

Looking Glass: A Virtual Celebration
Sunday 20 December, 4-5pm
A special online event, free, register at twma.com.au



Ella Havelka with Yhonnie Scarce's *Cloud Chamber* 2020, installation view, *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce*.
Photo: Sean Fennessy. Courtesy of the artist and THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne.

Featuring:

- Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by **Senior Wurundjeri Elder, Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO**
- A conversation between *Looking Glass* curator **Hetti Perkins** and artists **Judy Watson** and **Yhonnie Scarce**, moderated by **Victoria Lynn**, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art
- The premiere of *Fragmented*, choreographed and performed by Wiradjuri woman **Ella Havelka**.

In celebration of its current exhibition *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce*, TarraWarra Museum of Art will hold a special online event on Sunday 20 December from 4-5pm. ***Looking Glass: A Virtual Celebration*** will invite audiences from across the country to experience a moving Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by **Senior Wurundjeri Elder, Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO**, hear from exhibition curator **Hetti Perkins** and artists **Judy Watson** and **Yhonnie Scarce** in a live panel discussion moderated by Museum Director, **Victoria Lynn**, followed by a powerful dance performance by **Ella Havelka**.

Wiradjuri woman Ella Havelka will premiere her new work *Fragmented*, developed for and inspired by the *Looking Glass* exhibition, with an original score composed by Eric Avery and Ronald Smith.

Havelka, an Australian Ballet and Bangarra alumni, said of her new dance work, "I've drawn inspiration from *Looking Glass* by creating a dance piece that expresses the ways in which trauma can cause continual knock-on effects; the power of resilience and resistance; the healing that is only effective after time has passed and when cycles are renewed and, finally, the importance of returning to Country."

Victoria Lynn, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art, said the event would provide a wonderful insight into *Looking Glass* and contemporary Indigenous understanding.

"*Looking Glass: A Virtual Celebration* is an opportunity to join together, online, and experience the stories and talents of five Aboriginal women: Senior Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO, Arrernte and Kalkadoon woman Hetti Perkins, Waanyi artist Judy Watson, Kokatha and Nukunu artist Yhonnie Scarce and Wiradjuri dancer Ella Havelka. This unforgettable line-up will offer a poignant exploration of the remembered and inherited history of Aboriginal people in this country, as explored in our current exhibition *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce*."

Exhibition curator, Hetti Perkins, says the artists are concerned essentially with Australia's 'secret war'—a battle fought on many fronts from colonial massacres and Stolen Generations through to the British atomic bomb tests at Maralinga.

"The seductive beauty of Watson's and Scarce's works belies their powerful message about the sustained campaign of the destruction of country, culture and community in Aboriginal Australia—their work is a kind of 'tender trap'. With the devastating evidence of climate change in Australia, manifest in apocalyptic wildfires and storms, this exhibition delivers an urgent message," Ms Perkins said.

The exhibition features Scarce's spectacular new installation, *Cloud Chamber*, 2020, comprising one thousand glass yams cascading from above. The work is an evocation of the nuclear test of the 'Breakaway' bomb in Maralinga, which sent radioactive clouds across the land of Aboriginal people living in the area.

Watson's works feature ochres, charcoal and indigo pigments pooled upon washed canvas, revealing Aboriginal histories and following lines of emotional and physical topography that centre on particular places and moments in time.

***Looking Glass: A Virtual Celebration* will take place online on Sunday 20 December 2020 from 4-5pm. Audiences can view this free event live on TarraWarra Museum of Art's [website](https://www.twma.com.au) or [Facebook](#) page. To register for event reminders, head to <https://www.twma.com.au/events/looking-glass-a-virtual-celebration/>.**

ENDS

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TarraWarra Museum of Art and NETS Victoria pay tribute to the ongoing culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which our respective offices and TarraWarra Museum of Art stand.

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AND IKON GALLERY WITH CURATOR HETTI PERKINS

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