

## **TarraWarra Museum of Art to reopen 28 November with *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce***

28 November 2020 – 8 March 2021

Curated by Hetti Perkins



Judy Watson, *resistance pins* 2018, cast bronze with patina finish, dimensions variable,  
Courtesy of the artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane, Photo: Andrew Curtis.

**TarraWarra Museum of Art will reopen on Saturday 28 November 2020 with *Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce*.**

Victoria Lynn, Director, TarraWarra Museum of Art, said, "We are absolutely delighted to be reopening our doors on 28 November with an exhibition of works themed on the monumental elements of earth, water, fire and air by Aboriginal artists Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce.

"The pairing of Watson and Scarce brings together two of Australia's most lyrical and poignant artists whose works present an interpretation of country where the creation and experience of art is mnemonic for the lived, remembered and inherited history of Aboriginal people.

"Our reopening comes with a few new measures including timed ticketing, capacity limits and increased cleaning regimes, and we will continue to offer online experiences for those who choose not to visit us in person just yet. The Museum and the wide expanses of the Yarra Valley are the perfect place to recharge and connect with nature and art, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back," Ms Lynn said.

The exhibition will include Scarce's spectacular new installation, *Cloud Chamber*, 2020, featuring 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.

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.

*Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce* is only possible in Australia thanks to the generous support of major exhibition partner, The Balnaves Foundation, whose ongoing partnership has enabled TarraWarra Museum of Art to present ambitious summer exhibitions over the past five years.

Hamish Balnaves, General Manager and Trustee of The Balnaves Foundation, said, 'This year marks the sixth year that The Balnaves Foundation has supported TarraWarra Museum of Art to deliver major exhibitions by Australian artists. The Foundation is proud to partner in these major endeavours, providing vital opportunities for important Australian artists to be showcased, whilst providing a broad range of audiences access to outstanding arts experiences.'

During 2021 to 2023, *Looking Glass* will tour across Australian museums and galleries supported by NETS Victoria:

Flinders University Museum of Art (SA): 26 April – 2 July 2021\*

Cairns Art Gallery (QLD): 12 November 2021 – 20 February 2022\*

Queensland University of Technology Art Museum (QLD): 12 March – 15 May 2022\*

Plimsoll Gallery (TAS): 12 August – 23 October 2022\*

Mildura Arts Centre (VIC): 8 June – 6 August 2023\*

Wangaratta Art Gallery (VIC): 26 August – 22 October 2023\*

*\*Dates subject to change.*

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.

***Looking Glass: Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce* is on display at TarraWarra Museum of Art from 28 November 2020 – 8 March 2021. Admission fees apply, tickets now on sale via [twma.com.au](http://twma.com.au).**

**ENDS**

**For interviews, images and further information please contact:**

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**Opening Hours:** Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm. Open all public holidays except Christmas Day. Open 7 days a week from Boxing Day to Australia Day.

**Museum Admission:** \$10 Adults; \$8 Seniors; \$5 Concession; Museum Members and children under 12 free. Tickets now on sale via [twma.com.au](http://twma.com.au).

# MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2020

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This project is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, as well as receiving development assistance from NETS Victoria's Exhibition Development Fund 2019, supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and by Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund. This exhibition evolved from a collaboration between Ikon Gallery Birmingham and TarraWarra Museum of Art.

**Instagram, Twitter and Facebook:**

@TarraWarraMA #tarrawarrama @ikongallery #IkonGallery  
#judywatson #yhonniescarce #lookingglassexhibition



Yhonnie Scarce, *Only a mother could love them* 2016, hand blown glass, 25.0 x 15.0 cm diameter each (variable sizes - approx.), Monash University Collection, Purchased by the Monash Business School 2017, Courtesy of Monash University Museum of Art, Courtesy of the artist and THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne.

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THIS EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART  
AND IKON GALLERY WITH CURATOR HETTI PERKINS

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