

ASKI

EARTH

TERRE

YARTA

MERYL McMASTER

JAMES TYLOR

28 June - 17 August 2019

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

For the ACP's annual *In dialogue* 2019 two Indigenous artists, one Australian the other Canadian, communicate their histories of European colonization.

James Tylor (Possum) explores Australian cultural representations through his multi-cultural heritage, which comprises Nunga (Kurna), Māori (Te Arawa) and European (English, Scottish, Irish, Dutch, Iberian and Norwegian). In Kurna language, *Turalayinthi Yarta* means 'to see yourself in the landscape' or 'landscape photography'. The *Turalayinthi Yarta* series was taken by Tylor over a two-year period as he walked sections of the 1,200 km long Heysen Trail, parts of which trace the boundary of Kurna lands across the Mount Lofty Ranges.

*My Nunga Kurna family has been in the region of South Australia for 65,000–80,000 years and has a rich cultural connection to this land. It is a great honour for me as a Kurna person to learn, practice and walk in my ancestors' footsteps.*

James Tylor

In painting over the photographs with ochre, pipeclay and charcoal the artist is embodied within these ancestral spaces. His use of traditional language and design also honours the many Nunga nations of this area, including Ramindjeri, Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, Adnyamathanha, and Nukunu lands. The carved and painted artifacts included in the series are potent in their activation of the Nunga people's intellectual, spiritual and physical connection with yarta, or Country.

*The images in As immense as the sky collapse time into the present.  
The stories of kayas (long ago) and the foreboding whispers of the future  
intertwine my body with the land, in the hope that we all maintain  
a long-term ecological equilibrium with the world around us.*

Meryl McMaster

Being born into the heritage of both Canadian Plains Cree and migrant British and Dutch has shaped Meryl McMaster's relationship to the environment. Her awareness of time also comes from this melding of diverse cultural approaches – one linear and extending in both directions from the present, the other recurrent and cyclical.

The series *As immense as the sky* features sites on the central and southern Canadian Prairies. Through the use of photography and performance the artist has reconnected with her ancestors and introduced herself to the land they inhabited. The elements of the environs, birds, beasts, and foliage have emerged from the narratives of the landscape to embellish her poems and images. While the rain, clouds and pale light on the horizon emphasise fleeting changes over an ageless terrain.

## ACP PROJECTS ONLINE

For more information about the artists *In Dialogue* please visit: [projects.acp.org.au](http://projects.acp.org.au)

## LIST OF WORKS

### Meryl McMaster

*Bring me to this place* 2017  
*Lead me to places I could never find on my own I* 2019  
*Calling me home* 2019  
*My destiny is entwined with yours* 2019  
*From a still unquiet place* 2019  
*On the edge of this immensity* 2019

Courtesy of the artist, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Toronto, and Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain, Montréal.

### James Tylor

*Wirramiyu; Kurdanyi 'miyu and ngamaitya kumpu'; Mukurta; Mankamankarrarnaku katha; Turra; Tiwu wapa; Tirntu Kakirra Yarta; Tarntanyangga and Karrawirra pari; Yaki; Miyurna; Marrimyurna; Patha yukuna; Wirramumiyu; and Pudna.*  
from the *Turalayinthi Yarta* series 2017, 2019

*Tirntu; Yarlu; Nukuna; Pari; Wama; Wirra; Piki / Kakirra; and Murlawirrapurkaku kuya kaya*  
from the *Turalayinthi Yarta* series 2017, 2019

Courtesy of the artist; Vivien Anderson Gallery, Narm Melbourne; GAGProjects, Tarntanya Adelaide; McNamara Gallery, Whanganui, Aotearoa New Zealand; and Jarvis Dooney Gallery, Berlin, Germany.



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