



CHRIS SOAL

PORTFOLIO

Piero **Atchugarry**
GALLERY



Chris Soal (b. 1994) is an award-winning, emerging South African artist.

Soal's studio-based practice is sculptural in its output, working with objects and materials in ways which show not only a conceptual engagement with the contexts and histories of the objects, but that also re-enforce the body as a site for knowledge reception and production.

Soal's works seek to make a poetic statement through the simplest of means, engaging the viewer's spatial awareness and perception while challenging societal assumptions of value.

Through his use of discarded and mundane ephemera, such as toothpicks and bottle caps, along with concrete, rebar, electric fencing cable and other industrial materials, Soal's work intuitively develops the familiar to the point of the uncanny. Soal's works can be considered as a social abstraction that is deeply rooted and reflective of having grown up in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Specifically, the artist's work with beer bottle caps explore the legacy of gold mining in the city, with the illusory concavities and convexities of his spiralled wall pieces becoming suggestive of the appearance and disappearance of mine dumps and sinkholes. Foregrounding pressing ecological concerns, the artist's works with toothpicks primarily consider and seek to expose the paradoxical relationship humankind has with nature, that of simultaneous dependence and domination.

Adriane's Thread

2022

Discarded Beer Bottle Caps threaded onto Electric Fencing
Cable, held in Polyurethane Sealant on Board

128 x 97 x 5 cm









Advent

2022

Bamboo and birch wood toothpics, held in
polyurethane sealant on board

152 x 129 x 23 cm





Nimbus

Discarded Beer Bottle Caps threaded onto Electric Fencing Cable,
held in Polyurethane Sealant on Board
290 x 152 x 8 cm







Hideout

Bamboo and birch wood toothpicks, held in polyurethane sealant on board

170 x 130 x 28 cm



Panorama

2022

Discarded Beer Bottle Caps threaded onto Electric
Fencing Cable, held in Polyurethane Sealant on Board

154 x 152 x 5 cm



Selected Individual Exhibitions

- 2022 Remains to be seen, Eduardo Secci Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2022 Solo presentation at Art Brussels, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Elegy, Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg
- 2021 Sleight and Substance, Montoro 12, Brussels
- 2021 As below so above, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
- 2019 Field of Vision, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
- 2019 Solo Presentation at TOMORROWS/TODAY, Curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town
- 2018 Orbits of Relating, No End Contemporary Art Space, Johannesburg

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Earth Power!, Montoro 12, Brussels, Belgium
- 2022 The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize Finalists Exhibition, Norval Foundation, Cape Town
- 2021 In Times Like These...and Other Stories, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town
- 2021 Witness, curated by Natasha Becker, Piero Atchugarry Gallery, Miami
- 2021 40 under 40, curated by Igsaan Martin, Twee Jonge Gezellen Wine Estate, Krone x WHATIFTHEWORLD, Tulbagh
- 2021 Margins of Error, Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg
- 2020 Matereality, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town
- 2019 Process, BKhz, Braamfontein
- 2019 Il est une fois à l'Ouest, Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine MÉCA, Bordeaux, France
- 2018 Germination, RAW Material Company, Dakar, Senegal
- 2018 Forward, Curated by Ulrich Wolff and Elizabeth Miller-Vermeulen, Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch
- 2018 Fresh Voices, Guns and Rain Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2017 Washington186 Inaugural Exhibition, Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 NEWWORK19, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg
- 2016 undermine, A Collaborative Group Occupation, Curated by Chris Soal, The Point of Order, Johannesburg
- 2016 Activate/Captivate: Collections Re-engagement, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg

Awards

- 2021 Finalist, Norval Sovereign African Art Prize, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2020 Recipient of The Claire & Edoardo Villa Will Trust Grant.
- 2019 SEED Award, Presented by the Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA) - For career acknowledgment
- 2018 PPC Imaginarium Award, Overall winner, and winner of the Sculpture category

Residencies

- 2022 SAFFCA.EU, La Cambre, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Nirox Foundation Residency, Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg
- 2019 Roma Residenza, hosted by Montoro 12, Rome
- 2018 Fellow of the RAW Academié Session 5, directed by Otobong Nkanga. RAW Material Company. Dakar, Senegal
- 2018 Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art. Co-resident with Minnette Vari. Entabeni Farm, Knysna

Collections

Chris Soal has work in numerous private and public collections, both in South Africa and Internationally. Notable collections include:

- The Bunker Artspace, (The Beth Rudin DeWoody collection), USA.
- The Braunsfelder Family Collection, Germany.
- Galila's P.O.C. - The Collection of Galila Barzilai-Hollander, Belgium.
- The Kelly and Scott Mueller Collection, USA.
- Renee and Robert Drake Collection, Netherlands.
- Scheryn Art Collection, South Africa.
- Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA), South Africa, France, Belgium.
- Modern Art Projects, South Africa.
- First Rand Bank, Corporate Collection, South Africa.
- The Rupert Family Collection, South Africa.
- Kavita Chellaram Art collection, London, Lagos.
- Martin Nielsen Collection, Denmark.
- The Trevor Noah Collection, South Africa & USA.
- LAM Museum, Lisse, Netherlands.
- Arsenal Contemporary, Montreal; Toronto; New York.
- MACAAL Museum, Morocco.
- Francesca Lavazza Collection, Turin, Italy.