

Inaugural TarraWarra International 2013

Animate/Inanimate

29 June to 6 October 2013



Lin Tianmiao, *All the Same* 2011, coloured silk threads, synthetic skeletons and metal constructions, edition 1/3, length: 1200 - 1500 cm, Photo by Yang Yuguang, Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Lelong, New York

Six contemporary artists explore connections between the animate and inanimate worlds.

TarraWarra Museum of Art (TWMA) celebrates its tenth anniversary year in 2013 and with the launch of the inaugural *TarraWarra International 2013* TWMA Director Victoria Lynn has expanded the museum's exhibition program, aiming to situate Australian art within a global context.

Lynn, who has a formerly established reputation as an independent visual arts curator of significant Australian and international exhibitions, has curated the first *TarraWarra International*, presenting the exhibition *Animate/Inanimate*.

Artists from around the world are creating haunting and beautiful works that consider the profound interconnections between diverse life forms (natural, animal and human) and visitors to the first *TarraWarra International* have the opportunity for a unique experience. The exhibition at TWMA includes installations, sound works, sculptural elements and video works by leading artists from Australia, the USA, India and China.

These artists explore the impact of global economic and climatic change on our natural environments and ask, can we find a 'spirit' in the inanimate?

The six exhibition artists are Allora & Calzadilla, U.S citizens based in Puerto Rico; Amar Kanwar who lives and works in New Delhi, India; Janet Laurence who lives and works in Sydney, Australia; Lin Tianmiao who was born in China and has lived in Beijing since her return there from the U.S in 1994; and Louise Weaver who lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.

From a sculptural installation that draws on the native Australian animal collection of the Melbourne Museum and recorded footage from the nearby Healesville Sanctuary to a 22 metre long sculpture made of synthetic human skeleton bones wrapped in silken threads and a film that charts the resistance of local communities in Orissa, India, to the industrial interventions taking place, *Animate/Inanimate* considers the natural and animal worlds in the context of global change.

TWMA Director Victoria Lynn says, "The artists in this exhibition make connections between life and non-life, human and animal, and human forms and scientific discoveries. The rolling hills of the Yarra Valley will provide an agricultural, historical, economic and indigenous context for their works and encourage visitors to explore their experiential and cultural relationship with the natural world."

Jennifer Allora, born in 1974 in the U.S., and Guillermo Calzadilla, born in 1971 in Cuba, are based in Puerto Rico. In 2012 they presented their work *Stop, Repair, Prepare: Variations on 'Ode to Joy' for a Prepared Piano* for the 26th Kaldor Public Art Project at the State Library, Melbourne. In 2011, they represented the United States at the Biennale di Venezia, and their solo exhibitions include MoMA, New York (2010), the National Museum of Art, Oslo (2009), the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2008), the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2008), the Kunsthalle Zürich (2007), the Renaissance Society, Chicago (2007), and the Serpentine Gallery, London (2007).

Raptor's Rapture (2012) is a new film involving a flute that was carved by Homosapiens 35,000 years ago from the wing bone of a griffon vulture. It is the oldest musical instrument found to date. The artists invited Bernadette Käfer, a flautist specialising in prehistoric instruments, to attempt to play the flute in the company of a living griffon vulture.

Amar Kanwar (India)

Amar Kanwar was born in 1964 in New Delhi, India, where he still lives. Solo exhibitions have included the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2008), the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2008), Whitechapel Gallery, London (2007), the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (2006), and the Renaissance Society, Chicago (2003). He has participated in the Bienal de São Paulo (2011) and in *Documenta* 11, 12 and 13 (2002, 2007, 2012).

The Scene of Crime (2011) is a 42 minute film that was featured in the German art festival Documenta 13. It considers the industrial encroachment on local farming in Orissa. Focusing on details in the natural landscape with a lingering and poetic camera, Kanwar considers the devastating results of environmental degradation.

Janet Laurence (Australia)

Born Sydney, Australia. Lives and works in Sydney. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Ferment*, The Fine Art Society Contemporary, London, 2013; *After Eden*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney (2012); *What can a garden be?*, BREENSPACE, Sydney (2010); *Greenhouse*, BildKultur Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany (2007). Group exhibitions include *In the Balance: Art for a Changing World*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2010); *17th Biennale of Sydney*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney (2010); *Handle with Care: 2008 Adelaide Biennale*, Art Gallery of South Australia (2008); *Recovering Lives*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra (2008). Laurence's work is represented in major Australian and international collections.

In 2012 the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation commissioned a major work by Janet Laurence, entitled *After Eden*, which explored the plight of animals, and the degradation of our environment. Laurence reconfigures this installation, drawing on the collections of the Melbourne Museum, and incorporating film footage of animals living at Healesville Sanctuary, located just four kilometres from TWMA. Laurence's installation is contained within zones that are marked out by suspended translucent veils and considers our experiential and cultural relationship with the natural world.

Lin Tianmiao (China)

Born in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province in 1961, Lin Tianmiao is one of the first female artists from China to achieve international recognition. During the 1980s, Lin studied in the Fine Art Department of the Capital Normal University in Beijing. Following her studies, she moved to New York with her husband Wang Gongxin, a celebrated video artist. They returned to China in 1995, where they now reside. Lin works in sculpture, photography, video, and a variety of other media. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Bound Unbound* at the Asia Society Museum in New York 2012; *The Same*, Beijing Centre for the Arts, Beijing, China; *Mother's!!!*, Long March Space, Beijing, China; and recent group exhibitions include: *JUNGLE: A Close-up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends*, Platform China, Beijing, 2010; *The State of Things – Brussels/Beijing*, Center for Fine Art, Brussels, 2009 and *Global Feminism*, Brooklyn Museum, New York.

Lin links thread and the activity of binding and weaving to the female experience and her Chinese background, but the final result evokes a shared human experience for the viewer, regardless of gender, race, or nationality. "In China, it feels like we're using all our energies to acquire things without respecting each other or the living things around us," she has said. "I want to look closer at that environmental and social damage." (Wall Street Journal, August 25, 2012). Lin presents *All the Same*, a fifteen metre long collection of synthetic skeleton bones covered in silk thread. She will also create a new installation of 11 sculptures for the exhibition.

Louise Weaver (Australia)

Born in Mansfield, Victoria in 1966, Louise Weaver lives and works in Melbourne, Australia. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions including in 2012 *Volume One: MCA Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, *Contemporary Australia: Women*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, *Sculpture is Everything*, *Contemporary works from the Collection*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, *Play*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. She has exhibited with Darren Knight Gallery in Sydney since 1997.

The work in the exhibition comprises five different sculptural elements accompanied by the recording of bird songs that the artist recorded in the Central District, Victoria. The large screen, *Bird Hide*, invokes the temporary structures created for viewing birds, while the smaller sculpture *Hiding in plain sight (witch grass nest)* is inspired by the nests woven by male weaver birds and Pacific Island costumes. Weaver is creating three new sculptures that transport us to a realm of watching and listening in nature.

Public Programs

TWMA proudly presents a unique public program to accompany the exhibition in conjunction with Healesville Sanctuary, its neighbour just four kilometres away in the Yarra Valley.

Animate/Inanimate TWMA and Healesville Sanctuary Combined Tour

Take an insightful tour with TWMA curatorial staff of the *Animate/Inanimate* exhibition and discover the work of leading contemporary artists, including Janet Laurence and Louise Weaver from Australia, Allora & Calzadilla of the USA, Amar Kanwar of India and Lin Tianmiao of China, who explore the impact of global economic and climatic change on our natural environments and ask, can we find a 'spirit' in the inanimate? Haunting, beautiful sculptural works, sound installations and video works that consider the profound interconnections between diverse life forms (natural, animal and human) provide tour participants with the opportunity for a unique cultural experience.

From TWMA, take a picturesque drive to nearby Healesville Sanctuary, to be welcomed by a Ranger who will take participants on an unforgettable tour, showcasing some of Australia's most threatened species. From feisty Tasmanian Devils to the shy Mountain Pygmy-possum and the beautiful Helmeted Honeyeater, discover the plight of our native animals and the amazing work Healesville Sanctuary is doing to save them from extinction. Tour participants also get the chance for a close-up experience with some of our critically endangered animals. Then, over a glass of award-winning Yarra Valley wine, meet one of the Sanctuary's inspiring Senior Team, who will share their special insights into working at the forefront of wildlife conservation.

Tour Dates: Sundays: 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October (First Sunday of each month throughout the exhibition)
Tour Times: At TWMA from 2 to 2.30pm (Depart at 3pm and make own way to Healesville Sanctuary via provided map)

At Healesville Sanctuary 3.30pm to 5.00pm (arrival from TWMA by 3.20 pm)

Tour Duration: 1 hour at TWMA, 1.5 hours at Healesville Sanctuary (1 hour tour, 1/2 hour refreshments)

For all bookings visit www.twma.com.au

Animate/Inanimate Forum Sunday September 1, 2013

[Details to be announced, check www.twma.com.au for updates]

TarraWarra Museum of Art presents a major forum, located at the Healesville Sanctuary, on the issues arising from this exhibition, with leading figures in the field of art, animal ethics and zoology.

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

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