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Two Aboriginal artists examine the lethal fallout of discrimination

The 'Looking Glass' exhibition at the TarraWarra Museum of Art features the work of Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce.



Resistance Pins, 2018 by Judy Watson. Her art practice unveils an unceasing and institutionalised discrimination against Aboriginal people. **Carl Warner**

Nov 21, 2020 - 12.49am

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What: [Looking Glass](#), an exhibition of more than 30 works, including paintings, video and sculptures and an installation themed on the monumental elements of earth, water, fire and air by Aboriginal artists Judy Watson and Yhonnie Scarce.

Judy Watson, who was born in Mundubbera, Queensland, derives inspiration from her Aboriginal matrilineal Waanyi heritage. Her practice often draws on archival documents and material to unveil an unceasing and institutionalised discrimination against Aboriginal people.

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Standing Stones, Ashes to Ashes, 2020
by Judy Watson. Carl Warner

A number of Watson's works were made in response to visits she undertook to see English, Scottish and Irish sites of prehistoric significance, including standing stones, circles and hill figures at Stonehenge, Avebury, the Outer Hebrides and Orkney.

Yhonnie Scarce was born in Woomera, South Australia, and belongs to the Kokatha and Nukunu peoples. Working with glass, she explores the political nature and aesthetic qualities of the material – in particular corresponding to the crystallisation of desert sand as a result of British nuclear tests in Maralinga, South Australia, during 1956-63.



Death Zephyr, 2017 (detail) by Yhonnie Scarce. AGNSW

In the venue's North Gallery, Scarce will present a major installation comprised of 1000 glass yams cascading from above as an evocation of the nuclear test of the "Breakaway" bomb in Maralinga, which sent radioactive clouds across the land of Aboriginal people living in the area. Each yam will be "mapped" according to the dark areas of the trajectory of this poisonous cloud.

In the adjoining Vista Walk gallery, Scarce presents a group of bush plum glass sculptures which are burnt, melted, disfigured and pitted



Hollowing Earth, 2016-17 (detail)
by Yhonnie Scarce. [Janelle Low](#)

with craters, representing the aftermath of what was created in cloud chambers in early nuclear energy experiments.

Where: [TarraWarra Museum of Art](#), 313 Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Healesville, VIC

When: November 28-March 8.

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