

# **Yhonnie Scarce: Hollowing Earth**

## **18 February – 14 May 2017**

Curated by Victoria Lynn



Yhonnie Scarce, *Hollowing Earth* 2016-17 (detail), blown and hot formed Uranium glass, dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist and THIS IS NO FANTASY + dianne tanzer gallery

Indigenous artist Yhonnie Scarce's new installation, *Hollowing Earth* at TarraWarra Museum of Art in the Yarra Valley, examines issues related to the mining of uranium on Aboriginal land.

Scarce was born in Woomera, South Australia, and belongs to the Kokatha and Nukunu peoples. She is one of the first contemporary Australian artists to explore the political and aesthetic power of glass, describing her work as 'politically motivated and emotionally driven' and the work often references the on-going effects of colonisation on Aboriginal people.

South Australia is home to over 25 underground and open cut mines, many of which are operating close to occupied areas. Some of the substances that are being excavated in these mines are zinc, copper, gold, iron ore, coal and uranium.

Scarce says, 'Uranium glass has been used in this work to represent the sickness that this material inflicts on those who have been in contact with it. But also the illness that is left behind once the earth has been opened and its contents have been exposed. Each "bush banana" form identifies the desecration of country, gaping holes and scarred surfaces, all of which is the aftermath of the disrespectful behaviour that mining inflicts on the planet'.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

31 JANUARY 2017

TARRAWARRA  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

Exhibition curator and TarraWarra Museum of Art Director Victoria Lynn said the Museum commissioned Yhonnie Scarce to create this powerful new work to be presented as part of CLIMARTE's **ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE 2017** – a festival of exhibitions and events harnessing the creative power of the Arts to inform, engage and inspire action on climate change. [www.artclimatechange.org](http://www.artclimatechange.org)

Also on exhibition is the first survey of Melbourne-based artist, Louise Hearman organized and toured by the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, MCA with paintings and drawings from across her 25-year practice.

**ENDS**

Presented in association with



**For further media information, please contact:**

Katrina Raymond, MediaLink Productions, (03) 9663 3222, 0417 303 158

[katrina@medialinkproductions.com](mailto:katrina@medialinkproductions.com)

Sam Bonser, MediaLink Productions, (03) 9663 3222, 0407 826 995

[sam@medialinkproductions.com](mailto:sam@medialinkproductions.com)

**TarraWarra Museum of Art**, T +61 (0)3 5957 3100

311 Healesville–Yarra Glen Road, Healesville, Victoria, Australia, Melway ref: 277 B2

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am to 5pm

Open all public holidays except Christmas day

<http://www.twma.com.au/exhibition/yhonnie-scarce-hollowing-earth/>

**Exhibition Admission: 18 February – 14 May 2017**

Adults: \$7.50; Seniors: \$5.00; Pensioners, students and children: Free entry

## YHONNIE SCARCE BIO

Yhonnie Scarce was born in Woomera, South Australia, and belongs to the Kokatha and Nukunu peoples. Scarce holds a Master of Fine Arts from Monash University. She is one of the first contemporary Australian artists to explore the political and aesthetic power of glass, describing

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her work as 'politically motivated and emotionally driven'. Scarce's work often references the on-going effects of colonisation on Aboriginal people, In particular her research focus has explored the impact of the removal and relocation of Aboriginal people from their homelands and the forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their families.

Scarce's work is seen in the collections of the National Gallery of Victoria, The Art Gallery of South Australia, National Gallery Australia, Flinders University Art Museum, the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and the University of South Australia.

2016 saw Scarce exhibit at Harvard Art Museum, Massachusetts, Galway Art Centre, Ireland and hold a major solo show at THIS IS NO FANTASY + dianne tanzer gallery, Melbourne.

In 2015 Scarce exhibited internationally in Hong Kong, Vancouver, Berlin, Japan and Italy and was involved in several major projects around Australia including the Palimpsest Biennale, Mildura and a site specific installation at the Art Gallery of South Australia as part of Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary and Torres Strait Islander Art.

Scarce's work was curated into the 19th Biennale of Sydney in 2014. In 2013 she exhibited in the 55th Venice Biennale collateral exhibition Personal Structures, Melbourne Now at the National Gallery of Victoria, Heartland at the Art Gallery of South Australia, the Western Australia Indigenous Art Awards and at the Australian Experimental Art Foundation. In 2012 Scarce held a residency and exhibited at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum, University of Virginia, USA and participated in Aboriginal art symposiums at Seattle Art Museum and the Hood Museum, New Hampshire.



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