

'Nuclear'

17 September – 12 November 2016



Image Credit: Children and Clouds. Courtesy of Alphaville

PRESS RELEASE

“Nuclear”

Exposing the legacies of the atomic age through creative arts

Involving more than 50 creative artists – photographers, filmmakers, digital artists, painters, sculptors and writers, a unique multi-arts showcase, opens at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute on Saturday 17 September until Saturday 12 November 2016.

Across 2014-16, community arts company Alphaville facilitated a program linking artists with communities that have experienced the atomic bomb.

In South Australia, the communities involved include Anangu who were relocated from traditional lands at the time of the British-run atomic tests at Emu Field and Maralinga in South Australia.

Suitable for all ages, the showcase presents stories of atomic survivors – that of the Indigenous communities, service personnel and civilian workers who have been directly affected by atomic testing.

As described by Alphaville’s Creative Producer Paul Brown, “This exhibition presents our discoveries about the nuclear age and fits within a long tradition of artists and communities responding to ‘the bomb’”

A centerpiece of the exhibition is ‘Ngurini’ (Searching), an immersive digital projection made with members of the Yalata Anangu community.

Another is ‘10 Minutes to Midnight’ also for immersive screening in a large cylindrical arena, and developed with nuclear veterans and the Balaklava community.

These digital art works are accompanied by exhibitions of photography – ‘Portrait of a whistleblower’ and a collection of images from the Irati Wanti campaign against a nuclear waste repository; paintings – ‘Life Lifted into the Sky’; sculpture – ‘Fat Man’ and ‘Tree of Life: Gift of Peace’; and pottery – a collection titled ‘Ebay makes the bomb’.

Talking about the role of the artworks, Anangu community leader and musician Keith Peters said “The wind can blow an idea away, but a sculpture holds that idea forever.”

Integral to Australia’s Cold War atomic test history, the showcase includes international stories and experiences of hibakusha - the Japanese term for ‘atomic survivor’.

“My sculpture of the Nagasaki bomb ‘Fat Man’ is made from my grandmother’s kimonos and sewn with my own hair, to represent generations of atomic survivors”, said Hiroshima-born Yukiyo Kawano.

In addition, the Nuclear showcase will feature seminars, film screenings, and storyteller sessions.

What is central to Nuclear is that the works sit at the creative junction between history, eye-witness testimony and artistic interpretation, and together constitute a creative response to the slow public reveal and long-term legacies arising from the nuclear bomb tests.

“We all live with irreversible radiation impacts – affecting our environment, and our bodies,” continues Brown. “The half life of Plutonium 239 is 24,000 years”. Our stories bear witness to the legacies of the atomic age, and remain relevant and illuminating within the contemporary international debate about ongoing testing and development of nuclear weapons; and within current debates about Australia’s nuclear industry and waste repositories.’

A must-see exhibition, the importance of this showcase is that it explores how local experiences have translated into community development and international campaigns for peace and disarmament.

Nuclear closely examines our ‘nuclear past’ as a means of inviting views on the kind of future we can all imagine.

Nuclear is proudly brought to you by Alphaville and Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by Arts SA, Country Arts SA, and the Graham F Smith Peace Foundation.

FAST FACTS:

Nuclear - Exposing the legacies of the atomic age through creative arts

Dates: Saturday 17 September to Saturday 12 November 2016

Where: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute

Kaurna Country, 253 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Website: www.tandanya.com.au

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE WITH CREATIVE TEAM AND YALATA ANANGU COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

For all media enquiries including interviews and hi-res images please contact Sarah Eason Marketing & Communications Consultant, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute on
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