

Burning. Standing. Spitting. Dreaming Missive One

Weird Sanctuaries Residency Part 2

Before the Live Art Event

Participants are directed to wear their oldest, grubbiest clothes for this live art event. They are asked to bring a change of clothes and a towel.

Participants are warned that in Part 2 of BSS they will get very very very messy.

Setting

The action takes place at Punctum's ICU, the basement of the former Castlemaine Hospital in Halford St Castlemaine. For this live art event the ICU is known as 'the bunker'.

The bunker is concrete with thick square pillars throughout, a ten-foot ceiling and basic lighting rig made of metal pipes. In the centre of the bunker is a large circle of charcoal/ash. This is known as the 'hole'. The charcoal etc has been collected from campfires on Dja Dja Wurrung country, at Leanganook Picnic Ground, Lalgambook Camping Ground, the Oak Forrest, Mt Tarrengower Camping Ground. The hole is 7 meters diameter (approx.), covering the same floor space as the circle of chairs in Part 1.

The bunker is lit with solar camping lights at intervals along the walls, floor and/or at pillars. The 'hole' is lit by similar solar lights reflected off the ceiling.

On the eastern end of the north wall is a small round table. On it sits a salvaged ceramic pot that is filled with ashes. The ash has been collected from the combustion/rocket stove of people living on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. The photographer is waiting at this station.

At the glass doors that lead from the street into the bunker is a table and various salvaged containers (plastic, domestic, garden ware) filled with a single colour of powder/ochre in each. The colours are fire colours: red, orange, yellow, white (maybe green and blue if it is there). This powder has been collected from the quarry in Campbells Creek.

Action

Participants walk down the concrete walkway from Halford St to the glass doors leading into the bunker.

At the glass doors participants are asked to take off their shoes.

They are given a salvaged container filled with either red, yellow or orange powder/ochre.

We tell them Uncle Ron's story about spitting at the campfire.

They are given the following directions:

- Enter the bunker. Take your time to find your bearings before you walk around.
- When you are ready stand around the hole.
- Samantha will give you instructions about The Game.

Instructions for The Game

Samantha does an acknowledgement of country, a welcome, and recaps Part 1 of BSS.

- Samantha will read out a quote from the talks and responses given by participants in Part 1.
- A person (Person 1) who identifies with/agrees with/trusts the quote walks into the centre of the 'hole'.
- If other people (People) also identify/agree/trust the quote they walk into the hole and throw handful/s of coloured powder at Person 1.
- Once you have thrown powder onto Person 1 you are vulnerable to powder being thrown onto you by all the People in the hole ie: People can throw the fire powder at anyone still in the hole.
- You can only exit the hole if someone on the outside is willing to spit to make room for you to rejoin the gathering.
- The Game continues until Samantha has finished her list of quotes. Samantha will also be participating in The Game.

At the completion of The Game each participant moves to the northern wall to have their photograph taken.

Each participant has the option to throw the vessel of ash over themselves before their photo is taken.

Care and cleaning up

Water is available in the bunker for a wash, separate water is available for drinking.

Showers are available on Level 2 at Workspace.

Participants are welcome to sit out of The Game and watch from the sidelines if they prefer.

Uncle Ron's story about campfires.

Uncle Ron says that when his mob (Wamba Wamba) gather around a campfire and a spark flies out of the fire it's a spirit. When this happens, they spit where the spark lands to make sure there is room for the spirit to join the gathering.

Example Quotes from Part 1 of BSS

Did you know there are 72 new coal projects and 44 new oil and gas projects planned in Australia?

I no longer believe we will turn this around.

Eternal economic growth and tackling climate change cannot go together.

If we are to get on top of climate change (we) require leaders to make difficult decisions for the long-term benefit of the community.

If you care about the planet, and about the people and animals who live on it, ... you (have to) accept that disaster is coming, and begin to rethink what it means to have hope.

The solution to despair is not *hope*, but *courage*.

I want to accept that I *can't* change the world, yet I still want to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly on this earth.

One of my crises is hearing my daughter say she will not have children.

I had been treating my body as a resource and ... and I had been in relationship with my body, in a way that was hyper-extractivist, and that I was essentially treating my body in the way the fossil fuel companies treat the planet

I kept thinking "I'm fine, I can keep pushing through this". I wasn't listening to all the signals my body was giving me.

In practice how to change that so that there isn't this desinence between my values toward the planet and the values toward my own body, because they are not actually separate things, we're not people who walked around on the earth we are of the earth, we are part of nature and when we are destroying nature, destroying the earth, we are destroying ourselves.

It is a lie that we're fed that we need deadlines to create, that we need time scarcity to create. We don't need it, but we do need to learn how to do it without it. Cause most of us just don't know.

I was so proud of how willful I could be, how much I could shift and control something (in dance/circus training), go against the grain of something, I thought that was power, I thought that was skill, and the listening is the opposite ... (it is) responding in a way that is complicit with something in relationship with something ...

We need space to grieve and to give space and time for the complexity of grief ...

All the Exxon Mobil stuff is outrageous and to realise that that is also a personal betrayal, those specific people have taken your future from you

It is through fragility that the revolution operates.