

CHRISTINE JOHNSON

christinejohnsonartist.com

Education and other studies

1977 - 79	Diploma of Fine Art Monash University
1980	Graduate Diploma of Fine Art RMIT
1981	Diploma of Education Melbourne State College
2009	Certificate of Small Business NMIT
2013-14	Creative Fellowship, State Library of Victoria

Brief biography:

Christine Johnson was born in Melbourne in 1959. Since her first solo exhibition of paintings in Melbourne in 1989, Christine has had numerous exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth. She currently combines an interest in historical narratives and native flora, exploring ideas through painting, drawing and printmaking and adapting these traditional forms into public art, sound and installation works. She works at her home studio in Melbourne.

Her artworks are held in the public collections of the National Gallery of Victoria, State Library of Victoria, National Library of Australia, Monash University Collection, University of Queensland, Artbank and Victorian regional art galleries including Mildura, Benalla and Hamilton. Some of Christine's paintings can also be seen in Melbourne at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Park Hyatt Hotel and Crown Promenade Hotel.

This year Christine's work features in the *Print Portfolio for Melbourne Now* at the National Gallery of Victoria. Other exhibitions include *Field* at Workspace 3496 in Red Cliffs, Victoria, *Species at Risk*, at The Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney, the *Gallipoli Prize* in Sydney and a solo exhibition dedicated to the legacy of Mallee botanist, Eileen Ramsay, to be launched at Workspace 3496 in September, 2023.

In 2022 Christine worked with Hassell Studio architects creating perforated metal artworks for a public laneway development. The imagery for the artworks is based on native medicinal plants and nature's DNA coding. The artworks celebrate the botanical legacy of Eileen Ramsay and is due to be under construction later this year.

In 2021 Christine was awarded a Print Council of Australia commission with her print, *Saltbush*. Also exhibiting in 2021 at Mildura Arts Centre in *The Mallee On The Map* and *Soundscape and Landscape*, a poetic multi-media installation in the old ballroom at Rio Vista House.

In 2019, Christine was commissioned by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University to create *Five Soldiers*, a remembrance project dedicated to five former students of the College of Pharmacy who tragically lost their lives in World War One. The project was awarded the Grand Gold Award at the CASE awards in Washington in 2020. Her print from the series, *For Frank Cahir* was selected for the 2021 Geelong Acquisitive Print Prize Exhibition.

Prior to this Christine was awarded a Creative Fellow by the State Library of Victoria and undertook research on early Australian botanical art. The result of this extensive research is the touring exhibition, *Voyages Botanical*. It includes 30 solar-plate engravings and related drawings and paintings. The exhibition was launched in December 2014 at the Alliance Française, Melbourne and concluded at Albury Regional Gallery in January 2019. During this time Christine presented talks about her work at Mueller Hall - National Herbarium of Victoria, Melbourne University, the Alexandra Club, Wangaratta Art Gallery, Bribie Island Museum and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and taught Cyanotype workshops at Bribie Island, Wangaratta, Mildura Arts Centre and at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne.

Selected solo exhibitions:

2023	<i>Field: Ephemera</i> , Workspace 3496, Red Cliffs, Victoria
2021	<i>Soundscape and Landscape</i> , Mildura Arts Centre, Victoria
2018	<i>Firmament</i> , Fox Galleries, Collingwood, Melbourne
2017	<i>Inland</i> , The Art Vault, Mildura, Victoria
2014 -19	<i>Voyages Botanical</i> Touring Exhibition
2017	<i>Florae</i> , Fox Galleries, Collingwood, Melbourne
2016	<i>Inland</i> , Port Jackson Press
2011	<i>Indigene</i> , Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne <i>The Botany of Beauty</i> , Greenhill Galleries, Perth
2010	<i>Halation</i> , BMG, Adelaide <i>Afterglow</i> , Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney
2009	<i>Hothouse</i> , Australian Galleries, Melbourne
2008	<i>Arabesque</i> , Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
2006	<i>Other Echoes</i> , Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney
2005	<i>Sub Rosa</i> , Australian Galleries, Melbourne
2004	<i>Spira Mirabilis</i> , Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney

Selected Group exhibitions:

2022	Baldessin Studio, The Legacy, Australian Galleries, Melbourne
2021	<i>The Mallee on The Map</i> , Mildura Arts Centre
2019-2020	<i>Return; The Way Back Home</i> , Matheson Library, Monash University
2019	<i>Baldessin Studio – The Story</i> , Montsalvat, Victoria <i>Layers of Settlement</i> , The Art Vault, Mildura, Victoria
2015	<i>Arkley (and friends...)</i> Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Victoria
2014	<i>Mirror of the World</i> , State Library of Victoria

Public Collections:

National Gallery of Victoria
State Library of Victoria
National Library of Australia
Monash University, Clayton, Victoria
Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University, Parkville
University of Queensland

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne
Artbank
Mildura Arts Centre, Benalla Art Gallery, Hamilton Art Gallery
Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne
Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne

Curatorship:

2019 Christine was the curator of *Baldessin Studio – The Story* at Montsalvat
2014-2019 Christine worked with curators at regional galleries to create the tour of *Voyages Botanical*
1988 Christine was the curator and tour co-ordinator of *Artists Make Books*, funded by the Australia Council

Printmaking:

Five Soldiers, A box set of 10 solar-plate engravings, 2019
Inland, series of cyanotypes created at The Art Vault in 2015
Voyages Botanical, A box set of 30 solar-plate engravings
Two editions of multi-plate, burnished aquatint etchings commissioned by Port Jackson Press in 2004

Tapestry:

The Victorian Tapestry Workshop commissioned several tapestries including a large tapestry based on Christine's painting *Mutabilis* which toured internationally and featured in *The Art of Collaboration* (VTW 2008)

Books:

[Ephemera](#) 2023, published by the artist
[Five Soldiers, Untold Stories of World War I](#) 2019, a collaboration with writer, Michael Shmith
[Voyages Botanical](#) 2014, published by the artist

Radio and Film:

In 2019 Christine participated in the production of a documentary film about the development of her work for the Five Soldiers project
<https://www.christinejohnsonartist.com/news.html>

In 2011 Christine created a concept for radio, [Tiny Blooms](#), produced for ABC RN Hindsight by Gretchen Miller and broadcast in March 2012

Reference: *Australian Painting Now* (Craftsman House ISBN 90 5703 252 X)