

## Chris Soal

Born 1994 in South Africa

Lives and works between Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

Chris Soal (b. 1994, South Africa) is an award-winning, emerging artist living and practicing in Johannesburg. Using unconventional found objects, such as toothpicks and bottle caps, in conjunction with concrete and other industrial materials, Soal negotiates structural impacts on urban living and reflects on ecological concerns, while considering the philosophical and psychological notion of the “self.” Soal’s spatial approach to sculpture reveals a sensitivity to texture, light and form, expressed in an abstract minimalist language. While, conceptually, his works refer to the socio-political context of their making, highlighting the histories embedded in the found material, and utilising them in a way that challenges societal assumptions of value. In 2017, Soal graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Hons) at the University of Witwatersrand. He has received numerous awards, such as the Claire & Edoardo Villa Will Trust Grant (2020), the SEED Award from the South African Foundation for Contemporary Art, (2019) and the PPC Imaginarium Award (2018). He has been awarded residencies by the South African Foundation of Contemporary Art (Knysna, South Africa), by the RAW Material Company (Dakar, Senegal), the Residenza Roma by Montoro12 (Italy), and by the Nirox Foundation (Cradle of Humankind, South Africa). In 2020 he was a recipient of The Claire and Edoardo Villa Will Trust Grant. He has exhibited in group shows at institutions such as the Nirox Sculpture Park (2021), Iziko National Museum (2020), FRAC MECA, Bordeaux (2019), Stellenbosch University Museum (2018), and Wits Art Museum (2017). Most recently his solo exhibition, *As below so above*, was held at Whatiftheworld Gallery in 2021.

## Education

2017

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (Hons), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Solo Exhibitions

2022

*Remains to be seen*, Eduardo Secci Gallery, Milan, Italy.  
Solo presentation at Art Brussels (WHATIFTHEWORLD), Brussels, Belgium.

2021

*Elegy*, Nirox Foundation, Cradle of Humankind, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*Sleight and Substance*, Montoro 12, Brussels, Belgium.  
*As below so above*, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, South Africa.

2019

*Field of Vision*, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, South Africa.  
Solo presentation at Investec Cape Town Art Fair (*Guns & Rain*),  
*TOMORROWS/TODAY*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Cape Town International  
Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.

2018

*Orbits of Relating*, No End Contemporary Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Group Exhibitions

2022

A Quiet New Focu, Villa-Legoadi Centre for Sculpture, Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Seeds of the Fig, Krone & WHATIFTHEWORLD, Tulbagh, South Africa.

2021

In Times Like These...and Other Stories, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, South Africa.

Witness, Piero Atchugarry Gallery, Miami, Florida.

40 under 40, Twee Jonge Gezellen Wine Estate, Krone & WHATIFTHEWORLD, Tulbagh, South Africa.

Margins of Error, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2020

Matereality, Iziko National Museum of South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa.

2019

Process, BKHz, Braamfontein, South Africa.

Il est une fois à l'Ouest, Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine MÉCA, Bordeaux, France.

2018

Germination, RAW Material Company, Dakar, Senegal.

Forward? Forward! Forward..., Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2017

NEWWORK19, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2016

Activate/Captivate: Collections re-engagement, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Awards and Scholarships

2022

SAFFCA.EU, La Cambre, Brussels, Belgium.

2021

Finalist, Norval Sovereign African Art Prize, Cape Town, South Africa.

Nirox Foundation Residency, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, Johannesburg, 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.

Fellow of the RAW Academié Session 5, directed by Otobong Nkanga. RAW Material Company. Dakar, Senegal,

Roma Residenza, Montoro 12, Rome, Italy.

2018

PPC Imaginarium Award, Overall winner, and winner of the Sculpture category, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art. Co-resident with Minnette Vari.

Entabeni Farm, Knysna, South Africa

