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2016

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# Performing Climates

Arts House

Season 1



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Curated by Arts House and presented in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Performing Climates is the public arts and cultural program of the 2016 Performing Studies International Conference.

The Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen marked a tipping point: at the very least, a global acknowledgment of the impacts of climate change; and perhaps the beginning of real plans to limit future damage. In this context, artists, activists, scientists and citizens are collaborating to radically re-imagine, reconfigure and research how and where art intersects with climate change; and our capacity to respond to, prepare for and mitigate it.

Performing Climates investigates these themes with five major projects – *Cut the Sky*, *Refuge*, *and the earth sighed*, *Best Festival Ever* and *Enfold* – along with a series of panel discussions.

To explore the full program and book tickets, visit: [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au)

Cover Image:  
Jalaru Photography and Perth International  
Arts Festival

6 – 10 July

# Cut the Sky Marrugeku

Presented in partnership with the  
University of Melbourne



Image: Jon Green

Season:  
6 – 10 July  
Times:  
Wed – Fri 7.30pm,  
Sat 2pm & 7.30pm,  
Sun 2pm  
Post-show Q&A:  
Thu 7 July  
Tickets:  
Full \$45 / Conc. \$35 /  
Student \$30

Dance, video, poetry and song are breathtakingly combined in a major new work from intercultural and interdisciplinary company, Marrugeku. In a burnt landscape a group of climate change refugees faces yet another extreme weather event. Propelled back and forward in time, they revisit conflict with mining companies, the destruction of fauna and the relegation of the marginalised, while contemplating the gift of life and the life-giving force of the sun.

Butterflies swarm searching for water; dancers disintegrate into the light. A song is sung, calling for rain. Like climate change itself, *Cut the Sky* is both local and international – bringing together artists from Europe, Asia, Africa and remote and urban Australia. An ambitious and poignant meditation on humanity's frailty in the face of our own actions, *Cut the Sky* showcases Marrugeku's unique contemporary vision – restless, taut and unwavering.



Image: Randall Hill / Reuters

9 – 10 July

## Refuge Exercise in progress

A flood has hit North Melbourne. Artists, emergency services and the local community come together to respond and Arts House is opened as a Relief Centre.

How should cultural spaces respond to catastrophic emergencies? As a community, how can we come together to collectively respond to climatic events or disaster?

In the case of an emergency, North Melbourne Town Hall — the home of Arts House — is one of the City of Melbourne's designated Relief Centres. On the weekend of July 9, Arts House will host *Refuge* – a 24-hour, artist-led disaster exercise at North Melbourne Town Hall, which will be transformed into an actual Relief Centre.

In collaboration with Red Cross and Emergency Management Victoria, six artists, from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, have developed artistic responses to the needs and functions that arise within an Emergency Relief centre. Investigating the provision of food; light and warmth; wellbeing; wayfinding/communications; and sleep, each artist's response will be tested within the real-time disaster simulation setting:

**Latai Taumoepeau** will conduct bodies through action to make power in *Human Generator 57*. One person is energetic – a collective body is a power station

**Kate Sulan** will create *Nest*, an evolving landscape of nests and refuges built over the 24-hour period throughout the building, housing music for a disaster. Music that inspires a sense of safety, hope and refuge.

**Hannah Donnelly's** response *Dungin* explores sleeping on country and acknowledging sovereignty in times of emergency and disaster, through listening, writing and sleeping between two fires.

*Information Flood* is **Lee Shang Lun's** narrative about the ways we communicate during emergencies and considers how technology has affected the way we experience and manage disaster.

A delightfully disturbing take on food distribution and regulation systems during periods of conflict, **Dawn Weleski** and **Jen Rae's** *Fair Share Fare* explores historical, contemporary (and inevitably) future food rationing.

An Australian first, *Refuge* will investigate the role cultural organisations and artists can play in preparing and connecting communities as they brace for the increasing impact of climate-induced disaster.

For further information, visit [arthshouse.com.au](http://arthshouse.com.au)

This is a free event open to the public. Come any time at the times listed below

**Saturday 9 July:**  
12pm-10pm

**Sunday 10 July:**  
9am-12pm (community breakfast, 9am)  
FREE





Marrugeku, *Cut the Sky*. Image: Jon Green



6 – 10 July

## and the earth sighed Josephine Starrs & Leon Cmielewski



Image: Courtesy of the artists

Season:  
6 – 10 July 2016  
Times:  
Wed: 10am – 9pm  
(opening reception  
5:30 – 7pm)  
Thu & Fri:  
10am – 9:30pm  
Sun: 12pm – 9pm  
Tickets:  
Free, no bookings  
required

In an immersive audiovisual installation that re-imagines the relationship between nature and culture, Josephine Starrs and Leon Cmielewski configure the land itself as active, not neutral, and able to speak about our human impacts upon it. Using imagery captured by drones, detailed aerial views of Australian landscapes and

waterways are dynamically manipulated in ways that reveal their underlying fragility; while Alex Davies' surround soundscape invites contemplation of the impact of climate change on natural ecologies.

5 – 10 July

## Best Festival Ever Boho



Image: Courtesy of the artist

Season:  
5 – 10 July 2016  
Times:  
Tue: 7pm (preview)  
Wed – Fri:  
2pm & 7pm  
Sun: 3:30pm & 7pm  
Tickets:  
Full \$25 / Conc. \$20 /  
Student \$20 /  
Preview \$15 (ticket  
price includes  
complimentary  
beverage)

Have you got what it takes to run a music festival? At *Best Festival Ever: How to Manage a Disaster*, you'll get the chance to find out.

For an interactive hour, you'll collaborate with a small team of other audience members to create a unique festival and discover the science of complex systems. Part theatre show, part performance lecture and part massive boardgame, *Best Festival Ever* puts you in the moment for every part of the festival manager's rollercoaster ride.

Can you assemble the perfect band lineup? Will the way you deal with artist tantrums trigger fights in the moshpit? And what chaos could those looming rainclouds cause?

When your festival experience is over, you'll receive a glass of wine (or beer, or soft drink) hear from a scientist who studies complex phenomena and discuss how we grapple with such systems in science, society and our daily lives.

5 – 10 July

## Enfold

Ria Soemardjo, Jade Dewi Tyas  
Tunggal & Paula Van Beek



Image: Paula Van Beek

Season:  
5 – 10 July 2016  
Times:  
Tues: 7:30pm, 8:15pm,  
9pm (preview)  
Wed – Fri: 4:30pm,  
5:15pm, 6pm, 7:30pm,  
8:15pm & 9pm  
Sun: 2pm, 2:45pm,  
3:30pm, 5pm,  
5:45pm, 6:30pm  
Tickets:  
Full \$15 / Conc. \$10  
/ Student \$10 /  
Preview \$10

The rising waters of the Pacific and increased displacement of Pacific Islanders provide the impetus for *Enfold* – a poetic contemplation of water and our relationship to it. An installation and ritual performance from the deeply experienced and richly talented team of Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal,

Ria Soemardjo and Paula van Beek, *Enfold* explores themes of tidal shorelines, relocation and shelter. It invokes an ancient way of seeing, in which deep interconnections are revealed between the microcosmic realms of the human body and the macrocosmic, mystical universe.

8 July

## Listening to Country 2



Image: Jalaru Photography  
and Perth International  
Arts Festival

Season:  
Friday 8 July  
Times:  
3.30–5pm  
Location:  
Meat Market,  
5 Blackwood St,  
North Melbourne  
Free entry

*Listening to Country* is an ongoing research project to find forms for ethical dialogues between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, cultural custodians and scholars in the face of climate change. The three-year project has explored new approaches to dramaturgy and choreography, which embody Indigenous and intercultural knowledge of, and responsibilities to, what is above and below the earth's crust. Results have included the multi media performance *Cut the Sky*, presented by Arts House during Performance Climates and a series of practice based research laboratories and symposia nationally and internationally.

For the public plenary at Performance Climates Marrugeku's co-artistic directors Dalisa Pigram and Rachael Swain will discuss the *Listening to Country* research process and have invited Te Ahukaramu Charles Royal (musician, scholar and director at Te Papa), Professor Helen Gilbert (London University, curator of Indigeneity in the Contemporary World) and Walmajarri/Nyikina poet and painter Edwin Lee Mulligan to share their perspectives. The plenary will be moderated by David Pledger (NYID/RMIT).

Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, the land of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

## How to Buy Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online at [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au) or by phone on (03) 9322 3720.

Please note there will be a \$1.50 transaction fee per booking when booking online or by phone.

Ticket packages are available for *Enfold* and *Best Festival Ever*. See website for details.

## Getting Here

Arts House and the Meat Market are a short, 15-minute walk from the University of Melbourne.

### **A** Arts House

North Melbourne Town Hall,  
521 Queensberry Street,  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

### Public transport

Tram 57 – Stop 12, corner  
Queensberry & Errol Streets,  
North Melbourne

### **M** Meat Market

5 Blackwood Street,  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

### Wheelchair Access

Arts House venues are wheelchair accessible, however certain performances may be restricted. Please discuss all access requirements with ticketing staff when booking.

For access enquiries contact  
Arts House via [artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au) or on (03) 9322 3720.

