



## NIELS 'NAILS' OELTJEN Abridged artist cv

Niels Oeltjen aka Nails was born in 1976 in Hanover, Germany, and grew up in small coastal towns in Tasmania.

Early flirtation with graffiti developed into new forms, and in 1998 he completed a Bachelor of Fine Art at the University of Tasmania. He has been exhibiting his artwork since 1997, and has been shown in numerous solo and group shows in Australia and overseas. In addition to accomplishments as a fine artist, Niels is well known for his street work and is considered to be an innovator in the local scene.

As an active member of the local art community he has embarked on many self-generated projects in publishing, exhibitions, clothing and mural projects. His focus is on using grassroots ways of getting things done (and shown), and exploring alternative world views, in the process celebrating things that tend to be ignored in contemporary urban life.

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### EXHIBITIONS

March 2009  
**May's Retrospective**  
Painting in major retrospective show of the May's Lane Project.  
CarriageWorks  
Sydney, Australia

Jan 2009  
**Jacky Winter Group Show**  
Group show. 3 paintings.  
Lamington Drive Gallery  
Fitzroy, Australia

November 2009  
**No Comply**  
Latest installement in ongoing series of shows around skateboards. 1 sculptural piece.  
No Vacncy Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

November 2008  
**Grow Wild**  
Group show. Installation/wall piece.  
Utopian Slumps  
Collingwood, Australia

September-October 2008  
**Making~Doo**  
Solo show. 19 paintings + 1 tapestry quilt + mural.  
Lamington Drive  
Fitzroy, Australia

June 2008  
**The 40 Thieves**  
Group show. 1 painting.  
Gorker Gallery  
Fitzroy, Australia

May 2008  
**No Vacancy**  
Opening of new gallery. 1 painting.  
No Vacancy (QV)  
Melbourne, Australia

December/January 2007  
**Greatest Hits**  
A Retrospective of a year of Monster Children Gallery. 4 Paintings.  
Lee Gallery  
South Yarra, Australia

December 2007  
**Jacky Winter Launch**  
Launch exhibition for a boutique Illustration agency.  
Carlton Studios  
Melbourne, Australia

November-December 2007  
**Vagabond**  
Street-based exhibition/performance showing paintings from a suitcase. Funded by a City of Melbourne Arts Grant.  
Melbourne, Australia

November + December 2007  
**1 Size, 1 Prize**  
Group show. All works in standard format. 1 painting.  
SuperPlan  
Berlin, Germany

August 2007  
**Making~Do**  
Solo show with 12 Paintings.  
Monster Children Gallery  
Sydney, Australia

June 2007  
**Bootlegger**  
Group show featuring bandannas by 19 artists from all over the world. Curation + 2 works + production.  
Until Never  
Melbourne, Australia

April 2007  
**Refill Seven**  
Group show featuring top international artists designing laser-cut skateboards.  
MTV Gallery  
Sydney, Australia

April 2007  
**No Comply**  
Artists make art on skateboards. Three board triptych.  
Federation Square  
Melbourne, Australia

December 2006  
**Monster Children xmas show**  
Group show. 1 Painting.  
Monster Children Gallery  
Sydney, Australia

November 2006  
**Self-Titled**  
Launch show of Jade Palmer's Autopsy Gallery. 1 Sculpture.  
Autopsy Gallery  
St Kilda, Australia

July-August 2006  
**Outside over there**  
Launch of *The Guild #2*. 1 painting.  
Imp Gallery  
Prahlan, Australia

May-June 2006  
**May's Retrospective**  
Exhibition displaying panels by artists. 1 panel, 6 x 4.4 metres.  
MTV Gallery  
Sydney, Australia

May 2006  
**May's**  
Painted panel displayed in laneway.  
Sydney, Australia

March-May 2006  
**Signs of the Times**  
Exhibition looking at the history of signage in Melbourne. 2 Photographs  
City Museum  
Melbourne, Australia

March 2006  
**Nicholas: The life of a building.**  
Group show by artist from the Nicholas Building. 1 painting.  
Blindside Artist-Run-Space  
Melbourne, Australia

October 2005  
**Big Brobot v Nails**  
Mural for the opening of the Big Brobot store (with Lars Niebuhr).  
Berlin, Germany  
www.bigbrobot.com

June 2005-April 2006  
**Citylights presents Nails**  
Paintings in lightboxes. Longest running Citylights show to date.  
Citylights Centre Place  
Melbourne, Australia

October 2004  
**Surface**  
20 artists create works inside a Docklands building. Melbourne Fringe Festival event.  
Melbourne, Australia

September 2004  
**Pieces**  
Artists make lightboxes. Lightbox collaboration with Phibs.  
Citylights Hosier Lane  
Melbourne, Australia

August 2004  
**Yume**  
Exhibition focusing on toy culture. Spider, Sculptural work.  
Outskirts Tshirt Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

May 2004  
**FORT**  
Group show, large installation of treehouse and surrounding environment. Kickstart grant recipient.  
NEXTwave Arts Festival  
Melbourne, Australia

April 2004  
**Battleship**  
Show featuring wall works.  
Early Gallery  
Melbourne Australia

March 2004  
**Ostwind**  
Solo show of paintings in an installation.  
Early Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

December 2003  
**Transfigure**  
Six Month exhibition at ACMI at Federation Square. ACMI park game on display (see commissions).  
Australian Centre for the Moving Image  
Melbourne, Australia

October 2003  
**Halloween**  
Exhibition to celebrate Halloween. Drawing, lanterns and a war hat.  
Melbourne, Australia  
www.outskirtstees.com

May 2003  
**Boltz / Voltz**  
Group exhibition with Boltz art group. 5 pieces plus wall painting.  
Seventh Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

May 2003  
**Mish Mash**  
Group show. 1 painting.  
Outskirts Tshirt Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

April 2003  
**Bong On 03**  
Bongs made by artists from various disciplines.  
BUS Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

March 2003  
**Outside In**  
Exhibition of Tshirts and installation + mural.  
Helen Gory Galerie  
Melbourne, Australia  
www.helengory.com

February 2003  
**Honey Bees Zine Fair**  
Exhibition of works from zines, 3 prints.  
Gallery Wren  
Sydney, Australia

February 2003  
**Monster Children at Ourspot**  
An exhibition of works curated by the makers of Monster Children magazine. 2 drawings.  
Our Spot  
Sydney, Australia  
www.monsterchildren.com

August 2002  
**The Boltz**  
Group show with three other artists. 20 pieces.  
Red Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

**MEDIA**  
March 2009,  
**Art Monthly, Issue 217**  
Cover image of Nails painting his panel for 'May's'.  
www.artmonthly.org.au

September 2008  
**Dumbo Feather, Issue 17**  
20 page interview with images.  
www.dumbofeather.com

September 2008  
**The Age, 'A2' supplement,**  
Profiled as part of an article on illustration agency, Jacky Winter.  
Saturday 13 September  
www.theage.com.au

July 2008  
**UnoPop magazine #34**  
4 page profile in Barcelona-based magazine.  
July Issue  
www.unopopmag.com

July 2008  
**Juxtapoz Magazine #90**  
Full page profile.  
www.juxtapoz.com

April 2008  
**Beautiful Decay magazine, Issue V (Spring 08)**  
'Grotesque' Issue. Double-page spread, image + caption.  
www.beautifuldecay.com

October 2007  
**Not Quite Art – Episode 2**  
Three part TV program on the subject of the intersection of art and commerce. Interviewed.  
October 23, ABC TV  
Screened Australia-wide

October 2007  
**Monster Children magazine, #16**  
Exhibition write-up + pics.  
www.monsterchildren.com

August 2007  
**Juxtapox.com review**  
Nails and May's. Article + pic.  
Thurs 9 August 2007  
www.juxtapox.com

August 2007  
**Sydney Morning Herald**  
Newspaper. Review + image.  
25 August 2007  
Sydney, Australia

June 2007  
**MX**  
Newspaper. Front page write-up + pic about the Bootlegger exhibition.  
MX, Mon 25 June 2007

June 2007  
**Herald Sun**  
Newspaper. Article on wall art. Photo of mural.  
Herald Sun, Thurs June 1

July 2006  
**The Guild, 'Outside over there'**  
The Guild #2. Double-page image spread.  
Published by Seven Nine  
www.seven-nine.net

May 2006  
**May's Lane History**  
Publication covering the history of the May's project. 5 pages + cover.  
Published by May's  
www.mays.org.au

December 2005  
**The Guild #1**  
Exclusive gift book curated by Andy Sargent with artists from around the globe. 2 paintings.  
Published by Seven Nine  
www.seven-nine.net

December 2005  
**Sneaker Freaker the Book**  
Illustration in retrospective book.  
Published by Big Block Creative  
Melbourne, Australia

December 2005  
**Seeds of Dissent, 3CR Calender**  
Calender representing 30 years of activism in Australia. Photograph of wall.  
3CR Radio Station  
Melbourne Australia

December 2005  
**Sneaker Freaker magazine #7**  
Illustration artwork for back cover plus gatefold.  
Published by Big Block Creative  
Melbourne, Australia

January 2005  
**STU magazine**  
Image. Double-page spread.  
STU Magazine Jan 05  
Melbourne, Australia

December 2004  
**Outside The Square DVD**  
Documentary DVD of the Outside the Square (see commissions)  
Production by Citylights  
Directed by Shyam Ganju.  
Melbourne, Australia  
(www.citylightsproject.org)

March 2004  
**Conform**  
Book of photographs of Australian street art.  
Edited by Saskia Folk  
Published by Macmillan 2004  
Melbourne, Australia  
ISBN 1 876832 68 1

December 2003  
**Nylon, December issue**  
Image in editorial.  
Nylon Magazine  
London, England

November 2003  
**Sneaker Freaker #2**  
Illustration.  
Published by Big Block Creative  
Melbourne, Australia

June 2003  
**Spinach 7 – Singa's Picks**  
Editorial on Boltz/Voltz Exhibition.  
Written by Jim Singline  
Published in Spinach 7 No.1

September 2002  
**Straighty180**  
Publication featuring new Australian artists. Double page spread plus cover plus art direction. Published by Basis Publishing  
Melbourne, Australia

December 2000  
**Burn**  
Book celebrating emerging Australian and New Zealand Artists.  
Published by The Revolution  
Sydney, Australia

## COMMISSIONS

September 2007  
**Patchwork mural**  
Mural for exterior wall of Miss Libertine's and Paper Shadow Gallery.  
Miss Libertine's  
Melbourne, Australia

January 2007  
**St Kilda Festival Tram**  
Painted a tram for the St Kilda Festival. Ran for 2 months leading up to the festival.  
St Kilda  
Melbourne, Australia

September 2005

### **Tokion Tshirts**

Tshirt Design for global magazine.

New York, USA  
www.tokion.com

August 2005

### **Sixpack Tshirts**

Tshirt Designs for French clothing brand with designs by leading graphic artists.

Toulouse, France  
www.sixpack.fr

April 2005

### **Intrude Mural**

Mural with artist 'Phibs'. Intrude Gallery

Fitzroy, Australia

March 2005

### **Melbourne Central Mural**

Painting a mural at Melbourne Central shopping centre with graffiti legends.

Melbourne Central  
Melbourne, Australia

March 2005

### **Calvin Klein Launch**

Working with Andy Sargent to customise exclusive CK Jeans for the Melbourne Spring Fashion Festival.

Melbourne, Australia

March 2005

### **Fringe festival offices mural**

Mural for the Melbourne Fringe Festival offices.

Fringe Festival Offices  
Melbourne, Australia  
www.melbournefringe.org

August 2004

### **Extra Classic**

(Outside the Square) Murals  
Twenty artists paint the 300sqm hoardings of the World Square development.

World Square  
Sydney, Australia

March 2004

### **Cave Mural**

Mural for fashion boutique Figure 8 with Josh Petherick.

Figure 8  
Melbourne, Australia

January 2004

### **Big Day Out 2004 Murals**

Live painting at the Big Day Out, Australia's biggest music festival.

Melbourne, Australia

September 2003

### **ACMIpark Owl**

Graphic for the Tshirt of a computer game character.

Selectparks  
Melbourne, Australia

June 2003

### **Outskirts mural**

Mural with Ben Strunin, Chris Hill and Josh Petherick.

Outskirts Tshirt Gallery  
Melbourne, Australia

May 2002

### **Missing Link Mural**

Mural for a record store with Josh Petherick.

Missing Link  
Melbourne, Australia

August 2000

### **Many Voices Portraits**

Frankston council commissioned portraits of local identities. Collaboration with Lachlan Conn.

Exhibited at Frankston Central  
Frankston, Australia