

## Personal details

Michael Fikaris (b. 1976 Australia)

## Education

RMIT Bachelor of Business Degree, 2002

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 "Where Ends Meet" Carlisle Street Arts Space, St Kilda
- 2024 "Where End Meet" Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood
- 2024 "Checking In" Bries Space, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 "Check Points" City Library Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2022 "Out There" Tinta nos Nervos Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2021 "Stress Tests" Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood
- 2019 "Do Beta" Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood, Australia
- 2018 "Here nor There" Krack! Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2017 "Hold On" Rubicon Gallery, North Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 "Instruction Manual" Fort Delta, Melbourne

## Select Group Exhibitions

- 2024 "Australian Comics Exhibition" Australian Consulate-General, Chengdu, China
- 2023 "Valium Forever!" La Friche Centre d'art, Marseille, France
- 2022 "Critical Limit: An Urgent Call for Collective Climate Action" Climarte Gallery, Richmond
- 2019 "Bushfire Brandalism: unsanctioned climate action art show in bus shelters" Australia
- 2017 "Resistance is Futile" Krack Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2016 "Altered States" w/ Nelio, Atelier Garage, Lyon, France
- 2016 "Inner Meeting Point" w/ Patrick Rieve, Richas Digest, Cologne, Germany
- 2015 "Where Do I Belong?" w/ Refugee Art Project, City Library, Melbourne
- 2014 "Zeen" Curated projects, Sydney University Gallery
- 2013 "Heat" Backwoods Gallery, Collingwood, Melbourne
- 2011 "Inherent Vice" National Gallery of Victoria- NGV Studio Residency, Federation Square

## Artist Residencies

- 2024 Artist in Residence, Futures of Comics studio, Athens, Greece
- 2023 Artist in Residence, Testing Grounds, Melbourne, Australia
- 2022 Artist in Residence, Maquina Total print studio, Barcelona, Spain
- 2021 Visiting Fellow, Institute of Post Colonial Studies, North Melbourne
- 2018 Artist in Residence, Krack! Studio printmaking, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2017 Library Research Residency, Bedeteca de Lisboa, Olivais, Portugal
- 2017 Artist in Residence, Polyglot and Yorta Yorta collaborations, Shepparton
- 2016 Artist in Residence, Neues Kunst Forum, Cologne, Germany
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Melbourne City Libraries, North Melbourne
- 2014 Artist in Residence, Survive Garage, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2014 Artist in Residence, Painting department, Melbourne Grammar School
- 2013 Artist in Residence, Animatism art and Uni of Melb art collaborations, East Timor
- 2012 Artist in Residence with Nicola Gunn and Sans Hotel, Arts Centre Melbourne
- 2011 Artist in Residence as Silent Army, Inherent Vice, NGV Studio, Melbourne

## Grants

- 2024 Power Melbourne Grant, City of Melbourne
- 2023 Community Arts Grant, Yarra City Council
- 2022 Author Travel Fund, Australia Council for the Arts
- 2021 Thrive Community Arts Grant, Merri-bek Council
- 2020 New Project Arts Grant, City of Melbourne
- 2019 Author Travel Fund, Australia Council for the Arts
- 2018 New Works Grant, Australia Council for the Arts
- 2017 Development grant, Australia council for the arts
- 2016 Smart arts grant, City of Melbourne

## Collections

National Gallery of Victoria, Australian prints and drawings.  
National Gallery of Australia, Book arts collection.  
National Library of Victoria, Rare books collection.

### **Select commissions**

- 2025 "Read. Think. Share." mural, City of Port Phillip
- 2024 'Small Press Obsessed' mural, Encrages Festival, France
- 2024 'The Rhythm' mural, Delacombe Town Centre, Ballarat
- 2023 'The Readers' mural, Urban Canvas Festival, St Kilda
- 2022 'Truth is Essential' mural, Yarra City Arts, Richmond
- 2021 'Mon Avis' set of murals, Rydges Hotels, Melbourne
- 2021 'Keep Growing' mural, City of Yarra, North Carlton
- 2020 Metro Tunnel printed hoarding, Anzac station

### **Teaching and professional appointments**

Sessional lecturer, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. 2017- present.  
Touring comic book artist, Polyglot theatre, 2014 – 2016

### **Bibliography**

- 2025 Interview, Smart Arts, Triple R 102.7FM Radio
- 2024 Presentation, New York Comics and Picture-story Symposium
- 2023 Interview feature, The Readings podcast, The Comics Question
- 2020 Interview feature, Kus! KomiKs website, Latvia, EU
- 2019 Presentation, Fantagraphics books, Seattle, US
- 2017 Interview article, Amadora BD international festival program, Portugal
- 2016 Interview feature, Melbourne Street Art Guide, Thames & Hudson, Australia
- 2015 Interview article, Jogja Tribuna Arts & Culture, Indonesia
- 2014 Interview article, Connecting Australia and East Timor via Art, Neos Kosmos, AU
- 2011 Interview article, Graphic Art Guru, The Age Newspaper, Melbourne

### **Awards and prizes**

- 2022 Winston Churchill Trust Fellowship (finalist) Australia
- 2020 Eisner Awards (finalist) Best Anthology at San Diego Comic Con, US
- 2017 Platinum Award for Contribution to Comic Arts & Community in Australia, Ledger Awards
- 2014 Peoples choice award, Animatism mural, Gertrude street Projection Festival, Australia

### **Texts**

"Melbourne, scenius and avante garde comics" Folio comics essays, Australia, 2025  
"Is there such a thing as Australian comics?" Journal of graphic novels and comics, Vol.12, No.1, UK, 2021

### **Select curatorial projects**

- 2025 "Opposights: Alternative Comic Art Scenes from Australia and Indonesia"
- 2022 "Silent Army Reading Room: small press archive viewings" Melbourne
- 2021 "Head, Heart, Spirit, Hands: free local poster publication" Melbourne
- 2021 "Opposights: Alternative Comic Art Scenes from Australia and Portugal"
- 2020 "Silent Army Archive: small press comics between the years 1983-2020"
- 2019 "Down Down Under" printed anthology, International
- 2018 "Planet Liar: three new Indonesian artist books" Melbourne

### **Select published books**

- 2024 "Human Work" Backwoods Gallery, Melbourne AU
- 2023 "Check Points" Glom Press, Melbourne, AU
- 2023 "SRY not Sorry" kuš! #113, Latvia, EU
- 2022 "Transmute" Fatbottom Books, Barcelona, EU
- 2022 "The Weight" Reprobate/GobQ, Portland, US
- 2021 "Stress Tests" Strane Dizioni, Italy, EU