Ervin Gallery Sydney, NSW (Wynne finalist)

Sulman Prize, AGNSW Sydney, NSW (finalist)

Hazelhurst Works on Paper Prize, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie (finalist)

2021 Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Caloundra QLD (finalist)

Artist in Residency, Trinity Grammar School, Sydney

2020 Brett Whiteley Travelling Scholarship, Brett Whiteley Studio, Sydney NSW (finalist)

Farmer & The Owl 'Family Values' Album art

2019 Wynne Prize, AGNSW Sydney, NSW (finalist)

Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Gallery, Gosford NSW (finalist)

Still: National Still Life Award, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery NSW (finalist)

Yours And Owls Festival, Main Stage Design, Wollongong

2017 Art Box Project, Shibuya, Tokyo

2016 Gosford Art Prize, Gosford Regional Gallery, Gosford NSW (finalist)

2015 Lloyd Rees Memorial Art Prize, Lane Cove (finalist)

COMMISSIONS

2021 Rose Seidler House 70th Anniversary Commission, Museums of History New South Wales

COLLECTIONS

White Rabbit Collection

Macquarie Group

Museums of History New South Wales (formerly Sydney Living Museums)

Wollongong Art Gallery

University of Wollongong

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 THE TRAPS, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

2025 Navigating Necessities, Hugo Michell Gallery, Adelaide, South Australia

2024 Kakurega, Laid Bug, Tokyo, Japan

Daily Dilemmas, Edwina Corlette, Brisbane

2023 Wandering Where, Sydney Contemporary, Carriage Works, Sydney

Downshifter, Egg and Dart Gallery, Wollongong

2022 Measured Moments, Laid Bug, Tokyo, Japan

Lost Between, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane

2021 Sweet Misgivings, Egg and Dart Gallery, Thirroul

2020 Heretofore, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane

2019 Stranger Avenue, Egg and Dart Gallery, Thirroul

A Different Road Home, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane

2017 Umbra, Egg & Dart, Thirroul

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Art Fair Tokyo, N.Smith Gallery booth, Tokyo, Japan
Art Central Hong Kong, N.Smith Gallery booth, Hong Kong
- 2025 Art Fair Tokyo, N.Smith Gallery booth, Tokyo, Japan
In Suburbia: Recent Detours, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Melbourne Art Fair, N.Smith Gallery booth, Sydney
Summer '25, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Yesterday, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Salon de Refusè, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney
Sydney Contemporary, N.Smith Gallery booth, Carriageworks, Sydney
- 2024 Fireworks, China Heights, Sydney
- 2023 Lateral Landscapes, Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie
Spring 1883, Hotel Windsor, Melbourne
Vision Splendid, Hazelhurst Art Centre, Gympie
- 2022 Resistance, Beams, Harajuku, Japan
Substratum, Woollahra Gallery at Readleaf, Sydney
- 2021 Collected: Sydney Living Museums Acquisitions, Sydney Museum, Sydney
Incognito (Studio A), Verona Studio, Sydney
93 Bourke & Friends, Ninety Three Bourke ARI, Sydney
Slippin Matters, Tsutaya Books, Tokyo, Japan
- 2020 One Off, Canteen ARI, Sydney
Sydney Contemporary Online, Sydney
Holding Pattern, Egg & Dart, Thirroul
The Home, Hazelhurst Art Centre, Gympie
- 2019 A Place to Call Home, Wollongong Regional Art Gallery, Wollongong
The New Gallery Show, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
Grown Ocean, School of Arts, Clifton
Scorcher, Egg and Dart, Thirroul
- 2018 Life in Working Art, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie
On the Aussie Telly, Ambush Art Gallery, Sydney
Here + Now, Wollongong Regional Art Gallery, Wollongong
The Platform 10, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
The Castle, Egg and Dart Thirroul
- 2017 Surf Cassette, Gladstone St Warehouse, Newtown, Sydney
Home Wrecker, ASW, Newcastle
- 2016 On Excursion, Casula Powerhouse, Casula
Vital Signs, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie
Locals Lonely, Egg and Dart, Thirroul

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Qantas Travel Insider Magazine, 'Creative Process', December Issue, 2023.
Art Collector Magazine, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair Edition, 2023.
ABC Art Works, 'Episode 10', ABC, 2022.
The Sydney Living Museums Gazette, 'Unlocked', Autumn Edition 70 Years of Rose Seidler House, 2021.
Artist Profile Magazine, Issue 57, 2021.