

**CHRIS O'DOHERTY**  
**(also known as Reg Mombassa)**

Born 14 August, 1951, Auckland, NZ  
1969-1970 Attended National Art School, Sydney  
Designer for Mambo Graphics  
Since 1976 guitarist 'Mental as Anything' Group  
1991 member 'Reg & Pete's Dog Trumpet' Group

**Exhibitions**

- 1975 Ocker Funk, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1976-77 Ocker Funk, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery and eight other regional galleries
- 1982 Mental as Anything - group exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1985 Thirteen Sydney Painters, C.A.S. Gallery, Adelaide  
Minds on Masonite, 13 Sydney Painters, CAS Gallery, Adelaide
- 1986 Exhibition of Paintings, Drawings and False Postcards,  
solo exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Paintings and Sculpture (with Suzie Marston, Robert Jenyns & Frank Littler), Watters Gallery, Sydney  
The Challenge of the Landscape, New England Regional Art Museum
- 1987 Exhibition of Selected Works, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1988 Max Watters' Collection, Muswellbrook Art Gallery, New South Wales  
Summer Exhibition No.4, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1989 Portrait of a Gallery, Watters 25th anniversary exhibition, touring 8 regional centres until 1991  
Paintings from Stock, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Summer Exhibition No.5, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1990 Paint Your Bandwagon, EMR Galleries, Sydney  
Mambo Group Show, Ray Hughes Gallery, Sydney  
40 Artists – 40 Works, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Mental as Anything Touring Show, Tamworth, Lismore, Campbelltown, Manly - New South Wales and Westpac Gallery Melbourne  
Summer Exhibition No.6, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1991 Relatively New Pictures (Ultra-violet History Paintings, Drawings, Laser-Assisted Retinal Impressions, Miniatures, Infra-Red Holiday Paintings, Black and Whites, Upside-Downs, Insect Visions etc.) solo show, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Green Art: contemporary Australian images of the bush, selected by Robin Williams, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1992 Max Watters' Collection, Muswellbrook Town Hall and Art Gallery, New South Wales  
Third Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1993 Death, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
On the Other Hand, S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney  
Sight Regained: Fred Hollows Project, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
Colour-engraved plastic tablets, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Mambo Surrealist - adjunct to the Surrealist Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Arts Extraordinaire, Bondi Pavillion, ABC Ultimo Centre, Powerhouse Museum & State Library of NSW  
The Emperor's New Clothes: Mambo Group Exhibition, Ray Hughes Gallery  
Summer Exhibition No.8, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1995 Vehicle Paleontology, Bible Pictures and Scenic Views, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Full of ... CONTENT, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1996 Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney

- 1997 6<sup>th</sup> International Works on Paper Fair, State Library of New South Wales  
Paintings and Works on Paper by Frank Littler, Bridgid McLean & Chris O'Doherty/Reg Mombassa,  
Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Packsaddle Fundraiser, New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale  
Kevin (The Head) Brennan – Retrospective, Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Sydney  
Dugongs of Hinchinbrook, The Palm House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney  
Artists for Tranby, Sherman Galleries Hargrave, Sydney  
Mentals 3, Manly Museum & Art Gallery, New South Wales  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 Psychedelic Realism, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 1999 Mentals III, Wollongong City Gallery  
Gerry Wedd & Mambo: Frances Burke inspired ceramics by Mambo Artists, University of South Australia Art  
Museum  
Small Landscape Paintings, 7 – 24 July, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Summer Exhibition, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 Prints and Works on Paper, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 2001 Over the Back Fence, Bowen Galleries, Wellington, New Zealand  
Tubular Cels, Silicon Pulp Animation Gallery, Sydney  
Apocryphalactic Realism, Paintings and Drawings, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 2002 Four New Tapestries: Victoria Tapestry Workshop, Melbourne
- 2003 Isle of Refuge, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney  
Millennialism – recent paintings, drawings and prints, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 Recent Developments in Anti-Social Realism, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Open Bite – selected images from the Cicada Press, COFA Exhibition space, University of New South Wales, Sydney  
Sulman Art Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Salon des Refuses, S H Ervin, Sydney  
Dobell Drawing Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2006 Recent Paintings & Drawings, Bowen Galleries, Wellington, New Zealand  
Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, 2-6 August  
Postcards from the Desert, with J.Braithwaite, N. Frazer, E. Macleod A. Richards & L.Robba, Damien Minton Gallery,  
Sydney
- 2007 The Art of Chris O'Doherty aka Reg Mombassa, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill, Sydney 6 Jan – 25 Feb 20-078; travelling to  
Mornington Peninsular Gallery, Victoria  
miscegenetic realism, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Devils in Paradise – nine artists on the trail in Tasmania, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, 12 Sept – 29 Sept  
Reg Mombassa and Euan Macleod, SoMA Galleries, Adelaide, 28 Sept – 21 Oct  
The Led Zeppelin World Tour Exhibition, artists' responses to Led Zeppelin, Lismore Regional Gallery, Starts 4 April, 2007
- 2008 The Coloured Digger 2, Damien Minton Gallery, Sydney, 28 April – 10 May  
On the Heysen Trail – Nine Artists, eight days in the Landscape, S H Ervin Gallery, Sydney, 15 Nov – 21 Dec
- 2009 Trunks, trees, potatoes and birds, bottles fire and roads, faces houses and boats, Watters Gallery, Sydney  
Born to be Wild – The Motorcycle in Australia, Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewers Bequest, 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 4th April
- 2010 Art Month Sydney, Watters Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 Personal Space – contemporary Chinese and Australian Prints, Manly Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 15 pictures in Enfant Terribles exhibition at the Lyon Biennale, France
- 2012 Melbourne art fair
- 2012 Solo show at Lolli Redeni Orange NSW
- 2013 Solo Bowen Gallery Wellington
- 2013 Solo show at Watters Gallery, Hallucinatory Anthropomorphism
- 2014 Dual show with Peter O'Doherty at Yard Dog Gallery, Austin, Texas, USA
- 2014 Group show at Waiheke Regional Gallery, Waiheke Island, New Zealand
- 2015 Solo show 41 Downstairs Melbourne Experiments in Hallucinatory Anthropomorphism
- 2015 Solo show Watters Gallery, Further Experiments in Hallucinatory Anthropomorphism
- 2015 Mambo group art show “Art irritates Life” Ian Potter Gallery, National Gallery of Victoria,
- 2016 Mambo group show opens at Ambush Gallery Sydney and then Newcastle Regional Gallery
- 2016 Landscape Book ‘the Landscapes of Reg Mombassa: Antipodean Scenery Views from the eyes of a car’ Launch and art  
show Watters Gallery Darlinghurst  
Bowen Gallery Wellington New Zealand and Whitespace Gallery Auckland New Zealand.
- 2016 Mildura Print show, solo show of etchings and lithographs

- 2017 Solo show, Watters Gallery, Simplisticism  
 2018 Octennial: Reg Mombassa and Peter O'Doherty Manly Art Gallery and Museum 7<sup>th</sup> Sept-14<sup>th</sup> Oct. December solo show at Bowen Gallery, Wellington NZ  
 2019 In group show Brera Milan Italy at Annamaria Consadori Gallery. First solo show after the closure of Watters Gallery At RoguePopUp Gallery in Newtown, NSW. [www.roguepopup.com.au](http://www.roguepopup.com.au)

## Collections

National Gallery of Australia  
 Art Gallery of New South Wales  
 Allens Arthur Robinson  
 Powerhouse Museum  
 University of Sydney Union  
 BMG  
 University of New South Wales  
 NRMA  
 Manning Regional Art Gallery

## Bibliography

- Allen, Christopher:** Sydney Morning Herald, 20/4/91  
**Casimir, Jon:** '50% Mambo and the paint isn't even dry', Sydney Morning Herald, 28/9/95  
**de Brito, Kate:** 'Humour: 'Farm machinery makes me laugh'', Telegraph Mirror, 30/9/95  
**Drury, Nevill:** Images 2, Craftsman House, 1994  
**Elle Magazine:** April, 1996  
**McDonald, Patrick:** 'It's a mad, mad world', The Advertiser Review, - visual art p.4-6 (with cover image) 2 July 2005  
**Fortescue, Elizabeth:** 'On another planet, not far from Uranus' Daily Telegraph, 14 Nov 2003, p94  
**Jinman, Richard:** The Australian, 15/10/96  
**Lacy, Stephen:** The Weekend Australian Magazine, 'Fibro Dreaming' p32, 25 – 26 June 2005  
**Lynn, Elwyn:** The Australian, 11-12/1/92  
**Sunday Mail – Adelaide:** 'Reg's art popular as anything', July 26, 2005 p.119  
**Mendelssohn, Joanna:** 'Sydney Art', The Australian, 6/10/95  
**Mombassa, Reg:** 'Photo essay concerning the year's events - both global and local', Rolling Stone, Issue 465, 1991  
**Mombassa, Reg:** Reg Mombassa Calendar, Transworld Publishers, 1994  
**Mombassa, Reg:** Reg Mombassa Calendar, Transworld Publishers, 1995  
**Mombassa, Reg:** The Mambo Book of Wisdom, 1995  
**Mombassa, Reg:** Reg Mombassa Calendar, Transworld Publishers, 1996  
**Murray-Cree, Laura:** Awesome! Australian Art for Contemporary Kids, Craftman House  
**Rolling Stone Magazine:** Yearbook 1991  
**Picker, Brooke:** Culture Magazine, 15/1/91  
**Waldren, Murray:** The Mind and Times of Reg Mombassa, Harper Collins, 2009  
**Watters Gallery:** Portrait of a Gallery, Watters Gallery, 1989

## Reproductions

Examples of Chris O'Doherty/Reg Mombassa's work have appeared in over 70 publications such as Rolling Stone, HQ, Art & Text, Juice, The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, The Melbourne Age, The Telegraph, Tracks, I-D, Revelation and the Face. He has also had some short stories and poems published in Ram and Stiletto.

His artwork has been used on the covers of many books.

He is included in an anthology of record and CD art from around the world. The book is called 'Musicgraphics' published by PIE books,

Tokyo, Japan, 1991.

Record covers for: Mental as Anything, Mondo Rock, The Stetsons, Bellydance, Floyd Vincent and the Childbrides, Dog Trumpet, Mary-Jo Starr, PIL, Crowded House.

Chris O'Doherty was also one of the official artists invited to produce artwork for the Olympic Games held in Sydney, 2000, producing such things as the Olympic athletes official shirts.

In 2002 the Victorian Tapestry Workshop commissioned Chris, to produce an artwork which was woven into a 1.8 x 2.92m tapestry. The work is titled *Bush Suburbs*.