

**TAMARA HENDERSON**

***The Syzygy of Cinnamon***

A late-night in a faraway capital city, gazing into the still black body of a lake. A lake named Burley Griffin (after a man who drew these plans but never set foot there). A lake built to make a strange place feel like a home. An ancient landscape flooded to create something someone might find familiar. Reflected in its surface, the cosmos sparkled in thirteen stanzas: nouns with skeletons of wire, mouthing a question.

Borrowed from the Greek Συζυγία meaning 'yoked together,' *syzygy* speaks in poetry of two becoming one. In Gnosticism it is used to describe co-operative pairs, hewn from the totality of being. And for Carl Jung it described the relationship between the dualistic archetypes which correspond to describe a greater whole. For Tamara Henderson, *syzygy* evokes a kind of friendship.

PRESS RELEASE

Created together with Australian artist Nell Pearson (Byron Bay), *The Canberra Character* is a form that conjured itself. Thirteen skeletons emerged from the night sky and over the course of six months in Australia's capital city, Henderson and Pearson traversed the landscape under their spell, to discover this character and bring to form its reflection.

As with all such unfoldings, an invitation was offered here – to relate differently to a strange landscape, to make something of it all, and to witness in it a reflection of self, hewn together with every act. The thirteen pieces interlink to create five larger figures. Syllables, stressed and unstressed, fuse together to describe a picture of a place: cattail reeds and sweet-grass in a basket; a plasma globe; bitumen, turtle shells and glass eyes; cinnamon and wool and wire mesh. *The Syzygy of Cinnamon*.

Presented alongside *The Canberran Characters* is a cycle of five paintings, each of which takes the name of a line from a poem authored by Tamara Henderson.

*A Desert Sifting Sand for Time to Pass*  
*The River's twin was Sleeping Underneath*  
*A Solid Afterwards Becomes a Gas*  
*And there we find Gondwana in the Heath*  
*A Skeleton Ascends to find the Door*

Text by Julia Dunne

**Tamara Henderson** (b. 1982, New Brunswick) lives and works in London.

Her solo exhibitions include Camden Art Centre, London (2023; forthcoming); *Of Seasons End*, Tate Modern, London (2020); *Womb Life*, Rodeo, Piraeus (2019); *Womb Life*, Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018); *Seasons End: More Than Suitcases*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2018); *Seasons End: Out of Body*, Oakville Galleries, Oakville (2017); *Seasons End: Painting Healer*, REDCAT, Los Angeles (2016); *Seasons End*, Glasgow International, Glasgow (2016); *The Last Waves* (with Julia Feyrer), Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver (2016); *Consider The Belvedere* (with Julia Feyrer), Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (2015); *Sans Tete au Monde* (with Santiago Mostyn), Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2014); *Tapped Out And Spiralling In Stride*, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz (2014); *Bottles Under The Influence* (with Julia Feyrer), Walter Philips Gallery, Banff (2013); *Evergreen Minutes Of The Phantom Figure*, Kunstverein Nürnberg - Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nürnberg (2013).

Group exhibitions include Thin Skin, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne (2023; forthcoming); *\*standstill*, Rodeo, London (2022); *anabasis\**, Rodeo, Piraeus (2022); *Flesh Arranges Itself Differently*, The Roberts Institute of Art, London with The Hunterian, Glasgow (2022); *Though it's dark, still I sing*, 34th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo (2021); *Pés de barro*, Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto (2021); *The Botanical Mind: Art, Mysticism and The Cosmic Tree*, Camden Art Centre, London (2020); *Part of the Labyrinth*, GIBCA 2019 Biennial, Gothenburg (2019); *Biennial of Moving Images*, OGR, Turin (2019); *Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2018*, OGR, Turin (2019); *GIBCA Biennial*, Gothenburg (2019); *Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2018*, Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Geneva (2018); *Virginia Woolf: An Exhibition Inspired by her Writings*, Tate St Ives, St Ives, Pallant House Chichester and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (2018); *Tate Exchange*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool (2016); *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver (2016); *Insomnia*, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2016); *Life Itself*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2016); *This Sentence* (curated by Public Fiction), China Art Objects, Los Angeles (2015); *The Hypnotic Show*, Toronto Kunstverein, Toronto (2014); *Jahresgaben-Show*, Kunstverein Nürnberg, Nuremberg (2013); *Sobeys Prize Shortlist Exhibition*, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax (2013); *dOCUMENTA(13)*, Kassel (2012).

#### **Public Collections**

Tate Modern, London  
Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver  
Moderna Museet, Stockholm  
Walter Philips Gallery, Banff Center for the Arts, Banff  
Art Gallery of Ontario in Canada  
The Hunterian Museum in Scotland

**THE INTERMISSION**

**RODEO**

Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 - 20:00

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