

CHARLES AVERY

In 2004, Charles Avery embarked on what will be a lifelong project titled *The Islanders*: a painstakingly detailed immersive investigation of the fabric and possibilities of another place. Through drawings, texts and objects Avery describes the inhabitants, architecture, philosophies, customs and idiosyncrasies of this imagined territory.

With accents of the Scottish Hebrides and East London, the Island is situated at the centre of an archipelago of 'innumerable constituents'. Its capital is the port city of Onomatopoeia: originally a stepping off point for pioneers and travellers, turned bustling boomtown, turned citadel, turned depression ravaged slum, turned regenerated city of culture. It has many eras, and sculptural objects and printed matter from this strange land are often presented as incongruous but familiar interventions into our own world.

Elements of the project have recently been exhibited at the 16th Istanbul Biennial (2019), the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala (2017) and at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art as part of the NOW series of exhibitions (2019). In 2007, Avery represented Scotland at the 52nd Venice Biennale.

In 2014 Avery was exhibited in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art as a part of the GENERATION project, which celebrated 25 years of contemporary art in Scotland. A major solo exhibition focussing on the inhabitants and artefacts of The Island's port town, *The People and Things of Onomatopoeia*, was presented at Ingleby in 2015 accompanied by a public commission sited in Waverley Station for the Edinburgh Art Festival. In 2019 Avery investigated the city of Onomatopoeia further in *The Gates of Onomatopoeia*, focussing on the activities around the city's harbour wall, presented with a further specimen from the Island's municipal park; *The Union Tree*, at Ingleby.

Avery's work is held in many public collections including the Tate, London; Kunstmuseum, The Hague, Netherlands and the David Roberts Art Foundation, London.

Biography

1973 Born in Oban, Scotland, UK

Lives and works in London and Mull

Selected Solo Projects/ major presentations

- 2021 *A wall, a bridge, an arch, a hat, a side-show, a square circle, a group of friends, and two one-armed snakes*, GRIMM, New York, NY
- 2020 *The Taile of the One-Armed Snake*, GRIMM, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2019 *The Gates of Onomatopoeia*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
Charles Avery, Untitled (Dihedra), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
The Seventh Continent, Istanbul Biennale 2019 curated by Nicholas Bourriaud
- 2018 Charles Avery: *What is it about the red-headed girl with the weak chin? New Portraits of the Onomatopoeians*, Studio Sales, Rome, Italy
- 2017 *These Waters*, GRIMM, New York, USA
Study #15: The Ninth Resort, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
The People and Things of Onomatopoeia: Part II, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK
- 2016 *Charles Avery*, GRIMM Keizersgrach, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India
Charles Avery, Pilar Corrias, London, UK
- 2015 *The People and Things of Onomatopoeia*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
What's the matter with Idealism?, Gemeente Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands
fig-2 2/50 Charles Avery, ICA Studio, London, UK
- 2014 *Billboard for Edinburgh*, Edinburgh, UK
Charles Avery, Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
What's so great about Happiness? *The people and things from Onomatopoeia*, Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2013 *It Means It Means! – A Drawn Exhibition by Charles Avery & Tom Morton at the Museum of Art, Onomatopoeia and Pilar Corrias*, London, Pilar Corrias, London, UK
It Means, It Means! – A Drawn Exhibition by Charles Avery & Tom Morton at the Museum of Art, Onomatopoeia and Galerie Perrotin, Paris, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France
Vitrines: Charles Avery, L'Antenne, Le Plateau, FRAC Ile de France, Paris, France; Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
- 2012 *New Works from the Islanders Project (Concerning the Qoro-Qoros, The Jadingadendar and the Eternal Dialectic)*, Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2011 *Place de la Revolution*, Pilar Corrias, London, UK
New Drawings of Onomatopoeia, Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
- 2010 *Onomatopoeia, Part 1, EX3 – Centor per l'Arte Contemporanea*, Florence, Italy; Kunstverein, Hanover, Germany; Frac Ile-de-France Le Plateau, Paris, France
Onomatopoeia, Part 2: The Port, Pilar Corrias, London, UK
- 2009 *Onomatopoeia, Part 1: Creeds*, Galleria Sonia Rosso, Turin, Italy
- 2008 *The Islanders: An Introduction*, Parasol Unit, London, UK; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
- 2007 *Maquette of the Eternity Chamber*, Faye Fleming & Partner (former Galerie Arquebuse), Geneva, Switzerland
The Islanders: An Introduction – part III, Faye Fleming & Partner (former Galerie Arquebuse), Switzerland
- 2006 *Charles Avery & Keith Wilson*, Alexandre Pollazzon, London, UK
The Plane of the Gods, Cubitt Gallery, London, UK
The Islanders: An Introduction - part II, Galleria Sonia Rosso, Turin, Italy
- 2005 *The Islanders: An Introduction*, Doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK
Hunting The Noumenon, Galleria Archimede Staffolini, Nicosia, Cyprus
AVATARS, Galleria S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
- 2004 *The Hunter, Man in the Holocene*, London, UK
It thinks, Galleria Sonia Rosso, Turin, Italy
- 2003 *The Square Root of 2, Sleeper*, Edinburgh, UK
The Freedom of the Universe, S.A.L.E.S., Rome, Italy
- 2002 *The Truth about the Truth*, Doggerfisher, Edinburgh, UK
Triangle Land, Dee Glasoe, New York, USA
- 2001 *The Palace of the Gulls*, Percy Miller Gallery, London, UK
- 2000 *The Last Yolk*, Sonia Rosso Gallery, Pordenone, Italy
The Riddle of Pooch Avery, Dee Glasoe Gallery, New York, USA
The Ghost of Scirribin, Nylon Gallery, London, UK

- 1999 *Charles Avery*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
The Life and Times of Nancy Haselswon, Tablet Gallery, London, UK
- 1998 *The Creation of the Omniverse*, Nylon, London, UK
Portraits of People Who Never Existed, Entwistle Gallery, London, UK

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *54 White Street Inagural Exhibition*, GRIMM, New York, NY
- 2020 *The City & The City & The City*, Frestonian Gallery, London, UK
Other Wordly, Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- 2018 *NOW: Anya Gallaci, Charles Avery, Aurélian Froment, Roger Hiorns, PelesEmpire, Zineb Sedira*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
- 2019 RA Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London, UK
- 2020 *Auto fictions*, Contemporary Drawing, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany
TWENTY, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
 RA Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London, UK
- 2017 Pluriverse at La Panacée Centre d'art Contemporain, Montpellier, France
Pop-Up GRIMM, Brussels, Belgium
 Art Night 2017, in association with Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Tree No.5*, commission for *Parasolstice- Winter Light* projects, Parasol Unit, London
Tree No.5, public commission in Waverley Station as part of *The Improbable City*, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh, UK
- 2014 *Feels like Heaven*, Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
Intenzione Manifesta, Castello di Rivoli (curated by Beatrice Merz and Marianna Vecellio), Turin, Italy
The Great Acceleration: Art in the Anthropocene, Taipei Biennial (curated by Nicholas Bourriaud), Taipei, China
GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK
Year After Year: Works on paper from the UBS Art Collection, Galleria D'Arte Moderna di Milano (GAM), Milan, Italy
Huidige zaken, Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Potent Wilderness, curated by Sarit Shapira, Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, The Genia Schreiber University Art Gallery, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2013 *Drawing Room 2013*, (curated by Ami Barak) Carre St Anne, Montpellier, France
Mijn Derde Land [My Third Land], Frankendael Foundation (curated by Nathanja van Dijk & Carolyn H Drake), Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Revealed2: CollectorSpace, Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia, Australia
The World is Almost Six Thousand Years Old, (curated by Tom Morton) Collection and Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK
Imagining Islands: Artists and Escape, The Courtauld Gallery (curated by MA Curating the Art Museum students and The Courtauld Institute of Art), London, UK
Beastly Hall, (curated by Artwise) Hall Place, Bexley, UK
A Parliament of Lines, The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney, UK
- 2012 *Galicia: Topographies of Myth*, SOKOL, Nowy Sacz, Poland
A Parliament of Lines, The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney; ECAC, Scotland; City Art Centre, Edinburgh, UK
 UK; The RMIT University Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
Hedendaagse Surreele Tekeningen Uit Rotterdam, Collectie Boijmans van Beuningen, curated by Marieke Wiegel, Institut Neerlandais, Paris, France
Le miroir et l'encyclopedie, Galerie Michel Journiac, Paris, France

- Haunts and Follies*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne, Australia
Machines for Living, Yaffo 23, Jerusalem, Israel
The Comic Side of Art, Nest, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 2011 *A Million Miles from Home*, The Folkestone Triennial, Folkstone, UK
As The World Turns: New Art From London, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney, Australia
British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet, curated by Lisa Le Feuvre and Tom Morton, Hayward Touring Exhibition. Nottingham: Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, New Art Exchange; London: Hayward Gallery; Glasgow: Centre for Contemporary Art, Gallery of Modern Art, Tramway; Plymouth: Peninsula Arts Gallery, Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, The Slaughterhouse, Plymouth College of Arts Gallery, UK
- 2010 *British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet*, curated by Lisa Le Feuvre and Tom Morton, Hayward Touring Exhibition. Nottingham: Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, New Art Exchange, UK
Recent British Sculpture, curated by Tom Morton, GRIMM Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Languages and Experimentations, Casa d'Arte Futurista Depero, Trento, Italy
- 2009 *Altermodern*, 4th TATE Triennial, London, UK
Walking in My Mind, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
A Duck for Mr Darwin, Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK
Life Forms, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2008 *Made Up, International Festival of Contemporary Art*, 5th Liverpool Biennial, Tate Liverpool, UK
Scotland & Venice 2003, 2005, 2007, Charles Avery, Simon Starling and Cathy Wilkes, The Pier, Orkney, UK
Irony and Gesture, Kukje Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
- 2007 *Scotland & Venice*, 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
The Lyon Biennale, Lyon, France
The Athens Biennale, Athens, Greece
Timer, Triennial Bovisa, Milan, Italy
Every Eye Sees Differently as The Eye, The Drawing Room, London, UK
Welcome to My World, Alexandre Pollazon, London, UK
- 2005 *Sculpture Garden*, Jonathan Viner, London, UK
Memphis Flaca, London, UK
Theoroma, Musee d'Art Contemporain, Avignon, France
- 2004 Premio del Golfo, La Spezia, Italy
Jerwood Drawing Prize 2004, London and touring trailer, UK
Trailer, Man in the Holocene, London, UK
Io Mi Ricordo, Galleria S.A.L.E.S, Rome, Italy
- 2003 *Il Premio per la Giovane Arte Italiana, Padiglione di Venezia*, 50th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Love Over Gold, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK
Necessary Kids: Charles Avery, Piotr Uklanski, Costa Vece, Gallerie Civico d'Arte Contemporanea di Siracusa, Sicily, Italy
Dark Shadows, Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Works on Paper, Archimede Staffolini Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus
Prospects Drawing Prize, Truman Brewery, London, UK
- 2002 *Contemporary Art Project*, Museum of Modern Art, Seattle, USA
A measure of distance, Magnani, London, UK
Jerwood Drawing Prize, Jerwood Space, London; MAC Birmingham; Glasgow School of Art; EICH Gallery, Hull; The Lowry, Manchester, UK
Prospects Drawing Prize, Truman Brewery, London, UK
Supersonic and Alien, S.A.L.E.S., Rome, IT
Flights of Reality, Turnpike Gallery, Leigh; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK

- 2001 *Ghosty*, Mille Eventi, Milan, Italy
Works on Paper, S.A.L.E.S, Rome, Italy
- 2000 *Made Space*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh; Changing Room, Stirling, UK
Drawing, Percy Miller Gallery, London, UK
Innuendo, Dee/Glasoe Gallery, New York, USA
Made Space, Pekao Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1999 *Surveying the Landscape*, Lombard Freid Gallery, New York, USA
Selection from the Files, Nylon, London, UK
The British on Paper, Galleria Sonia Rosso, Pordenone, Italy
Untitled, Archimede Staffolini Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus
DRAW, Ten in One Gallery, Chicago, USA
Fine Line, Duncan Cargill Gallery, London, UK

Publishers

- 2016 *Onomatopoeia: Its people and surroundings*, Frame Publishers, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2010 *Onomatopoeia: The Port*, Walther König/ Koenig Books, Germany
- 2008 *The Islanders: An Introduction*, Parasol Unit/ König Books, London