

# 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

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2022 | <i>The Hunter</i> , GRIMM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands   |
| 2021 | <i>Zoo, Hate, Bridge, Tree: Architectural Propositions of Onomatopoeia</i> , Vistamarestudio, Milan, Italy<br><i>a wall, a bridge, an arch, a hat, a side-show, a square circle, a group of friends, and two one-armed snakes</i> , GRIMM, New York, NY |
| 2020 | <i>The Taile of the One-Armed Snake</i> , GRIMM, Amsterdam, Netherlands   |
| 2019 | <i>The Gates of Onomatopoeia</i> , Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK   |
| 2018 | <i>What is it about the red-headed girl with the weak chin? New Portraits of the Onomatopoeians</i> , Studio Sales, Rome, Italy<br><i>Independent Brussels</i> , GRIMM, Brussels, Belgium   |
| 2017 | <i>These Waters</i> , GRIMM, New York, USA<br><i>Study #15: The Ninth Resort</i> , David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK   |

- The People and Things of Onomatopoeia: Part II*, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK
- 2016 *Charles Avery*, GRIMM, 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  
*The Improbable City*, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh, UK  
*What's the matter with Idealism?*, GEM Museum for Contemporary Art, The Hague, The Netherlands  
*Fig-2 2/50 Charles Avery*, ICA Studio, London, UK
- 2014 *What's so great about Happiness? The people and things from Onomatopoeia – Part II*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy  
*What's so great about Happiness? The people and things from Onomatopoeia*, GRIMM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2013 *It Means It Means!* Pilar Corrias, London, UK  
*It Means, It Means!* Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France  
*Vitrines: Charles Avery*, L'Antenne, Le Plateau, FRAC Ile de France, Paris, France  
Charles Avery, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy
- 2012 *New Works from the Islanders Project (Concerning the Qoro-Qoros, The Jadingadendar and the Eternal Dialectic)*, GRIMM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2011 *Place de la Revolution*, Pilar Corrias, London, UK  
*New Drawings of Onomatopoeia*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy  
*A Million Miles from Home*, The Folkstone Triennial, Folkestone, UK
- 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*, Gowen Contemporary (former Galerie Arquebuse), Geneva, Switzerland  
*The Islanders: An Introduction – Part III*, Gowen Contemporary (former Galerie Arquebuse), Geneva, 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, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, 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*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy, 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
- 1997 The Underground Exhibition, Aldwych Tube Station, London, UK

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2022 *Le Voci della Sera*, Vistamarestudio, Milan, Italy  
*Planet B. Climate Change and the New Sublime*, Palazzo Bollani, Venice, Italy  
*Busan Biennale 22*, Busan, South Korea  
*The Hunter's Return, Paradys*, Arcadia, Friesland Triennial, Oranjewoud, The Netherlands  
*Art is the Antidote*, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands
- 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, The Netherlands
- 2019 *Away in the Hill*, GRIMM, New York, USA  
*NOW: Anya Gallaccio, Charles Avery, Aurélian Froment, Roger Hiorns, Peles Empire, Zineb Sedira*,  
 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, UK  
*Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK  
*16<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennale: The Seventh Continent*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2018 *Auto fictions - Contemporary Drawing Prix de dessin Guerlain*, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen  
 am Rhein, Germany  
*TWENTY*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK  
*Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK  
*Rhasody in Blue*, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands  
*Pop-up*, GRIMM, Brussels, Belgium  
*On a Pedestal*, Castletown House, County Kildare, Ireland
- 2017 *Plurivers*, La Panacée Centre d'art Contemporain, Montpellier, France  
 Art Night 2017, in association with Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK  
*GLASSTRESS*, Palazzo Franchetti, 57<sup>th</sup> Beinnale di Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*Exhibition Paintings*, Kunst Meran/Merano Arte, Merano  
*Prix de Dessin*, Salon du Dessin, Palais Brongniart, Paris, France
- 2016 *The Science of Imaginary Solutions*, Breese Little, London, UK  
*Drawing Conclusions*, RISD Museum, Providence, RI, USA  
*Constructing Nature*, Huize Frankendael, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Kochi-Muziris Biennale*, Kochi Biennale Foundation, Kunnumpuram, India
- 2015 *Animals in Art – Collectie de Heus-Zomer*, Museum Nairac, Barneveld, The Netherlands  
*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  
*The Improbable City*, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh, UK  
*Fig-2 2/50*, ICA Studio, London, UK
- 2014 *Feels like Heaven*, Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel  
*Intenzione Manifesta*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy  
*The Great Acceleration: Art in the Anthropocene*, Taipei Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan

- 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, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Potent Wilderness*, Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, The Genia Schreiber Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2013  
*Drawing Room*, Carre St Anne, Montpellier, France  
*Mijn Derde Land [My Third Land]*, Frankendael Foundation, 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*, Collection and Usher Gallery, Lincoln, UK  
*Imagining Islands: Artists and Escape*, The Courtauld Gallery, London, UK  
*Beastly Hall: A Place Where Artists and Creatures Collide*, Hall Place, Bexley, USA  
*A Parliament of Lines*, The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney, UK
- 2012  
*Galicia: Topographies of Myth*, SOKOL, Nowy Sacz, Poland  
*A Parliament of Lines*, City Art Centre, Edinburgh, UK; The RMIT University Gallery, Melbourne, Australia  
*Hedendaagse Surreële Tekeningen Uit Rotterdam, Collectie Boijmans van Beuningen*, Institut Neerlandais, Paris, France  
*Le mirir 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, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2011  
*Folkestone Triennial: A Million Miles from Home*, Folkstone, UK  
*As The World Turns: New Art From London*, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2010  
*British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet*, UK Touring Exhibition: Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham; Hayward Gallery, London; Centre for Contemporary Art, Gallery of Modern Art and Tramway, Glasgow; Peninsula Arts, Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, The Slaughterhouse, and Royal William Yard, Plymouth, UK  
*Recent British Sculpture*, GRIM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Languages and Experimentations*, Casa d'Arte Futurista Depero, Trento, Italy  
*Acquisition Presentation Contemporary Drawings*, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 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  
*Biennal Fundraiser*, The Drawing Room, London, uk
- 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  
*Artfutures*, Bloomberg Space, London, UK
- 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 Pollazzon, London, UK  
*Ironie der Objekte*, MUSEION Museum fur moderne und zeitgenossische Kunst, Bolzano, Italy
- 2006  
*Flip*, Francois Ghebaly/Chung King Project, Los Angeles, USA

- 2005 *Sculpture Garden*, Fortescue Avenue/Jonathan Viner, London, UK  
*Memphis*, Flaca, London, UK  
*Theoroma*, Musee d'Art Contemporain, Avignon, France  
*Inaugurazione Nuovo Spazio*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy
- 2004 *Premio del Golfo*, La Spezia, Italy  
 Jerwood Drawing Prize, London and touring trailer, UK  
*Trailer*, Man in the Holocene, London, UK  
*Io Mi Ricordo*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, 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*, Studio Sales di Norberto Ruggeri, Rome, Italy
- 2000 *Made Space*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK; Changing Room, Stirling, UK; Pekao Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Drawing*, Percy Miller Gallery, London, UK  
*Innuendo*, Dee/Glasoe Gallery, New York, USA
- 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
- 1998 *Golf Sale*, Merc house, London, UK
- 1997 *The Underdogs*, Uncle Grey Presents, London, UK
- 1996 *Charles Avery & Peter Harris*, Uncle Grey Presents, London, UK  
*Conversation Pieces*, Uncle Grey Presents, London, UK

## **Publishers**

- 2019 *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

## **Selected Collections**

- AKZO Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Arts Council England Collection, London, UK  
 The Roberts Institute of Art (RIA), London, UK

De Heus-Zomer Collection, Barneveld, The Netherlands

Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Edinburgh City Art Centre Collection, Edinburgh, UK

THE EKARD COLLECTION

FRAC Île de France, Paris, France

Kunstmuseum, The Hague, The Netherlands

Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel

Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France

Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands

National Galleries Scotland, Edinburgh, UK

ProWinko Collection, Amstelveen, The Netherlands

Tate Modern, London, UK

VandenBroek Foundation, Lisse, The Netherlands