

Christiaan CONRADIE

Born in 1984 in South Africa, he lives and works in Mexico.



Five questions about the artist and his work

What is it like to be an South African artist today?

I've been living in Mexico for the last two years, so I feel somewhat disconnected to the idea of living as an artist in South Africa. But I think that South African artists, similarly to Mexican artists, are able to draw on a very rich culture, and are exposed to a lot of diversity within that culture. All these factors contribute to the way that the artist sees himself and the work that he creates.

How would you define your work in five words?

Honest, brave, considered, spontaneous and impactful.

What is the best tool to create a work of art? Why?

There is no best tool, it depends on what it is you're trying to achieve.

What message do you wish to convey through your art?

I don't try to convey any one easily definable thing. I want people to engage with a piece of art that is honest, and that demands you to consider it. I guess my 'message' would be one of someone striving for excellence without contrivance.

How must a gallery be today in order to represent your work?

I think the personal relationship between the gallery and the artist is really important. I think the artist needs to understand the position of the gallery, as a business and the gallery needs to treat the artist in a way where he feels as though there is a common objective that both parties are striving towards, together.

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