

Goulburn Regional Art Gallery presents

27 nov. 2020 – 23 jan. 2021

Infinitities

Curated by Lauren Reid

Harriet Body (AU)

Serena Bonson (AU)

Tina Havelock Stevens
(AU)

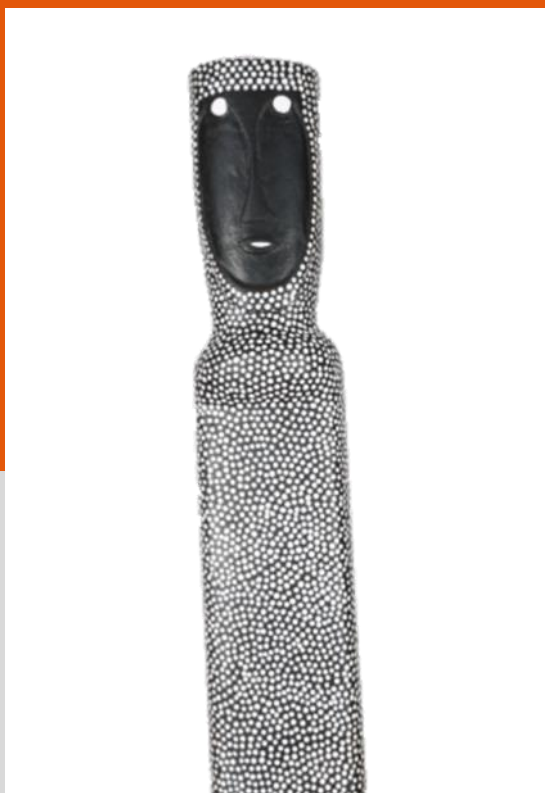
Markus Hoffmann (DE)

Basim Magdy (EG)

Chulayarnnon Siriphol
(TH)

Jenna Sutela (FI)

Hossein Valamanesh
(IR/AU)



Education Kit



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About the Education Kit

This Education Kit has been developed for 'Infinities' Curated by Lauren Reid 27 nov. 2020– 23 jan. 2021 and prepared by Sally O'Neill, Education Officer. O'Neill has a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Painting and Drawing and Certificate III in Early Childhood, with several years experience in developing and delivering an Education Program for regional and public galleries. O'Neill is also a practising artist whose painting practice explores personal and shared narratives.

The kit includes practical and theory activities designed for preschool and up however may be used by audiences of all ages. The kit is suitable for use before and after visiting the Gallery. Use the table below to help you determine the level of learning.

| STAGE | AGE/ YEAR |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Preschool | 3– 5 years old |
| Early Stage 1 | Kindergarten |
| Stage 1 | Year 1 and 2 |
| Stage 2 | Years 3 and 4 |
| Stage 3 | Years 5 and 6 |
| Stage 4 | Years 7 and 8 |
| Stage 5 | Years 9 and 10 |
| Stage 6 | Years 11 and 12 |

Themes and Influences

The exhibition highlights the following themes:

- Innovative and experimental use of new media, concepts and processes.
- Use of contemporary art making devices including conceptualism, where concepts and process are given prominence to aesthetics, technical and material concerns.
- Challenging and exploring human concepts of time, providing new opportunities to relate to the processes, environments, life forms and experiences around us.
- Introducing contemporary artists from all over the globe to local audiences.

Objectives

As a part of viewing the exhibition and completing the activities in this Education kit, students will:

- Gain an understanding about how artists use art to express ideas and communicate with their audience.
- Develop the ability to interpret concepts in art and make conclusions about the artist's intentions.
- Identify that artists use a variety of materials and disciplines to convey a variety of messages.
- Discuss and respond to art in a variety of forms.
- Gain a greater knowledge of how art can be a powerful form of documentation and critique of the social, economic, environmental and political context in which it is made.
- Consider the relationship that exists between the artwork, artist, gallery and audience.
- Understand how contemporary artists can influence perspective.

About the exhibition

Find-a-word

Can you find the names of the artists and curators from the exhibition in the find-a-word below? First and last names appear separately.

Lauren Reid

Harriet Body

Serena Bonson

Tina Havelock Stevens

Markus Hoffmann

Basim Magdy

Chulayarnnon Siriphol

Jenna Sutela

Hossein Valamanesh



Around the World

'Infinities' is truly an exhibition of artists from all across the globe. Can you match each of the artists with the country in which they were born and where they now live and work? Draw a line to match the artist with the country (some artists will have more than one answer). Hint: check out the bio for each artist on the following pages for the answers.

Lauren Reid

Switzerland

Harriet Body

Germany

Serena Bonson

England

Tina Havelock Stevens

Egypt

Markus Hoffmann

Thailand

Basim Magdy

Finland

Chulayarnnon Siriphol

Australia

Jenna Sutela

Iran

Hossein Valamanesh

New Zealand

Use the map below to annotate the country of origin and current residence of each artist.



It's about life

This exhibition is very much about the human experience of life – another measure of time! Many of the works consider time from our perspective and look at the cycles of life including birth, life and death. But there is so much in between that gives our lives purpose and that should be celebrated!

We are soon to leave one of the most challenging years behind and it's time to set some new goals for the next chapter.

Have a think about what you want from the new year and set some goals under each of the headings below.

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| FAMILY GOALS | FRIENDSHIP GOALS |
| PERSONAL GOALS | LEARNING GOALS |

About the Curator

Fill the gaps

Complete the text opposite from the Q&A with the Curator to get to know a little more about Lauren Reid by selecting the most appropriate word or phrase from the options below.

Topics

Contrast

Arts

Stories

Melbourne

Gallery

Exhibitions

Space

Reid

University

Berlin

Book

One

Place

Telepathy

Lauren ___ grew up in _____ before moving to Canberra to study Visual ___ and Arts at the Australian National _____.

After some years in Sydney working in a commercial _____, she moved to _____ in 2011 where she is at the moment and lived ___ year in Thailand in 2018.

Lauren is often drawn to _____ related to the imagined and sensed, which has led her to create _____ about spirit beliefs, outer _____ and _____. She is also really interested in how the format of an exhibition can be a _____ to tell _____ through the senses and intuition, in _____ to reading words in a _____, for example.



SEEDING

Growth, speed of growth and different life cycles

Jenna Sutela

Born in 1983 in Finland. Lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Jenna Sutela is interested in the relations between humans, microbes, and machines. In her practice, she cites diverse 'collaborators', including the 'many-headed' slime mould *Physarum polycephalum*, the extremophilic *Bacillus subtilis natto* bacterium and more recently, artificial neural networks.

SEEDING the concept of *panspermia* is a theory that life exists all throughout space and is spread and formed through the movement of space dust, asteroids and even space craft.



Take a trip... through your gut!

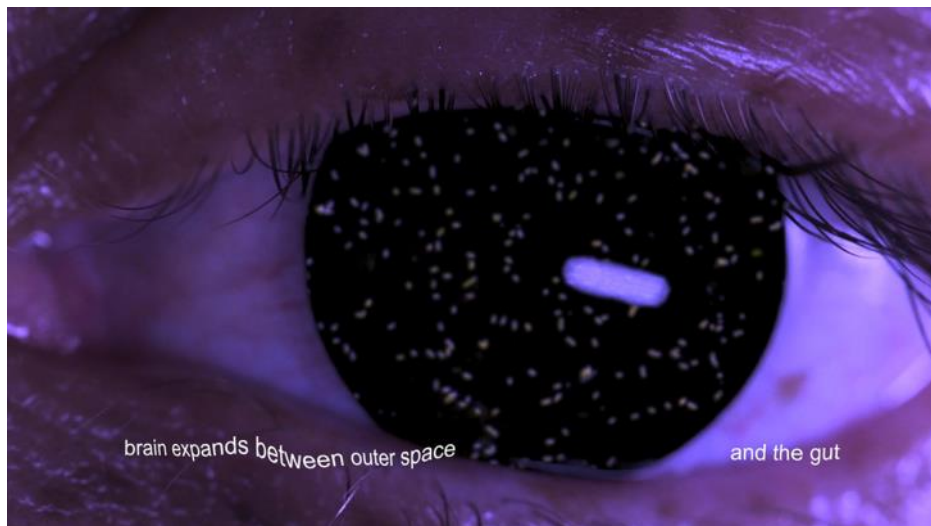
The video explores the amazing places of outer space and inside our bodies! Two places we will likely, never get to see. Imagine you are a piece of food that just entered your mouth. Tell the story of its journey from beginning... to end.

Aliens and *Bacillus Subtilis*

The bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* is found in and released by, living things on Earth. It also has the potential to live in outer space for extended periods! Within it is the potential for life so therefore, under the right conditions, we could be responsible for an alien invasion on another planet. Crazy!

Imagine the bacteria has found the right conditions and is growing into something... otherworldly! Draw a picture of the alien in the box opposite and write some sentences below about the life form.





Jenna Sutela, *Holobiont*, 2018. Video. 10'27". Supported by Kone Foundation. Courtesy the artist.

Markus Hoffmann

Born 1982 in Passau, Germany. Lives and works in Berlin, Germany.

Markus Hoffmann is a German artist who is particularly interested in nuclear history and our human impact on nature. In his work, you will often find natural materials that he's collected from travels to remote nuclear-historical places like a tree branch from Chernobyl and coconuts from Bikini Atoll, the site of extensive nuclear testing by the USA.

SEEDING is the theme of atomic gardening, a practice popular in the 1950s for breeding plants to deliberately generate mutations.



Markus Hoffman, *Bent to infinity*, 2018, Pine from the nuclear exclusion zone in Chernobyl, whose growth was altered by the influence of radioactive radiation. 73 x 18 x 18 cm. Courtesy the artist.

What do you think?

This work is a very interesting and challenging piece of art. Answer the following questions to achieve a greater understanding of the work.

How is this piece different to traditional forms of art?

Why do you think it might be challenging to see plants in a Gallery?

Create with nature

Hoffmann uses plants to create his work. As a living thing, plants are a record of time and without the necessary conditions, the life of the plants are severely impacted in the Gallery space.

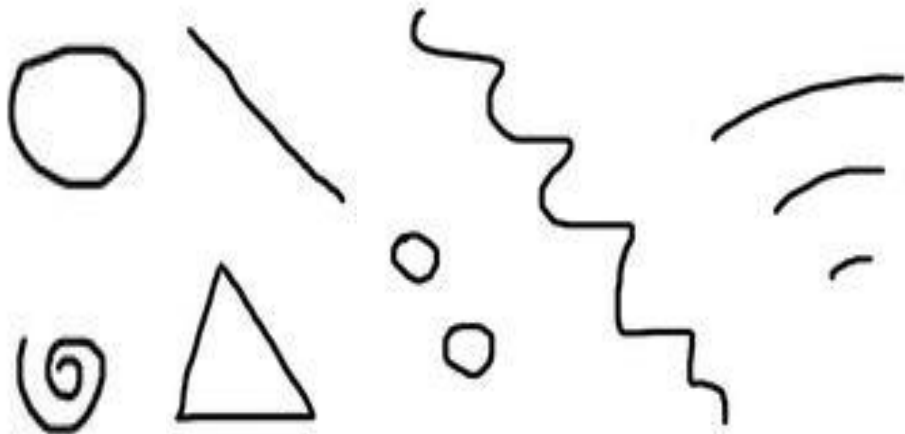
What do plants need to survive?

What is ephemeral artwork?

Head outside for a walk in your local neighbourhood. Remember to take a container with you. Collect natural materials for art making. You may wish to collect grass, sticks, leaves and flowers. Try to collect objects that have already fallen to the ground rather than picking them fresh from the plant. Use your collected natural materials to create your own ephemeral artwork. You may use a flat space to create a 2D work or challenge yourself to create something more sculptural. Use photography to record your work.

Mutations

Hoffmann is inspired by the practice of creating mutations in plant life. Can you add to each of the sketches below to create your own wild mutations?



RHYTHM

Rhythm, motion and repetition can be a marker of time. Rhythm can also alter sense of time by speeding up to slowing down.

Tina Havelock Stevens

Tina Havelock Stevens has a background as both a drummer and filmmaker. In her works, she often goes with her drum kit to spontaneously play in culturally-resonant sites such as a beach in the Philippines where *Apocalypse Now* was filmed (as in *The Rapids*).

RHYTHM is drumming in different locations and the flow of the river rapids.

Drumming with friends

In the video by Havelock Stevens the drumming is used as a device to draw our attention to the rhythm of nature .

Gather a few friends or family and try this game! If distance is an issue, you may play using a video conferencing platform:

1. Sit in a circle around a table i.e Susan, Mark, Melody.
2. The first person begins by creating a sound or movement on the table i.e. Susan taps her left hand onto the table surface.
3. The next person repeats the first action and adds to it i.e. Mark taps the table then slides his right hand across the surface.
4. The third person repeats the first two actions and adds a third i.e. Melody repeats then claps her hands together.
5. Continue in this way until a mistake is made.
6. Record the outcome of each round. The person that makes the fewest mistakes is crowned the winner!



Develop a mantra

Just like the drumming and the flow of the river rapids in the film, a mantra repeats. Traditionally a mantra was a sound used to reach meditation, however people now use a mantra to help them to keep a positive frame of mind and focus in achieving a goal. Try writing your own mantra below and practice it by repeating it to yourself:

Place and presence

Where do you find yourself at the present? What can you see, hear and feel? What are you thinking about? How does your existence change the space? Make a list of your observations.



Opposite: Tina Havelock Stevens, *The Rapids*, 2019, 2-channel digital video installation, colour and black & white, 5.1 sound, 19'45". Courtesy the artist.

Harriet Body

Harriet Body lives and works in Bulli, Australia. She works in a sensitive and meditative way with natural materials like clay, charcoal, stone and egg yolk. She's spent time in Goulburn on residency, producing a commissioned installation for the show that will weave through the whole exhibition.

“To repeatedly do something, is to watch something actively existing.”

Harriet Body

RHYTHM found in repetitive, meditative working process.



Harriet Body, *Barabones landscape*, 2020, copper nails, cotton thread, ceramic fingerprints with mud and pulverised rocks sourced from Collector/Colegar in Gundungurra language, NSW. Courtesy the artist.

Art makes you feel things

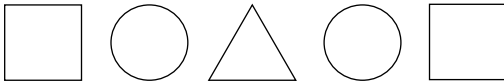
Using a maximum of three words, describe how Body's work makes you feel:

Making patterns

A pattern is a design that has been repeated over and over. Harriet uses shapes, lines and textures in creating her work.

Can you complete the patterns below?

Then create a work of your own using repeating elements in the box.



Experience by description

Imagine you have a friend with you in the Gallery who is unable to see the work of art. Help them in their experience by provoking their imagination through an audio description. Write what you would say to them about Harriet's work below or create an audio recording.

Hossein Valamanesh

Born 1949, Tehran, Iran. Lives and works Adelaide, South Australia.

Valamanesh works with different media from installation to sculpture, painting and collage. Inspired by personal experiences and memories, he uses ordinary objects and natural materials to create visual poetry that reflects on his life in Australia and his experiences of his birthplace, Iran.

RHYTHM is repetitive, meditative hand gesture.

Repetition in routine

We are creatures of habit... good ones and bad ones! We repeat the same processes day in and day out, without even being aware of it.

They say it takes 30 days to make or break a habit. Identify something that you would like to incorporate into your every day routine:

The only way to create a new habit is by repeating it over and over! Help your set your mind to the task by writing it over and over below:



Hossein Valamanesh, *Passing Time*, 2011, sculpture, single channel digital video, sound. Courtesy the artist.

Our bodies over time

We have lots of devices available to us to help record time but most are not as good as documenting the effect of time as our bodies. In his film, Valamanesh uses his hands as a record of time, giving an indication of his age and life experience. Through drawing or photography, record time as it is documented in the faces or bodies of three people of different ages. Write down your observations and assumptions.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Value in the mundane

How do you see yourself? Is it only your positive traits and exciting moments that are important or is there more to the story? Most of our life is spent in everyday routine: getting out of bed, going to work or school and spending evenings at home with family. Below, make a list of everything you did in the last 24 hours.

Many artists make work about the mundane in their lives. How could you create a work of art from your last 24 hours? Why not give it a go!

ETERNITY

In many different cultures, time isn't always a straight line of past, present and future. These artists play with topics that layer together prehistory with far-future as well as beyond to the afterlife and rebirth.

Basim Magdy

Born 1977 in Assiut, Egypt. Lives and works between Basel, Switzerland and Cairo, Egypt.

Magdy is a collector, a storyteller, a researcher, a manipulator, a chemist and a philosopher. He creates surreal narratives where, for example, animals chat to each other via text message.

ETERNITY is the perspective of stone monuments and the forests that will outlive us all.

The fragility of memory

Our memories are fragile. They are tainted with emotion and perspective and like our bodies, will not last the test of time. As the narrator states 'Only stone, bronze and sky shall outlive all the rest'.

Test your memory! Look at the still from the film on the page opposite for one minute . Cover the image and answer the following questions without looking:

Describe what is seen in the three layers of images:

What colours are the flowers? -----

How is the sculpture of the man posing? -----

Time and memory

What is your first memory?

How did you feel at the time?

Draw a picture of your memory.



Serena Bonson

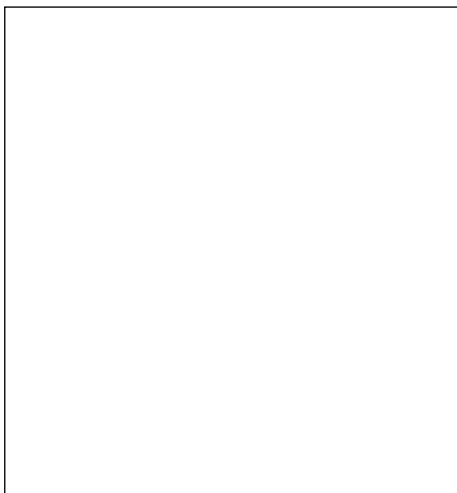
Born in Miwirnbi, Serena Bonson lives and works in Manigrida community in the Northern Territory. Her heritage is of Djowinge moiety, the Djinang language group and she is part of the Murrungun clan. Bonson has quickly become known for her striking carvings of Wangarra spirits.

ETERNITY *Warraburnburn* is a *Wangarra* spirit, said to “inhabit the An-mujolkuwa clan waterhole, and are often reborn as new members of the clan.” Therefore, they connect to cycles of birth (or rebirth), death and the afterlife.

Life before and after death

Bonson’s people believe the *Wangarra* spirits exist in the clan waterhole, are born into the family, inhabit the person’s body until death, when they are released to return to the waterhole. Does your family hold any beliefs concerning our spirit, where it comes from and where it goes after our body dies?

In the box below draw what you believe the afterlife looks like for our spirit. If you are unsure, try drawing the Murrungun story from above about the *Wangarra*. You may want to research the story further before starting.





Listen and get making

The story of the Wangarra was told to Bonson by her uncle Jimmy Angunguna, who also taught her the ancient craft of carving. Ask a family member to tell you a story that happened before you were born. You could preserve the story by writing it down or taking an audio recording. Using art materials of your choosing, create an artwork inspired by the story.

Rethinking time

The story of the Warraburnburn is an ancient Aboriginal Dreaming story. Time does not apply to the Dreaming, hence the stories are happening now, in the past, future; at all times and no times! There's no beginning or end, lasting eternity just like the Warraburnburn and their continuous life cycles. This really challenges our concept of time!

Imagine a world without time – or rather, we had no concept of time. How do you imagine our experience of each of the following would differ:

Music, art and entertainment

School and work

Events and special occasions

Access to information – books and internet

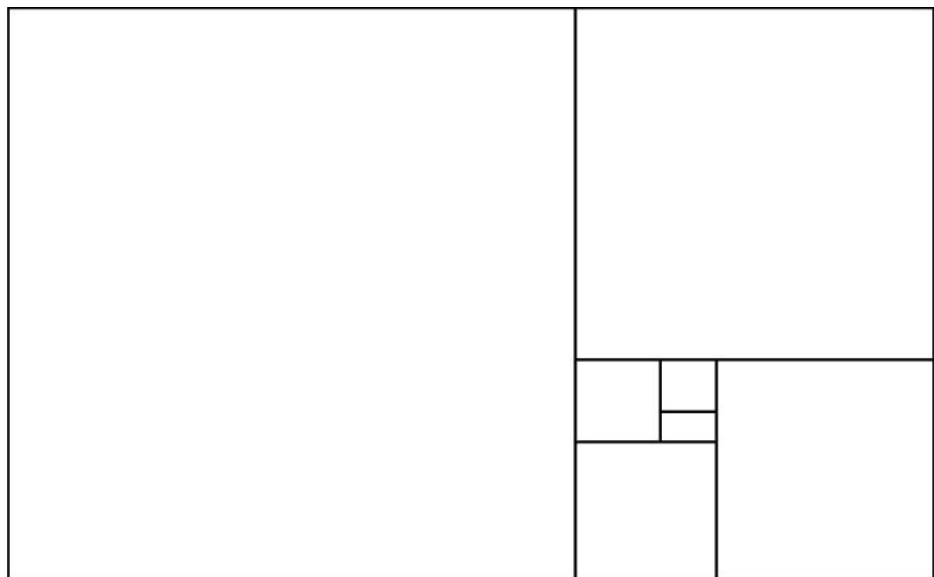
Serena Bonson, *Warraburnburn*, 2018, carved wooden sculpture, 136 x 11 x 9 cm. Courtesy the artist.



Chulayamnon Siriphol, *Golden Spiral*, 2018, video installation, HD, sound, colour, snail shells with golden spray in display window, video 18'00". Courtesy the artist and Bangkok CityCity Gallery.

The golden ratio

The video centres on the golden ratio; a natural mathematical phenomenon that appears in all areas of life! The special number is 1.618 and has been used by artists forever in creating desirable compositions. Try it yourself by creating a composition in the Fibonacci squares below.



Early Learning Years Framework

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.

Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating

Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.

Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.

Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.

Syllabus Links

The syllabus links below have been provided for school teachers and educators to aid in using this Education Kit within the classroom. The codes have been taken from the NSW syllabuses current for 2018 for History, English and the Creative Arts for each stage. Please refer to the relevant syllabus for expanded curriculum outcomes.

| STAGES | HISTORY | ENGLISH | CREATIVE ARTS |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| Early Stage 1 | HTe-2 | ENe-2A ENe-10C ENe-4A ENe-11D | VAES1.1 VAES1.4 VAES1.3 DRAES1.1 |
| Stage 1 | HT1-2 HT1-3 HT1-4 | EN1-1A EN1-7B EN1-2A EN1-8B EN1-4A EN1-10C EN1-11D | VAS1.1 DRAS1.1 DRAS1.2 |
| Stage 2 | HT2-2 HT2-3 HT2-5 | EN2-1A EN2-7B EN2-2A EN2-8B EN2-4A EN2-10C EN2-11D | VAS2.1 DRAS2.1 DRAS2.2 |
| Stage 3 | HT3-5 | EN3-1A EN3-7C EN3-2A EN3-8D EN3-3A | VAS3.1 DRAS3.1 DRAS3.2 |
| Stage 4 | HT4-2 HT4-7 HT4-5 HT4-9 | EN4-1A EN4-5C EN4-2A EN4-7D | 4.1 4.4 4.2 4.5 4.3 4.6 |
| Stage 5 | HT5-1 HT5-4 HT5-2 HT5-9 HT5-3 | EN5-1A EN5-5C EN5-2A EN5-7D | 5.1 5.4 5.2 5.5 5.3 5.6 |
| Stage 6 | MH11/12-1 MH11/12-3 MH11/12-4 MH11/12-5 MH11/12-7 MH11/12-9 MH11/12-10 | Key objectives ~ collecting, analysing and organising infor- mation ~ communicating ide- as and information | P1, H1 P4, H4 P5 P6 |

Serena Bonson, *Warraburnburn*, 2018, carved wooden sculpture, 136 x 11 x 9 cm.



Goulburn Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW government through Create NSW.