

# Uncle John Kelly and Rena Shein

## rivus 23rd biennale of sydney

This project has been developed on the land of the Traditional Owners of Country, in particular the Gadigal, Dunghutti, Awabakal, Darkinjung Peoples. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

MAJOR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL PATRON



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER



. . . *Waters Way* is directly informed by Nyanghan Nyinda/Me You with healing through relationship at its heart.

Activating the *Space In Between* allows for time to find meaning in the transitional space. Giving thoughtful attention to transitional spaces allows time for reflection, evaluation, connection and transformation.

When these spaces are activated, reconciliation between thoughts and actions, people and culture, imaginaries and dreaming, history and the present is made possible.

We invite you to play with the space in between in *Waters Way*. . .

the space in between  
is where we meet each other  
and our journeys carry on  
listening  
and  
thinking  
and dreaming  
something  
my father warned,  
dreamtime today  
or else  
nightmare tomorrow.

dreaming today  
we join together  
to create something  
with our hands  
we create

# Waters Way

## WALKING

Each walker is invited to take part in the walk between the Art Gallery of New South Wales to Tank Stream, a track where once water rippled through the marshlands around Hyde Park, flowing through the city towards Sydney Harbour. We ask you to stop along the track and participate in creating a shared response to the walk.

## ABOUT THE TANK STREAM

Imagine the path you are walking was once a valley filled with wetland and open forest. Streams flowing through emerged at the harbour to provide a source of fresh water for Aboriginal communities of the area called Warrane.

When European settlers arrived they cleared the area of vegetation, cutting into the rock to build tanks to store water. The stream became Tank Stream. Today the construction of Tank Stream still exists but merely as a stormwater drain beneath the city of Sydney, under your feet as you walk right now.

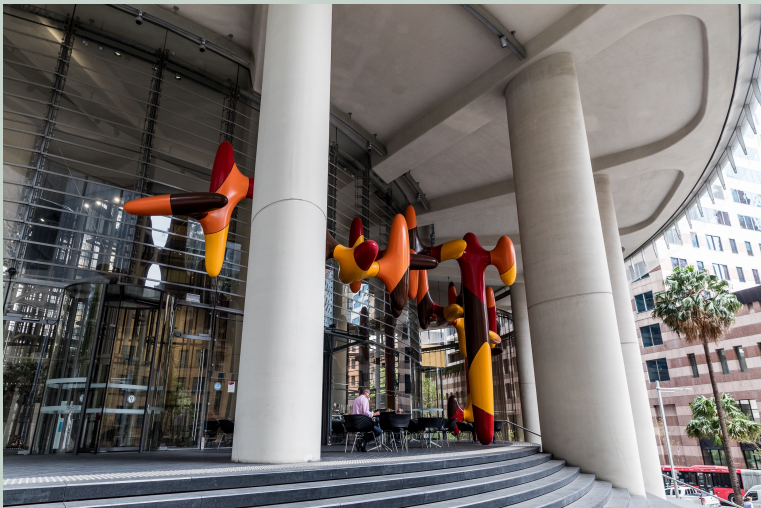


Images: Tank Stream, Four Minutes To Midnight, 2022



## We encourage you to stop:

- Under the big tree where the paths converge behind the statue of Sir John Robertson (*back of Terrace On The Domain*)
- Top of the stairs of the State Library
- Beside 'Touchstones' (Ken Yasuda, 2000) Forecourt of Aurora Place
- Top of the stairs at 1 Bligh Street
- Tank Stream Bar



Images: Four Minutes To Midnight, 2022

## RESPONDING

The *Waters Way* action is to write the story of your walk together. Choose two locations from the list above to pause. To reflect. To co-write.

## PLAYING THE GAME

**2 or more players of all ages can play**

**pen + paper required - if unavailable use notes in phone**

- Person 1 write a sentence. The final word should land on a new line.
- Fold the paper so only the final word is visible for Person 2.
- Person 2 write a sentence that begins with the final word from Person 1.
- Be sure your final word lands on a new line for the next person.
- Repeat this process until you are complete.
- Unfold the paper and read your story out loud.
- Finally photograph your story and email it to: [programs@biennaleofsydney.com.au](mailto:programs@biennaleofsydney.com.au)

## SHARING

Your *Waters Way* story is one of many.

We encourage you to email your contribution to the Biennale of Sydney programs team to be gifted back to the artists and performed as part of a Closing Weekend ceremony.



Each poem will become a story  
of your walk

We are our stories  
Our stories of belonging  
Healing lies in the space between  
The space between our stories

Stories remind of belonging  
Our words reveal connection  
Healing lies in the space between  
The space between each other

Stories from our pasts  
We share them in the present  
Within them live our future  
Our stories of belonging