

REFUGE 2021 PROGRAM

Large print

About Refuge 2021

Presented by Arts House
Wed 21 April – Sun 16 May

Come and find refuge in each other.

For six years Arts House's annual Refuge program has imagined how we might prepare in the face of a disaster. In 2021 we ask what happens when these crises meet.

From droughts to floods, mass displacements to pandemics and heatwaves, Refuge was never just a hypothetical. For the final instalment in this long look at climate crisis, we've invited emergency experts, artists, scientists and deep thinkers from a broad range of communities to share knowledge, experience and tradition together, with you.

Taking place over four weeks, experience ten new projects stretching from the comfort of your home to the pavers of neighbourhood streets, and all the way to the North Melbourne Town Hall.

It's time to share.

Times and Dates

See individual events for dates, times and booking details.

Location

Refuge 2021 takes place at North Melbourne Town Hall as well as offsite locations, and a digital program will be available online. See individual events for details.

Accessibility

See individual events for access information, Auslan interpreted sessions and wheelchair accessibility

Refuge 2021 Artists and Projects

Black Wattle – this mob

Convergence – Harry Lee Shang Lun/Play Reactive

First Assembly of the Centre of Reworlding – Jen Rae in collaboration with Claire G. Coleman

I am here, You are there, I miss you – Neika Lehman

MASS MOVEMENT – Latai Taumoepeau

MASS MOVEMENT FOLAU: The Arrival – Latai Taumoepeau

Not a Drop to Drink - Keg de Souza

Portage: Shelter2Camp – Jen Rae

Ruth Crow Walks – Lorna Hannan and Hannah Morphy-Walsh

Ruth Crow Corner – Lorna Hannan in collaboration with Hannah Morphy-Walsh

Tension//Relief – Corin Ileto and Diimpa

Watershed – Cass Lynch

Supported by

Refuge 2021 is supported with funding provided by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts and funding and advisory body; the University of Melbourne; Emergency Management Victoria. It is supported by Resilient Melbourne; Australian Red Cross; SES Footscray Division; The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity; North Melbourne Language and Learning; and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

Black Wattle – this mob

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Published by Incendium Radical Library

Black Wattle is a keeping place: a collection of poetry, photography, collage and illustration developed by this mob arts collective over the last 12 months.

Created in collaboration with Incendium Radical Library, Black Wattle showcases the work of five key artists and the conversations they exchanged throughout lockdown.

Common themes include tracing waterways, backyard gardens, thinking locally and relationships to place. After the onslaught of screens and digital communication in recent times, refresh your mind and senses with 40 pages of new work in print.

Event details

Black Wattle Book Launch

Wed 3 May

6pm

Free

80 minutes

Footscray Community Arts Centre

45 Moreland St, Footscray VIC

All ages

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

Auslan interpreted

Artist Statement

“Warmth, respect, and strength thread our conversations together. We map our connections and disconnections from one another, but also from ourselves. We celebrate the things we have been able to do together and imagine the

things we haven't been able to do together." this mob, 2021

Artistic Credits

Artist/Writer – Kate Ten Buuren

Artist/Writer – Moorina Bonini

Artist/Writer – Neika Lehman

Artist/Writer – Maya Hodge

Contributor – Maddee Clark

Creative Producer/Collaborator – Kalyani Mumtaz

Designer/Publisher – Incendium Radical Library

About the Artists

this mob is an arts collective for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives. Since 2016, this mob has been active in facilitating workshops, curating exhibitions, hosting events and disrupting across so-called Melbourne. The collective now has a home base at Collingwood Yards.

Supported by

Arts Gen, and the City of Maribyrnong. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Convergence - Harry Lee Shang Lun/ PlayReactive

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Convergence is a game about climate emergency where you build, destroy, and reimagine a city together.

This hybrid web and tabletop experience combines systems thinking, speculative storytelling, and deep time reflection to interrogate our values: the ones that lead to catastrophe, and the ones that are critical for survival.

Created by interdisciplinary artist Harry Lee Shang Lun, written in collaboration with Noongar researcher Cass Lynch, and based on investigations and interviews with dozens of experts, Convergence is a playable provocation that explores our collective course towards collapse – and what comes after.

Let's play it out.

Event Details

convergence.place

Launches online Wed 21 April

Play anytime with 2 to 6 people.

You will need a computer, paper, pens and a coin.

Play Convergence at Arts House

Thu 13 – Sat 15 May: 11am / 2pm / 6pm

North Melbourne Town Hall

We'll supply the computer and everything you need.

Bring 2 to 6 people to play.

Free

Duration: 90 – 120 minutes

Suitable for 16 years old +

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Artist Statement

“The values of our modern society – derived from colonization and capitalism – have led to accelerated climate trauma. Ecological disasters, multiple overlapping emergencies, wicked problems of incredible scale and complexity: how did we get to this point? And how will we survive an unknowable future? My hope is to take a playful and earnest approach to guide us away from fear and towards clear-eyed determination.” – Harry Lee Shang Lun, 2021.

“I find great comfort and inspiration in knowing how resilient land, water, animals, plants and my ancestors have been in previous climate change events. However the colony continually seeks to sever our connections with the past, forcing deep forgetting on us so that the violence of invasion might be buried. This traps everyone in the anxious present, forcing the status quo’s neurotic fatalism in the face of climate change on us all. I’m looking for new ways to inspire people to sink roots into Country and engage in the deep memory of place to find resilience to act and survive the warming world.” – Cass Lynch, 2021.

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

Convergence is a hybrid web and tabletop game that includes audio, text and moving image.

Artistic Credits

Creator – Harry Lee Shang Lun

Writer/Collaborator – Cass Lynch

Website – Public Office

Creative Producer – Sarah Rowbottam

Inclusion Dramaturg – Tom Middleditch

Access Consultant – Jonathan Craig

Research and workshop participants – Christine Drummond, Tony Birch, Hanna Cormick, Rev. Salesi Faupula, Professor Jodie McVernon, Thea Snow, Alexei Trundle, Lauren Rickards, Ida Kubiszewski, Cheryl Durrant, Mohamed Nur, Rawcus, Signal.

Artist Biographies

Harry Lee Shang Lun (李尚倫) is an antidisciplinary artist with a background in medicine and commerce. He is the director of PlayReactive, a Melbourne-based studio making bold interactive experiences, from videogames to immersive theatre. His artistic practice centres games and play as a way to explore complex systems and respond to wicked problems.

Cass Lynch is a Noongar writer and researcher living on Whadjuk Noongar Country in Perth. She has recently completed a creative writing PhD that explores deep memory features of the Noongar oral storytelling tradition; in particular stories that reference the last ice age and the rise in sea level that followed it. Her Noongar language haikus, published in *Westerly* 64.1, won the 2019 Patricia Hackett Prize. Her story 'Split', a creative impression of deep time Perth, can be found in the Brio Books publication *Stories of Perth*.

Supported by

Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

First Assembly of the Centre for Reworlding - Jen Rae in collaboration with Claire G. Coleman

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

It's 2042 and Claire is past her use-by date. She knows apocalypse and doesn't want another groundhog day.

In this call from the future, artists Jen Rae and Claire G. Coleman hack time to share warnings and stories of refugium.

Set within the disaster shelters constructed for this year's Refuge project Shelter2Camp, this speculative and provocative video transmission will open out into a participatory palaver event involving the audience at Arts House.

Digging into moral dilemmas of life and death, First Assembly of the Centre for Reworlding focuses on the importance of child-centred trauma prevention in the face of coming collapse. Bring your ideas to this conversation.

Event Details

Tue 27 April, 7pm

Free

Duration: 2 hours

North Melbourne Town Hall

This event is suitable for 15 years + with parent of guardian.

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Warnings

This event involves profanity and discussing the climate emergency, apocalypse, euthanasia, gender violence, suicide and filicide, and might be distressing to some people.

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

Auslan

Refugium: as part of First Assembly of the Centre for Reworlding, a 20-minute video work by Jen Rae and Claire G. Coleman in collaboration with Kamarra Bell-Wykes will launch online Tue 27 April, 7pm and be available on demand.

Refugium is Auslan interpreted and closed captioned.

Artist Statement

“Centred on First Nations knowledge and protocols, First Assembly of the Centre for Reworlding hacks time and compounding existential crises, delves into moral dilemmas of life and death and hones in on child-centred trauma prevention in the coming collapse. It’s 2042 and Claire is past her used by date. She knows apocalypse and doesn’t want another groundhog day. What are the conversations that we aren’t having now that might aid us, our loved ones and our future ancestors? What we willing to give up and/or fight for in the greatest challenge facing humanity.” Jen Rae, 2021

Artistic Credits

PORTAGE Lead artist – Jen Rae

Producer: Naomi Velaphi

First Assembly for the Centre of Reworlding

Lead Artists: Jen Rae and Claire G. Coleman

Dramaturg: Kamarra Bell-Wykes

Video: Devika Bilimoria

Sound: Marco Cher-Gibard

Moderator: Alex Kelly

Production coordinator: Dans Maree Sheehan

About the Artists

Dr Jen Rae is a Narm (Melbourne)-based artist-researcher of Canadian Red River Métis-Scottish descent from Treaty 6 Territory. Her 16-year practice-led research expertise is centred around cultural responses to the climate emergency, specifically the role of artists and discourses around food justice, disaster preparedness and speculative futures.

Claire G. Coleman is a Noongar woman whose ancestral country is on the south coast of Western Australia. Born in Perth she currently resides in the hills of Naarm (Melbourne). Her debut novel Terra Nullius, published in Australia and in the US, won a Norma K. Hemming Award and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the Aurealis Science Fiction Award among others. Her second novel is

The Old Lie [2019]. She writes essay, verse and fiction unpacking the effect of colonisation on Indigenous lives.

Supported by

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

I am here, You are there, I miss you - Neika Lehman

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

This 6-panel window commission by writer and artist Neika Lehman reflects on the past 12 months. What intimate feelings were shared between people in Melbourne, and what were felt but not quite spoken?

What did we notice for the first time in lives restricted to 5km? The colour of the soil beneath our homes, or the direction of the sea? When it seems like everyone is missing, we can remind ourselves there is always ancient land.

Made in collaboration with graphic designer Lloyd Collins, new work creates a sense of distant but familiar feelings for those walking past.

Event Details

21 April – 24 July

View anytime

North Melbourne Town Hall

Artist Statement

“Drawing on a life limited to the 5km radius, this work encourages passersby to reflect on what we noticed for the first time in our newly restricted lives.” – Neika Lehman, 2021.

Artistic Credits

Concept and Writer - Neika Lehman

Graphic Design - Lloyd Collins

About the Artist

Neika Lehman is a writer, artist and member of this mob collective. Neika's Trawloolway ancestors of tebrakunna Country, lutruwita, shape the loops in Neika's practice, pointing to tensions between memory, time, desire and Country in the settler colonial state. Neika has lived in North Melbourne, Kulin Country for the past 5 years.

Supported by

Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

MASS MOVEMENT - Latai Taumoepeau

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Latai, descendant of celestial navigator Taumoepeau will lead you in a poetic movement to embody and adhere to Country.

MASS MOVEMENT is an experience of multiple parts engaging in the socio-relational space of departure, arrival, and reception in the urgent face of forced relocation.

As your own vaka/vessel make your way through a self-guided audio pilgrimage of deep adaptation that traverses the waterways from Naarm to Birrarung and all the way to Flagstaff Gardens.

Following the coordinates of saltwater, freshwater and civic water, the works invite contemplation and visceral interactions about the humanitarian disaster of displacement, culminating in FOLAU, a mass choreography of 100 bodies amplifying a climate emergency distress call from the Pacific Island Nations of Oceania.

Event Details

Launches online Wed 21 April

Listen to this work on your personal device with headphones.

Free

Duration: 40 – 60 minutes

Listen anytime

Accessibility

Suitable for all ages

Wheelchair accessible

MASS MOVEMENT will be accompanied by a zine with transcripts of the audio pilgrimage, made available in PDF, plain text and print from Wed 21 April.

Artist Statement

"MASS MOVEMENT is the work of Australian artist Latai Taumoepeau of Tongan lineage and heritage. Latai contemplates the reality of forced relocation of Pacific people from their submerging island nations. In an attempt to understand and prepare for the complexities around environmental displacement." – Latai Taumoepeau, 2021.

Artistic Credits

Lead Artist - Latai Taumoepeau

Creative Producer/ Dramaturg - Jamie Lewis

Associate Producer - Eliki Reade

Sound Designer/Composer/Editor - Nina Buchanan

Sound Selector/Mixer - Lucreccia Quintanilla

Cultural Consultants - Rev. Dr Jione Havea, Janice Florence, Sisi'uno Helu

Drummers - F7 Vaerua Kaara

Zine Designer - Jacob Tolo

About the Artist

"The more ancient I am, the more contemporary my work is. I'm not doing anything new. When I do faivā, I perform space. When I do space, I do time - they are inseparable. When I faivā, I do form. When I do form, I also do content - they are inseparable. Faivā is the art of organising and performing social duties related to place, the body and environment - they are inseparable. I am an anti-disciplinary artist. Alive today." – Latai Taumoepeau

Supported by

Besen Foundation. Special thanks to Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club and Hobsons Bay City Council. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

MASS MOVEMENT FOLAU: The Arrival - Latai Taumoepeau

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

FOLAU: The Arrival – is the culminating finale of Latai Taumoepeau's Mass Movement, a poetic pilgrimage tracing our waterways.

An orchestrated movement of drumming and percussive dance, FOLAU responds to the injustice of forced relocation, inspired by the majestic currents and waves of Oceania.

Join 100 bodies in an urgent semaphore action at Flagstaff Gardens accompanied by F7 Vaerua Kaara (Soul Drummers) in amplification of the climate emergency.

Body percussion instructions will be available on video for all participants to learn prior to attending.

Event details

Participate in MASS MOVEMENT FOLAU - Arrival – Assembly

Sun 16 May

3pm

Free

45 minutes

Flagstaff Gardens

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

Auslan interpreted

This is a participatory outdoor event taking place on grass and will occur in most weather conditions. Participants will be socially distanced. The event will involve loud drumming. You are welcome to come and go at any time – quiet areas of the park are available.

Artist Statement

“MASS MOVEMENT is the work of Australian artist Latai Taumoepeau of Tongan lineage and heritage. Latai contemplates the reality of forced relocation of Pacific people from their submerging island nations. In an attempt to understand and prepare for the complexities around environmental displacement.” Latai Taumoepeau, 2021

Artistic Credits

Lead Artist - Latai Taumoepeau

Creative Producer/Dramaturg - Jamie Lewis

Associate Producer - Eliki Reade

Performers - Latai Taumoepeau, Jamie Lewis, Eliki Reade

Access Consultant – Janice Florence

Drummers - F7 Vaerua Kaara

About the Artist

Latai Taumoepeau

The more ancient I am, the more contemporary my work is.

I'm not doing anything new.

When I do faivā, I perform space. When I do space, I do time - they are inseparable.

When I do faivā, I do form. When I do form, I also do content - they are inseparable.

Faivā is the art of organising and performing social duties related to place, the body and environment - they are inseparable.

I am an anti-disciplinary artist. Alive today.

Supported by

Besen Foundation. Special thanks to Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club and Hobsons Bay City Council. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Not a Drop to Drink – Keg de Souza

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Take a seat at the table for tomorrow: Not a Drop to Drink is a large-scale installation and series of meals that invite community to prepare for climate crisis.

Food shortages due to water scarcity is one of the biggest climate concerns for people living in Australia, and everything on this drought responsive menu has been developed through interviews with experts ranging from Indigenous Elders and farmers to water-policy lawyers and botanists.

Set inside a temporary architecture, featuring an immersive soundscape by Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey, these meals – designed by Mabu Mabu's Nornie Bero – will conjure a space that centres conversations on these urgent matters.

Event Details

Mon 10 – Sat 15 May

Installation open

Mon 10 – Fri 14 May, 10am – 5pm

Sat 15 May 10am-12pm & 3.30pm – 6pm

Free

Meals

Wed 12 – Fri 14 May, 7pm

Sat 15 May, 1pm & 7pm

\$30 Tickets are sold in pairs

North Melbourne Town Hall

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

This installation is visual and auditory.

The space will involve low light and no strobe.
Meals will be intimate and conversational in nature.

Artist Statement

“Not a Drop to Drink, is an installation and series of performative meals inviting community to prepare for climate crisis through conversations around food and water scarcity. The central element, a large glass table pressed with drought-tolerant plants and soft temporary architecture, hosts a pedagogical platform through performative meals. An immersive soundscape featuring narratives behind the table’s drought-tolerant plants fills the space.” Keg de Souza, 2021

Artistic Credits

Lead artist – Keg de Souza

Sound - Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey

Sound Consultants/ Collaborators – Faye d’Evie, Andy Slater

Cultural Consultant – Senior Boonwurrung Elder N’arwee’t Carolyn Briggs

Food design – Nornie Bero, Mabu Mabu

Interviews – Nayoka Bundle, Zena Cumpston, Claire G. Coleman, Jen Rae, Aviva

Reed, Adam Grubb, Erin O’Donnell, Caitlyn Molloy, Neville Walsh, Tom May

Creative Producer – Sarah Rowbottam

About the Artist

Keg de Souza lives and works in Redfern, Sydney on unceded Gadigal land and uses mediums such as temporary architecture, food, mapping and dialogical projects to explore the poetics and politics of space.

Supported by

The Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, Create NSW. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts. Special thanks to Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

Portage: Shelter2Camp - Jen Rae

What could a Melbourne-centric disaster shelter look like?

As part of her multi-year Portage project, Jen Rae and First Nations master weavers Vicki Couzens, Vicki Kinai, Bronwyn Razem and Muhubo Sulieman invite participants to learn the skills of hand-building, knot-tying, binding and grass weaving to come up with imaginative and practical shelter-making solutions in the climate emergency.

Portage is the act of carrying a vessel over land between navigable waters. Each element of Rae's multi-platform Portage series explores the ways in which communication, community and care are central to the notion of survival.

Event Details

Sat 24 April: 10am / 1pm

Free

Duration: 2 hours

North Melbourne Town Hall

Children 5 years + must be supervised by a parent or guardian.

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Artist Statement

“Disasters are a terrible time to learn new skills – is the premise of Portage, a multiplatform speculative futures project in four parts, focusing on collaborative co-building, generative knowledge-sharing and social cohesion in the context of climate change related displacement. What are the skills and knowledges at the thresholds of being lost or are often overlooked and undervalued, that we may need in the years ahead? How might we put differences aside to collectively adapt and prepare?” – Jen Rae, 2021.

Artistic Credits

PORTAGE Lead artist - Jen Rae

Producer - Naomi Velaphi

Master weavers in collaboration - Vicki Kinai, Vicki Couzens, Bronwyn Razem

and Muhubo Sulieman
Production Manager - Dans Maree Sheehan
Co-build technical assistant - Oliver Strano
Shelter2Camp Videographer: - Sam Mcgilp
Portage Videographer- Martin Potter

About the Artist

Dr Jen Rae is a Narm (Melbourne)-based artist-researcher of Canadian Red River Métis-Scottish descent from Treaty 6 Territory. Her 16-year practice-led research expertise is centred around cultural responses to the climate emergency, specifically the role of artists and discourses around food justice, disaster preparedness and speculative futures.

Supported by

The Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and supported by The Venny; North Melbourne Language and Learning; Kensington Neighbourhood House; Museums Victoria; and the City of Melbourne through the Park Rangers – Parks, Property and Waterway. Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Ruth Crow Corner – Lorna Hannan and Hannah Morphy-Walsh

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

A staple of Refuge since 2016, Ruth Crow Corner has provided a cosy nook for practical and through-provoking chats about floods, heatwaves and pandemics. Now our attention turns to the convergence of emergencies.

Hosted by historian Lorna Hannan and a band of locals, Ruth Crow Corner is a space where you can meet your neighbours, quiz experts and throw around new ideas for how we prepare for the long emergency of climate crisis. This welcoming space is named after local humanitarian and environmentalist, Ruth Crow AM (1916–99) who showed us that great things can happen when we talk over a cuppa.

Refuge 2021 will also feature Ruth Crow Walks, where you can explore the fascinating stories of North and West Melbourne neighbourhood through the trees and waterways.

Event Details

Sat 15 May: 11am / 1pm

Free – bookings required

Duration: 90 minutes

North Melbourne Town Hall

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Artist Statement

“Refuge is striving towards equality. It uses creativity to create empathy for us to connect with each other and the environment. Our creativity delights our lives, and fills us with joy – but it is also deeply serious. It is tied to our fate and the fate of the universe. You can’t have equality without empathy, and you can’t have creativity without empathy. This is why artists are so important for the world. They hold creativity at the centre of their being.” – Lorna Hannan, 2021.

Artistic Credits

Lead Artist - Lorna Hannan; Collaborator - Hannah Morphy-Walsh.

About the Artists

Lorna Hannan has lived in North Melbourne for over 50 years and watched the many changes that have made it a distinctive place to live in. Her father was the headmaster of the Errol Street State School, the school that all four of her own children attended as well as a mix of cousins and later quite a high proportion of her grandchildren. Links with the area have given Lorna's life a richness that she treasures and many stories to enjoy and retell. Refuge gives her the opportunity to harvest these stories and to savour the arts of conversation.

Hannah Morphy-Walsh writes, tends gardens and is an avid collector of anecdotes. She draws on her love of storytelling to inform her daily life. Hannah is currently Community Liaison – Indigenous Cultural Program at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

Supported by

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Ruth Crow Walks: Lorna Hannan and Hannah Morphy-Walsh

Take a stroll through North and West Melbourne and hear the stories beneath the pavers and in the trees.

Combining the local community and history-based ethos of Refuge's Ruth Crow Corner conversations with an exploration of the neighbourhood surrounding Arts House, Crows Corner Walks provide opportunities to discover the stories of the local streets, trees and waterways.

All walks will include guest speakers and cups of freshly brewed Ruth Crow tea. BYO cup.

Program of Walks

Ruth Crow organiser Lorna Hannan shares her thoughts on each of the walks:

Wed 28 April, 5pm

“Explore the world as the sun goes down – a world that contains elements that are far older than us – the trees.”

Sat 8 May, 4pm

“Ruth Crow had plans for how we could live in the city; she wanted a city that brought people together. How can we reach out towards realising that plan today? Join us to share your ideas for the future.”

Wed 12 May, 4pm

“No matter how much we try to control the water, the water seeks its own paths and makes its own way through our world. So we explore where it takes us.”

Event Details

Free

80 minutes

Location meeting point to be advised

Suitable for all ages. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian.

For Blaktix – email Kalyani.Mumtaz@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Accessibility

This work will involve walking outdoors, in most weather, for 80 minutes.

Auslan interpreters available on request for Sat 8 May event – contact Samira Farah – Samira.Farah@melbourne.vic.gov.au before Friday 2 April to book.

Artist Statement

“Looking with fresh eyes at the world around us. The damage we have done and the solutions we are seeking.” - Lorna Hannan, 2021

Artistic Credits

Lead Artist - Lorna Hannan and Hannah Morphy-Walsh

About the Artists

Lorna Hannan has lived in North Melbourne for over 50 years and watched the many changes that have made it a distinctive place to live in. Her father was the headmaster of the Errol Street State School, the school that all four of her own children attended as well as a mix of cousins and later quite a high proportion of her grandchildren. Links with the area have given Lorna's life a richness that she treasures and many stories to enjoy and retell. Refuge gives her the opportunity to harvest these stories and to savour the arts of conversation.

Hannah Morphy-Walsh writes, tends gardens and is an avid collector of anecdotes. She draws on her love of storytelling to inform her daily life. Hannah is currently Community Liaison – Indigenous Cultural Program at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

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Tension//Relief – Corin Ileto and Diimpa

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Close your eyes and take a deep breath: can you smell the gum leaves?

Tension//Relief is a place to seek solace, a medicinal space to pause and recover while in the midst of an ongoing crisis.

With safety, kindness and welcome at its centre, Tension//Relief invites audiences into an atmosphere of ambient music combining acoustic and textural electronic elements. In this new collaboration, composer Corin Ileto and multi-instrumentalist Diimpa explore the sonic possibilities opened up by prepared piano and other experiments in music-making.

This is a sound bath to relax back into.

Event Details

Fri 30 April
8pm & 9.30pm

45 minutes

\$15/\$10

North Melbourne Town Hall

All ages

Warnings

Contains scent

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible

Relaxed environment, no strobes or flashing lights.

Artistic Credits

Lead Artists: Corin Ileto and Diimpa

Support: Just Shoulder and Matthew Stegh

Creative Producer: Kalyani Mumtaz

About the Artists

Corin Iletto is a Filipina-Australian electronic producer, composer and performer based in Naarm working in the field of performance art, sound design, theatre and club spaces. In her compositions, traditional forms merge with hyper-digital soundscapes to create new imaginary realms. Coming from a background in classical piano, she's interested in creating a sonic space in which classical music can be hybridised with contemporary electronic music production.

Diimpa is an avant composer, soundscape weaver and sonic wizard. He draws on his experiences as a proud queer autistic Gubbi Gubbi man to effortlessly create worlds of magic and musical journey. Armed with keyboard instruments like analog synthesisers, music, glockenspiel or accordion, Diimpa is influenced by the innovators of the minimalist movement to carve out his own brand of contemporary Australian music.

Supported by

Arts House is a key program of the City of Melbourne, and supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Watershed - Cassie Lynch

Commissioned by Arts House for Refuge 2021

Step out of the time shallows and into the deep water memory of Boonwurrung Country.

Developed in collaboration with Boonwurrung Elder N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs, Watershed is an essay and audio recording that delves into the deep history of Melbourne's waterways.

This is not the first time this land has faced a climate crisis, and Watershed is an illuminating exploration of the resilience of Country and the meaning of change. From continental drift to the natural flooding of Naarm/Port Phillip Bay, explore the deep time perspective of Indigenous climate memory.

Event Details

Launches online Wed 21 April

Free

Digital – Audio Experience and Essay

Artist Statement

“My research into Indigenous climate memory has impacted the way I perceive time, space and memory. To engage with deep time and deep memory is to embrace a bifocal, prismatic experience of the world, where ripples of the past lengthen and reverberate throughout the present and into the future. I find great comfort and inspiration in knowing how resilient land, water, animals, plants and people have been in previous climate change events. However the colony continually seeks to sever our connections with the past, forcing deep forgetting on us so that the violence of invasion might be buried. This traps everyone in the anxious present, forcing the status quo’s neurotic fatalism in the face of climate change on us all. My writing sinks us back into the deep narratives of place to reconnect with the resilient power of Country in the face of adversity.” Cassie Lynch, 2021

Artist Credits

Writer Cassie Lynch

Water Story Custodian and Guiding Boonwurrung Elder N’arwee’t Carolyn Briggs

Sound Theo McMahon

Audio Recording Mei Swan Lim

About the Artists

Cassie Lynch is a Noongar writer and researcher living on Whadjuk Noongar Country in Perth. She has recently completed a creative writing PhD that explores deep memory features of the Noongar oral storytelling tradition; in particular stories that reference the last ice age and the rise in sea level that followed it. Her Noongar language haikus, published in *Westerly* 64.1, won the 2019 Patricia Hackett Prize. Her story 'Split', a creative impression of deep time Perth, can be found in the Brio Books publication *Stories of Perth*.

Theo McMahon is a multidisciplinary artist and proud Bundjalung man with extensive experience in sound design, composition and live performance. His

work simulates politics and art, psycho-geography, and the politics of contended spaces, creating agency and voice for First Nations people with a current focus on locality and significance of place imbued with a deep sense of history.

Permissions

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