

CHRIS MAY â?? Multidisciplinary artist, musician, artisan

Description

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Chrisâ??s multifaceted approach to creativity finds its roots in his childhood spent in a quaint Tudor house in Suffolk, where he immersed himself in the realms of artistic expression and imaginative thought. His unconventional upbringing, free from parental constraints, fostered a profound appreciation for creativity in all its forms. Leaving school at a young age, his artistic talents shone brightly, particularly in art and craftsmanship. Through the kindness of his RE teacher, he embarked on an apprenticeship at Vannerâ??s Silks, a venerable silk weaving factory renowned for its skilled artisanship, where he honed his textile design abilities.



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Lifeâ??s path led him to London, where he embraced the vibrant world of screen printing, stage production, and calligraphy. His exceptional skills earned him a place in the elite display department of Selfridges, where he delved into the realms of 3D prop-making, model construction, and graphic design. Seeking a change of scenery, he ventured into the independent theatre realm, joining The Theatre of Thelema as a theatrical designer and prop-builder. However, the allure of the countryside beckoned, and he relocated to West Wales, establishing a screen printing operation amidst the tranquility of the Welsh landscape, producing striking posters, fabrics, and artisanal crafts. Alongside his artistic pursuits, Chris nurtured his enduring passion for guitar playing, a skill imparted by his history teacher during his formative years.



His return to London in the 1970s brought him into the orbit of NICK TURNER, a visionary artist and musician from the legendary Hawkwind band. Turner became a lifelong companion, and Chrisâ??s guitar artistry found its way onto the seminal album â??Kubanakickassa,â?? solidifying his place in the annals of cult music. In the early 1980s, a return to Wales with a group of friends marked the beginning of a new creative chapter for Chris, as he embarked on a journey of exploration and artistic collaboration that continues to shape his multifaceted approach to creativity.



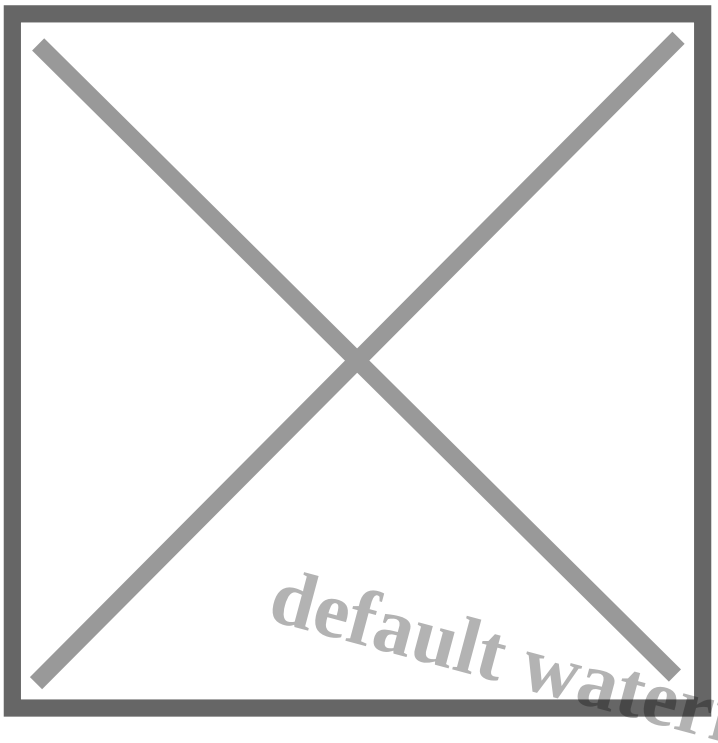
With the advent of computers, Chrisâ??s innate abilities in sign-writing, architecture, and graphics seamlessly transitioned into the digital realm of Photoshop manipulation and digital photography. His passion for visual arts led him to establish a unique creative hub by restoring an old barn into a multi-facility center for the arts. This complex encompasses an impressive all purpose workshop with metal and woodworking capabilities, a studio equipped with recording and video editing equipment, as well as a meeting space, office, rehearsal space, and performance stage. Set amidst 30 acres of rural land, the facility serves as a vibrant platform for young people to cultivate their creativity and acquire valuable skills.

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Possibly one his most passionate creative endeavours has been the 25-year partnership with Glastonbury festival, which led to the creation of the legendary Dragon Castle within KIDZFIELD, meticulously erected and packed away each year.

Alongside his ability of video production, studio, workshop, art and music has been his passion for Gambia/West Africa, where for the last several years regular extended visits have resulted in a number of video productions about their music, natural medicine and lifestyle.



And a noticeable achievements of helping setup The BASS NJAI MUSIC FOUNDATION CENTRE and creation of a promotional video to support its online promotion. The Gambian MUSIC FOUNDATION CENTRE is a revolutionary new music school in Brufut Gambia providing musical education to talented and ambitious young Gambians who aspire to become professionals both in Gambia and on the world stage.

Currently,Chris has initiated the formation of a West-African inspired band in the UK, a project that reflects his passion for bridging cultures and exploring the vibrant tapestry of musical traditions. This ensemble, drawing inspiration from the rich rhythms and melodies of West Africa, promises to ignite audiences with its infectious energy. Beyond his musical pursuits, Chrisâ??s creative vision and mentoring skills serve as guiding forces in his other endeavours.

Category

1. Chris May

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Author
bobh