

Chris Packer



No denying the Concrete Imaginary

2-11 April 2015

Opening Wednesday 1 April, 6–8pm

Factory 49



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showroom hours: 1–6pm Thurs–Sat



No denying the Concrete Imaginary

Playing with notions of concretizing the imaginary of the picture plane

Just as the actor believes in the character, an artist must hold to the illusion. How you do that when you have to write explanatory notes is completely beyond me. But who am I to say never?

Of course, 'Concrete Imaginary' is an oxymoron – there are physical means, such as canvas, paint and tape (and concrete), and there is the evocation their particular arrangements produce in the imagination. The imaginary can only be mental.

It's also a bit redundant to "concretize" pictorial space, since it is embedded already in the finite material surface of the painting (or the sculpture, or whatever). And what does it look like, anyway? Surely the Imaginary on its own is too nebulous.

But this is all according to the world of realities. In the world of illusions you do whatever you can get away with. In the movies you can have real mermaid princesses, real aliens and real fictional John Malkoviches. You can even point straight at the deceit, state what you are doing, and the illusion will still hold. Art is good like that.

So when the idea of a Concrete Imaginary popped into my head, I thought, why not give it a go? It's only impossible.

— Chris Packer, 1 April 2015





Chris Packer

Education	2011	BFA, National Art School, Sydney
Solo shows	2015	MOST15, Chris Packer Showroom, Lewisham
	2014	<i>Cannibals</i> , Conductors Project, Sydney <i>Red Tape Amnesty</i> , Factory 49, Marrickville <i>Gotta zip</i> , Articulate Upstairs, Leichhardt
Group shows	2013	<i>The Planes</i> , Office Project Space, Factory 49, Marrickville
	2014	<i>Annual Group Show</i> , Factory 49, Marrickville <i>The Edge</i> , Annandale Galleries
	2013	<i>Playing beyond the skin</i> , GalleryEight, Millers Pt <i>Annual group show</i> , Factory 49, Marrickville <i>Surely you gesture</i> , Salerno Gallery, Glebe
	2008	Marrickville Sketch Group, Addison Road Gallery
	2007	Friend in Hand Sketch Group, Gallery110, Petersham
Commissions	2014	Wall sculpture, private residence, Bellevue Hill Wall installation (wip), Masseria Trapani, Puglia, Italy
Collections		Sydney, Bowral, Christchurch, Fribourg, London, Lecce

"I regard my work as concrete art, employing the grammar of abstraction and the language of materials. I like to explore the interactions and ambiguities of various dichotomies: absent-present, permanent-ephemeral, deep-superficial, reified-signified, revealed-concealed, independent-connected and so forth. These tend to manifest in terms of psychology, sometimes quite literally, and I like to think of the resulting works as visual fictions that chime with lived experience."

chrispacker.com