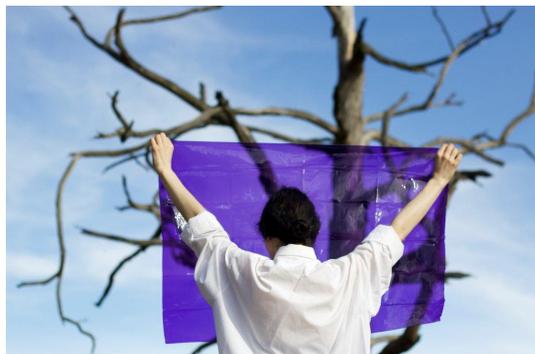


Melbourne Festival and the TarraWarra Biennial 2014 present
Whisper in My Mask: A day in the valley
Sunday 19 October, 11am – 6pm



Curated by Natalie King and Djon Mundine, the TarraWarra Biennial 2014: *Whisper in My Mask* is on display at TarraWarra Museum of Art until November 16. Featuring recent and specially commissioned new works by more than 20 of Australia's most vital contemporary Aboriginal and non-Indigenous artists, it presents a wide-ranging exploration of identity and concealment.

In a TarraWarra Biennial public program created especially for Melbourne Festival by the Biennial curators, *Whisper in My Mask: A day in the valley* will span the breadth of the arts, offering an inspirational array of performances, talks and interactive events, to explore the many masks we wear in our lives.

The events in the morning from 11am and 2pm will be FREE with museum entry and the events in the afternoon, from 2pm to 6pm will be ticketed (booked through Melbourne Festival).

Morning Program: FREE with museum entry

11am: Artist Søren Dahlgaard, clad in French baguettes, will reveal an exhilarating alternate character for his *Dough Warrior Performance in the Landscape*, to challenge the idea of painting, dynamically applying pigment to the local vegetation in a uniquely transformative act.

12 pm: TarraWarra Biennial 2014 artists, The Telepathy Project (Veronica Kent and Sean Peoples), will engage with the local community and beyond when singers, community choirs and visitors to the museum come together around the TarraWarra Lake to perform the libretto *Singing Solaris to the Great Moorool*, written especially for the Biennial by Melbourne jazz identity Julie O'Hara. The Telepathy Project will then read aloud to the lake the dreams collected in their *Postcard Dream Project*, a collaboration with members of the public who have recorded their dreams after viewing the artists' installation at the Biennial.

Afternoon program: Tickets \$25 to \$50; all bookings through www.melbournefestival.com.au
TarraWarra Museum of Art will hold an afternoon forum to explore the themes of the Biennial.

2pm: Panel discussion – Biennial artists in conversation with curator Natalie King

4pm: Spoken word poetry readings by artist Romaine Moreton

4.30pm: *A Special Conversation:* eminent Australian historian Henry Reynolds, TarraWarra Biennial 2014 curator Djon Mundine and artist Fiona Foley

5.30pm: Refreshments

Venue: TarraWarra Museum of Art, 311 Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Healesville

Further information on the TarraWarra Biennial 2014: *Whisper in My Mask*



Image: Tony Garifalakis, *The Hills Have Eyes* (detail) 2012, fabric collage, 170 x 130 cm. Courtesy of the artist

The TarraWarra Biennial 2014: *Whisper in My Mask*, curated by Natalie King and Djon Mundine, is the fourth iteration of a signature event on the national exhibition calendar.

Inaugurated in 2006 to identify new developments in contemporary art practice, the TarraWarra Biennial invites artists to present their work at the unique TarraWarra Museum of Art, located in the spectacular Yarra Valley one hour from Melbourne. The Biennial highlights pivotal aspects of Australian practice under an experimental curatorial platform.

Featuring recent and specially commissioned works by more than 20 of Australia's most vital contemporary Aboriginal and non-Indigenous artists, and taking a line from the evocative song 'Art Groupie' (1981) by singer Grace Jones, the title of this year's Biennial, *Whisper in my Mask*, signals a wide-ranging exploration of masking.

Touch Me in a Picture, Wrap Me in a Cast, Kiss Me in a Sculpture, Whisper in My Mask
'Art Groupie', Grace Jones, 1981.

In a selection of works that elicit an emotional and sensory response, the Biennial explores the mask's multifarious forms and functions and the ways in which it both reveals and conceals personas: to protect, beautify, frighten or pacify, universalise or eternalise, and intensify and amplify expression.

Disguise manifests as trace, inscription, erasure, secrets, camouflage, whisperings, dreamings and subterfuge. These ideas will infiltrate the Biennial as a series of trigger points by incorporating a range of artworks including sound, video, performance and participatory installation by cross-generational Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists.

The curators have undertaken extensive research and field work to cities and remote communities in order to select Aboriginal and non-indigenous artists working across diverse media. Having worked at Ramingining and Maningrida, Djon Mundine has extensive networks in rural communities as well as affiliations with emerging and established artists in various cities. This significant experience has been deployed alongside Natalie King's expertise in photography and moving image practices to ensure a ground-breaking Biennial. Together, their collaborative curatorial methodology interrogates the work of lesser-known artists alongside those who are more established.

The participating artists include: boat-people*(NSW), Daniel Boyd (NSW), Søren Dahlgaard (VIC), Destiny Deacon & Virginia Fraser (VIC), Karla Dickens (NSW), Fiona Foley (QLD), Tony Garifalakis (VIC), Sandra Hill (WA), Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano (VIC), Romaine Moreton (VIC), Nasim Nasr (SA), Polixeni Papapetrou (VIC), Elizabeth Pedler (WA), Sangeeta Sandrasegar (VIC), The Telepathy Project (Veronica Kent and Sean Peoples) (VIC) and The Tjanpi Desert Weavers Project with Fiona Hall (SA/NT/WA).

TarraWarra Museum of Art Director, Victoria Lynn, says, "This year's Biennial features both timely political gestures about the masking of history as well as a more mysterious interest in hidden personas, ghosts and telepathy. Featuring performances, talks and events, the exhibition also embraces a broad sense of community that encompasses not only the local Yarra Valley but also the significant Indigenous communities across Australia."

Highlights include the specially commissioned work of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers with the Australian Venice Biennale 2015 representative Fiona Hall; The Telepathy Project which involves a town meeting at the Healesville Hotel, a libretto for TarraWarra's lake, a project about dreams, and a library; and 3,500 litres of beanbag beans for the participatory installation by emerging Western Australian artist Elizabeth Pedler.

On August 16, timed to coincide with the Biennial's official partner, Melbourne Art Fair, (13 - 17 of August, at the Royal Exhibition Building), the Museum will present the premiere of the play 'Weavings and Whispers: *Miwi* wisdom', written especially for the Biennial by Prof. Diane Bell, and performed by members of the Ngarrindjeri Weavers, followed by an audience discussion, along with a range of talks given by the exhibition artists throughout the day.

On October 19 the Museum will hold a special day of events curated for Melbourne Festival, *Whisper in My Mask: A day in the valley*, featuring Søren Dahlgaard; The Telepathy Project libretto *Reading Solaris to the Great Moorool*; artists of the TarraWarra Biennial 2014 in conversation with curator Natalie King; poetry readings by Romaine Moreton and *A Special Conversation*: Henry Reynolds, Djon Mundine & Fiona Foley.

*boat-people - (Safdar Ahmed, Zehra Ahmed, Stephanie Carrick, Dave Gravina, Katie Hepworth, Jiann Hughes, Deborah Kelly, Enda Murray, Pip Shea, Sumugan Sivanesan, Jamil Yamani)

TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART IS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SIGNIFICANT PRIVATELY FUNDED PUBLIC ART MUSEUM

For further information or images contact:
Eliza Ordians, Media & Communications
Email: eliza@twma.com.au

311 Healesville – Yarra Glen Road Healesville Victoria
Postal Address PO Box 310 Healesville Victoria 3777
T +613 5957 3100 F +613 5957 3120

TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART

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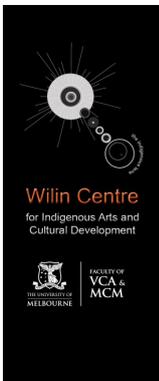
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In partnership with the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development

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