

Artist Background + CV

A background in psychology, sociology, and a long career in commercial photography have led him to creatively express how humans interact with light, motion and media. When not for display in galleries or museums, he creates engaging interactive art installations for business, institutional and public venues. Using light and sound in any means necessary, his installations provoke movement and viewer experience in order to enhance their memorability. By no surprise, the interactive nature of his works often find their way into social media, carrying their venue with them. This work has extended into formats that include an internet radio station and a nonprofit that uses the power of handwriting. Christian Michaels' work has been exhibited in New York, California and Europe. Influences include Nam June Paik, Olafur Eliasson, Jim Campbell, Bruce Nauman, Dan Flavin, and Brian Eno.

Bio

Born 1960, Montreal, Canada. Lives and Works in San Diego, CA

Education

BA Psychology, 1982, Wake Forest University, with specialized studies in Sociology and Photography, Winston-Salem, NC

Professional

2015 - Present: Director and Visioneer, Interactive Art + Design, San Diego, CA

2008 - 2017: Photography Instructor at Digital Photo Academy, San Diego, CA

2013 - 2014: Director, Kettner Arts Gallery. San Diego, CA

2001 - 2011: Director, Ray Street Studios, San Diego, CA

1993 - 2017: Commercial Photographer, Flashpoint Pictures, San Diego, CA

1990 - 1993: Medical Photographer, UCSD Medical Center, San Diego, CA

1989 - Present: Contributing Stock Photographer, Getty Images, Seattle, WA

1982 - 1989: Freelance Commercial Photographer and Assistant, Dallas, TX and
Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Mangiamo! - Permanent Light Sculpture
Doma Condominiums Lobby, San Diego, CA

2010-2011

Scenes in a City - Photography
Centre City Development Corp., San Diego, CA

2008

Hollywood Love - Graphics
Kettner Arts Gallery, San Diego, CA

2007

San Diego Film Festival - Graphics
W Hotel, San Diego, CA

1993

Polaroid Transformations - Photography
Arizona Western College, Yuma, AZ

1989

Urban American Landscapes - Photography
Galerie Dimo, Salzburg, Austria

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Mirror Mirror - Kinetic Light Sculptures
San Diego International Airport, San Diego, CA

2023

Cruel Summer - Conceptual Photography
Basile IE/CM Curatorial Gallery, San Diego, CA

2021

Goodbye to All That - Conceptual Signage
Basile IE/CM Curatorial Gallery, San Diego, CA

2020

In-Part - Interactive Video Installation
Mesa College Art Gallery, San Diego, CA

2019

Conveyor - Interactive Light Installation
Porto Vista Hotel, San Diego, CA

For the Love of Art - Collage
Visual Gallery, San Diego, CA

2018

Cruel Summer - Interactive Video
Basile IE/CM Curatorial Gallery, San Diego, CA

Imperial Conquests of the Palate - Interactive Video
Basile IE/CM Curatorial Gallery, San Diego, CA

2017

Synesthesia - Interactive Video
MJD Gallery, San Diego, CA

2016

About Face - Conceptual Photography
Basic Gallery, San Diego, CA

MAS Attack - Interactive Video
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

2015

(Con)Text - Interactive Video
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

Flex It! - Interactive Video
Jacobs Center, San Diego, CA

2014

LiveLoveLust - Graphics and Video
Kettner Arts Gallery, San Diego, CA

2013

Lost Dreams - Graphics and Video
Kettner Arts Gallery, San Diego, CA

Spirit of Life - Photography
Kettner Arts Gallery, San Diego, CA

Abundance - Graphics
Kettner Arts Gallery, San Diego, CA

2011

Sight & Sound - Interactive Video
Queen Bee Gallery, San Diego, CA

2010

Sight & Sound - Interactive Video
Architecture Gallery, San Diego, CA

2009

Sight & Sound - Interactive Video
Planet Rooth Gallery, San Diego, CA

Disintegration - Interactive Video
Ray Street Studios, San Diego, CA

2008

Point of Departure - Interactive Video
UCLA Open Borders, Los Angeles, CA

Regional Show - Graphics
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

2007

Regional Show - Photography
San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

Extravagant Exuberance - Graphics
Josh Mitchell Gallery, Springfield, MO

Size Doesn't Matter - Graphics
Ray Street Studios, San Diego, CA

2004

The Art of Photography
Lyceum Theater, San Diego, CA

Words - Photography
Tres Gallery, San Diego, CA