



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jintulu: People of the Sun

17 February – 27 April 2024

JINTULU EXHIBITION EXAMINES THE SHADOWS OF GENOCIDE AND RACISM

A new exhibition to open at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery on 17 February follows the long shadow cast by colonisation and the bleak legacy of genocide, dispossession and racism that remains etched into contemporary Australia. *Jintulu: People of the Sun* interweaves ancient stories with more recent experiences of control, displacement and appropriation.

The exhibition juxtaposes new works by senior Walmajarri artist Murungkurr Terry Murray, acclaimed Martu artist Curtis Taylor and Persian-South African artist Natalie Scholtz with iconic works from The University of Western Australia's collections by Valerie Takao Binder, Irwin Lewis, Sidney Nolan and Alison Alder.

Presented as part of Perth Festival 2024, *Jintulu* is a major collaboration between the Berndt Museum, the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art and the UWA Art Collection at LWAG.

Taken from the Martu language of the Western Desert, it posits Aboriginal Australians as the 'People of the Sun', strengthened by and bathed in its life-giving force. *Jintulu* is led by the Berndt Museum's Curator Michael Bonner, a Yanyuwa/Jingili man and supported by Lee Kinsella, Curator of the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art, and Sam Leung, Assistant Curator, Berndt Museum.

Terry Murray has responded to Sidney Nolan's expansive *The snake*, 1973 – an almost 13-metre-long artwork that appropriates Aboriginal faces, totems and knowledge.

Murray's response is a bold reclamation of the Rainbow Serpent, a creation figure that has become amalgamated and frequently adopted as a symbol of Aboriginal Australia.

A gallery is dedicated to Natalie Scholtz's exploration of blackness which blur and drips in a sensual, sometimes grotesque, series of figurative paintings. The artist invokes the cultural and political symbols of her homeland as she builds a dialogue with works by Yamatji artist Irwin Lewis.



Valerie Takao Binder, *One's Own Country/Kallip* (detail), 2000, oil and acrylic on canvas, 190 x 220cm. Berndt Museum, University of Western Australia [2001/0023] © the artist

“In my work, experience and memory morph into a dream realm of self, identity and place,” Ms Scholtz said. “They are the experience of the in-between body in contemporary Australia.”

In *Boong*, Curtis Taylor’s unflinching sound and light installation forces the viewer to confront the harsh reality of racism today. Presented in a darkened gallery space, bull bars hang as their headlights flicker intermittently to a barrage of racist slurs. The work was first presented at Dark Mofa 2023 and will make its WA premiere in *Jintulu*.

“The sounds of black bodies against the steel bars is how the derogatory term ‘boong’ became folklore according to country white men,” Mr Taylor said.

In the centre of the gallery, two works anchor the exhibition to key moments in recent Australian history. Noongar artist Valerie Takao Binder’s intimate and deeply personal installation, *Dwelling Place/Mia Mia* and *Yile Boodja/Sandy Country* is a recreation of her childhood home of the 1950s Middle Swan encampment. Canberra-based printmaker Alison Alder’s *Intervention* series speaks to the impact of the Howard Government’s 2007 Northern Territory Emergency Response.

Co-curator Lee Kinsella said Takao Binder and Alder are powerful voices who bear witness to the impact of government policies upon Aboriginal people.

Berndt Museum’s Curator Michael Bonner said the exhibition comes at the right time.

“We’ve had the referendum on the Voice to Parliament, where we’ve seen language lost, families separated, and land taken. In *Jintulu*, what we’re really asking is: ‘What’s changed’,” Mr Bonner said.

To attend the preview, 10am–12pm, Thursday 15 February, contact Sam Leung, Assistant Curator and Producer, Berndt Museum at sam.leung@uwa.edu.au

Exhibition launch opening date and time: [Friday 16 February 6–8pm](#)

Exhibition dates: 17 February – 27 April 2024

Artist talks: 2pm, Saturday 17 February

Panel discussion: 1pm, Tuesday 9 April

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 5pm, and admission is free

For more information, visit the LWAG website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/home

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Images: [Images available here](#)

Website: uwa.edu.au/lwag/exhibitions/jintulu

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