

CAIRNS ART GALLERY

4 SEP 2026 –
16 JAN 2027

CRAIG & KARL DOUBLE VISION

ARTWORK LABELS



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



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FESTIVAL

Craig & Karl: Double Vision is a Griffith University Art Museum touring exhibition,
co-curated by Angela Goddard and Carrie McCarthy.

Craig & Karl

Timeline

1990 – 2025

digital print on vinyl

Courtesy of the artists

This timeline charts some of Craig Redman and Karl Maier's most iconic projects over the past three decades, from their first partnership Kar Red in their final years of university, through their work with Brisbane-based design and art group Rinzen, to collaborations delivered during their now three-decade history as Craig & Karl.

Included are commissions such as their portrait of Barack Obama for the cover of *New York Magazine* in November 2012; poster illustrations for the Bayerische Staatsoper (Bavarian State Opera) in 2013; branding and promotional displays for Berlin-based fashion trade show Bread & Butter in 2016; and a tiled mosaic for Target Times Square, New York City, in 2022.

The timeline also charts their more recent forays into public art and immersive environments, such as Prismatic in Sai Lau Kok Garden, Hong Kong; Mini Golf at Canary Wharf, London; and their 2025 takeover of Brisbane City Council's Outdoor Gallery, *Rear Vision*, curated by Griffith University Art Museum.

Interspersed within the documentation are simple experiments with pattern and colour that are immediately recognisable as Craig & Karl's bold and playful signature. These patterns convey humour, optimism and joy, enhancing Craig & Karl's constant themes of community, identity, imagination, and love.

Craig & Karl

Archive

1990 – 2025

mixed media installation

Courtesy of the artists

This corner displays only a fraction of items from Craig Redman and Karl Maier's extensive archive of merchandise, publications, and brand collaborations, from their early forays as Kar Red, to design and art collective Rinzen, to more recent projects as Craig & Karl.

In addition to Craig & Karl-branded merchandise, highlights include capsule collections for fashion labels such as Adidas, Esprit, and Le Specs, and beauty brands such as Sephora; 'Darcel Disappoints', a plush toy character created by Redman that featured a collaborative furniture collection for IKEA in 2019; and even a concept design for Turkish Airlines!

Craig & Karl

Double Rainbow

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Courtesy of the artists

What's luckier than seeing a rainbow? A double rainbow!

Created especially for *Double Vision*, *Double Rainbow* 2025 is a symbolic reference to Redman and Maier's intertwined work style, while also epitomising the Craig & Karl ethos of enhancing public spaces and promoting active interaction.

Employing bright shapes with the simplest of elements, this cheery double rainbow welcomes us into the space, fostering community and shared experiences, bringing us optimism and joy.

Craig & Karl

Lean Towards This Time

2025

digital print on cotton rag

Never Even Scratched the Surface

2025

digital print on cotton rag

Griffith University Art Collection.
Gift of the artists, 2025

Craig & Karl's portraits are one of their most highly recognised series. Beginning with those around the duo—such as friends, partners, and neighbourhood identities—the series has evolved into portrayals of inspirational figures drawn from art, music, politics, and sport.

These images are deceptively simple, with heavy black lines forming almost an identikit toolbox of facial features, but their skilfully garish colour combinations created using Ben Day dots or stripes mean we can often immediately recognise each subject. Specific hairstyles and accessories anchor the artworks in particular eras, but they are all subjected to the same artistic treatment.

This pair of works are particularly intimate to the artists. *Lean Towards This Time* is a portrait of Karl's partner Amee and *Never Even Scratched the Surface* depicts Craig's partner Thomas. Their titles are equally personal, taken from the lyrics of their favourite songs.

Craig & Karl

Together 1

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Together 2

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Together 3

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Together 4

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Courtesy of the artists

Together 1–4 2025 realise a concept that Craig & Karl have been experimenting with for several years. Continuing the duo's playful preoccupation with doubling, the series reimagines traditional loveseats or tête-à-têtes by employing their signature eight-colour palette in designs that mirror, invert, and remodel traditional chair structures.

Craig & Karl

War and Peace

2025

3D printed epoxy on rotating display stand

Courtesy of the artists

Some of the earliest works of art are handprints on the walls of caves. Some hand gestures transcend cultural boundaries, and others vary significantly across cultures. They highlight the close connection between the physical hand and the cognitive functions of the brain and symbolise a wide range of human experiences: power, tenderness, camaraderie, and conflict.

War and Peace has a cheeky double meaning: while a palm-outward 'V' (for victory or peace) is common in many places, if it's turned around with the palm facing inward, it's an insult in many countries, particularly across the Commonwealth.

Craig & Karl

Now and Then

2025

plywood, synthetic polymer paint

Courtesy of the artists

Craig & Karl recreate common phrases and sayings in their unique and humorous style to transcend communication barriers. This work cleverly plays on our point of view, offering different messages as you move around the space.

Created on a lenticular wall, *Now and Then* collapses linear time, folding two moments into one to suggest a point where time feels layered instead of straightforward, and history repeats. 'Now' suggests the immediate present, while 'Then' can refer to both the past and the future, as in 'we'll go then'.

Craig & Karl

Mateys

2025

polyester inflatables

Courtesy of the artists

Craig & Karl's vibrant inflatable sculptural characters, known as 'Mateys', are intended to transform and enliven public spaces. These playful installations employ bold, geometric forms achieving remarkable expressiveness with the simplest of facial features.

By populating outdoor environments with these endearing conversation starters, the artists have created a series of gathering points that celebrate a simple and unexpected delight in our everyday surroundings.