

# ua usi fa'ava'asavili

CURATED BY DR LÉULI ESHRĀGHI

TARRAWARRA  
MUSEUM  
OF ART  
BIENNIAL 2023



# How to use this kit

---

This Education Kit has been developed to support learning alongside the exhibition TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa’ava’asavili* curated by Dr Léuli Eshrāghi. The content of this Education Kit is created for Year 10 students through to VCE and tertiary students, and for teachers to select and adapt the support materials provided within the resource for learning experiences in the gallery and/or in primary and secondary classes.

## Contents

---

Acknowledgement of Country	3
Biennial Introduction	3
TarraWarra Biennial Links	4

### Front Cover:

Unbound Collective (Ali Gumillya Baker, Faye Rosas Blanch, Natalie Harkin, Simone Ulalka Tur) Mirning, Mbararam / Yidinyji, Narungga, Yankunytjatjara  
*PERMEATE | mapping skin and tides of saturated resistance 2023*  
installation view, TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa’ava’asavili*  
Courtesy of the artists  
Photo: Andrew Curtis

## Acknowledgement of Country

---

This exhibition is presented on the lands and waters of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. TarraWarra Museum of Art acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the original Custodians of this land, and we extend our respect to their community, their Ancestors, and their Elders, past, present and emerging.

## Biennial Introduction

---

Periodic exhibitions—biennials and triennials—have a long and complex history. Throughout the past century, these exhibitions have often either represented a global world view or focused on a national framework. In contrast to this, the TarraWarra Biennial is distinguished by its independent thematic framework and experimental platform. At times our Biennials have focused on a particular aspect of contemporary art, while others have been inspired by the exceptional setting of TarraWarra on Wurundjeri Country, 60 kms northeast of Melbourne, and the natural terrains and waterways that surround the Museum. Progressively, the Biennials have been able to commission more and more artists to make new works, and this current Biennial has commissioned 14 artists/artist groups to create new work.

The role of these exhibitions is to make a strong statement in the context of the art scene; to find common ideas and tendencies in contemporary art; and to invite audiences to consider art in new ways, or to reappraise what they might have seen before. These exhibitions often comprise intense activity. They invariably involve symposia, performances and the opportunity for artistic exchange, aesthetic risk and above all, the opportunity for hospitality. A biennial or triennial is a time to welcome visitors, to accept their 'offerings', and to explore mutually transformative ways of understanding each other. In this sense, the event is an opportunity to negotiate a strategic relationship between local ideas and global concerns.

Since 2006, the TarraWarra Biennial has presented the work of over 200 artists. In 2006, the inaugural Biennial *Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today* took its inspiration from the significant painting collection that Eva Besen AO and Marc Besen AC gifted to the Museum, and included contemporary painters who shared an openness to their contemporary cultural and political milieu. In 2008, *Lost & Found: An Archeology of the Present* articulated the increasing tendency for artists to connect with cultural history, images and objects already in existence. In 2012 (there was no Biennial in 2010), *Sonic Spheres* assembled artists engaged with sound, music, voice and performance. In 2014, *Whisper in My Mask*, explored masking, secrets and hidden narratives as psychological states. The 2016 Biennial, *Endless Circulation*, addressed forms of continuity and circulation, pauses and punctuations, and the cyclic rhythms of Biennials themselves. In 2018, *From Will to Form* looked at the ideas around material practice, and the vital and wilful forces inherent in all things. With the delays around Covid lockdowns, our next Biennial was presented in 2021. *Slow Moving Waters* featured artists responding to two related cues: the idea of slowness, and the gentle measured flow of the Birrarung. Featuring the works of 15 artists/artist groups, the *TarraWarra Biennial 2023: ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*, considers the interconnectedness of the peoples of Australia, Asia and the Great Ocean through their non-Western knowledge systems.

# TarraWarra Biennials

TarraWarra Biennial 2006:

[Australian Painting Today](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2008:

[Lost and Found: An Archeology of the Present](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2012:

[Sonic Spheres](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2014:

[Whisper In My Mask](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2016:

[Endless Circulation](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2018:

[From Will to Form](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2021:

[Slow Moving Waters](#)

TarraWarra Biennial 2023:

[ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili](#)



Hoda Afshar

*Speak the Wind* 2015–21

installation view, TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*

Courtesy of the artist and Milani Gallery, Brisbane

Photo: Andrew Curtis







## Terms of Use

This education resource has been produced by TarraWarra Museum of Art to provide information for education visits and classroom support materials for the exhibition *ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*, curated by Dr Léuli Eshraghi. The reproduction and communication of this resource is permitted for educational purposes only.

© 2023 TarraWarra Museum of Art

## Acknowledgments

Education resource compiled by Sarah Metzner, Learning and Engagement Manager, drawing on texts written by Victoria Lynn, Director. Proofread by Anthony Fitzpatrick, Curator. Designed by Rachael Paintin, TarraWarra Museum of Art, June, 2023.

TarraWarra Museum of Art's Education Program is supported by The Erdi Foundation, Bennelong Foundation, Scanlon Foundation.

## Visiting TarraWarra Museum of Art

TarraWarra Museum of Art's Education Program is available for primary, secondary and tertiary groups Tuesday – Friday during exhibition seasons. Bookings are required for both guided and self-guided school and tertiary groups.

## Contact Us

[twma.com.au/education](http://twma.com.au/education)

(03) 5957 3100  
[museum@twma.com.au](mailto:museum@twma.com.au)

TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*, curated by Dr Léuli Eshraghi, has been generously supported by

### SUPPORTED BY



### MAJOR PARTNER



### SPONSORS

Arnold Bloch Leibler  
Lawyers and Advisers

CHUBB®  
INSURANCE

AON

### EXHIBITION SUPPORTERS



creative  
partnerships  
australia

Aēsop.

COPYRIGHTAGENCY  
CULTURAL FUND

### LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



### Previous Page:

David Sequeira

*You and I, we're like diamonds in the sky (after Rihanna) 2023*

*and Looking to the stars for answers 2023*

installation view, TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*

Courtesy of the artist

Photo: Andrew Curtis

### Back Cover:

Jenna Lee

Gulumerridjin, Wardaman, KarraJarri

*to gather, to nourish, to sustain 2022–23*

installation view, TarraWarra Biennial 2023: *ua usiusi fa'ava'asavili*

Courtesy of the artist and MARS Gallery, Melbourne

Photo: Andrew Curtis

