Immersive projection installations integrate atomic survivor stories and archival footage from Aboriginal and nuclear veteran communities, with original video, digital artworks and sounds.

The exhibition title 10 Minutes to Midnight makes reference to the international Bulletin of Atomic Scientists’ Doomsday Clock, a symbolic clock face representing the level of threat to human existence, as set by a committee of eminent scientists opposed to nuclear weapons. In February 2015, the clock was reset to 3 minutes to midnight, acknowledging an increased threat from unchecked nuclear weapons proliferation and climate change advances.

Photos by Tania Safi
Front cover graphic by Phoebe Barton

ARTISTS AND EXHIBITION TEAM

Teresa Crea: Direction, dramaturgy, concept development (installation#1)
Linda Dament: Digital artwork, concept development, editing, curation
Jeebee Etoh: Projection, lighting, set design, concept development
Nic McInnes: Sound design, composition, concept development
Luke Hall: Sculptures, international collaboration
Yukiyo Kawano: Concept development
Danielle Marevick: Photography, video
John Romani: Research, text development
Russell Bryant: Interviews, community liaison
Mima Smart: Translator, adviser
Rita Bryant: Interviews, vocals
Krisly Richards: Concept development
Sharon Bryant: Actor
Irene Petros: Cultural adviser, guide
Keith Petros: Cultural adviser
Steve Harrison: Community liaison, carving
Waman Paul: Pen and Ink Drawings, Creative adviser
Avon Hudson: Research, community liaison
Marko (Rico) Iohia: Cultural exchange liaison, concept development
Paul Brown: Creative Producer, concept development, research, curation
Ellia Bankley: Production Manager, curation, research, concept development
Roxane Lass: Curating, technical advice
John Turpke: Set construction and development
Amanda Brown: Seamstress

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

Yalata Community Inc. and community; Greg Franks, Avon Hudson and family; Maxine Goodwin, Maralinga Tjarutja Council, Queensland University of Technology, State Library of South Australia, University of Adelaide and SA Department of State Development.

Curatorial Team
Curator, Digital Media — Rachael Parsons
Assistant Project Officer — Laura Brinin

Public Programs
Curator, Public Programs — Steve Bourne

Exhibition
21 July – 7 August 2015
The Block, QUT Creative Industries Precinct
www.ciprecinct.qut.edu.au

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10 MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT
SURVIVAL IN THE ATOMIC AGE
Presented by Alphaville (Nuclear Futures) 21 July – 7 August 2015
10 Minutes to Midnight is the culmination of community-based arts projects with atomic survivor communities including Pitjantjatjara Anangu in Ooldea and Oak Valley, communities who were relocated from traditional Maralinga Tjarutja lands prior to the tests; and nuclear veteran and descendant networks in Australia and Britain. The creative works fit within a long tradition of artists and communities responding to ‘the bomb’.

Featured are original projection installations, digital artwork, contemporary photomedia, sound design, sculpture, film and rare archival material.

While as exploring the horrors of the atomic age, the exhibition embodies humanitarian messages of hope, celebrating the resilient communities and individuals who continue to pursue recognition and justice, and courageously share their stories for the benefit of future generations. The timing of the exhibition coincides with the 70-year anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings - the beginning of the atomic age.

Reflection on Australia’s atomic legacies is complex and confronting, the stories from affected Aboriginal and Britain. The creative works fit within a long tradition of artists and communities responding to ‘the bomb’.

Chronicling nuclear veteran Avon Hudson’s life from Maralinga servicemen to whistleblower to activist, the series combines contemporary photography and video works by artist Jessie Boylan with pieces from Avon’s private archive of rare documentation, reports, testimonies, news clippings, photographs, maps and artifacts that make up his life’s work.

A program of academic, school and art-based events is being run in conjunction with the exhibition, including film screenings of important films about nuclear weapons testing (check gallery for session times).

Acknowledgements

The installations include quotes and/or background research from Ministry of Defence File #DEFE 16/808; Division. (Cells depicted are not related to radiation exposure and are provided for artistic purposes only.)

The installations include quotes and/or background research from Ministry of Defence File #DEFE 16/808; Beyond Belief (Roger Croson and Avon Hudson, 2003) from eyewitness accounts by Alberta Lander; Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia documents (1981); Maralinga, the Argonaut Story (Christoph Matthysn and Yabals and Oak Valley Communities, 2009); and Maralinga (Frank Walker, 2014). Material was also sourced from private archival photos from nuclear veterans and oral history recordings from half a life participants, and from the Ara Irititja archive.

ARTIST STATEMENT

So powerful were the events of Maralinga and so profound their impact on us as artists that it felt necessary to intertwine the real events with our response as artists. All of us remain implicated in this history and its legacy.

— Teresa Crea, South Australian Artistic Director involved in the installations.

Nuclear Futures is led by Sydney-based production company Alphaville: nuclearfutures.org

Contact: info@nuclearfutures.org