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TransHuman Saunter: Multispecies Techno-Entanglements in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. In

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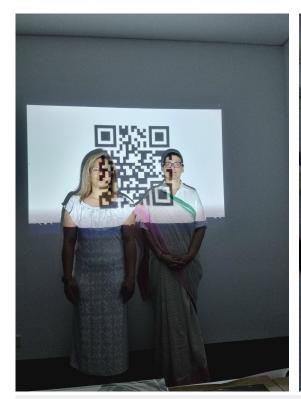
We acknowledge the Turrbal & Yuggara people are the traditional custodians of the land on where this work was made. Sovereignty was never ceded. We acknowledge the people of the lands where we have all come from that make this work, this festival, possible. We recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters, and communities of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We pay our respects to Elders: past, present, and emerging.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Transhuman Saunter: Multispecies Techno-Entanglements in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens

TransHuman Saunter is a digital geolocative artwork created in Brisbane on the Indigenous land of the Turrbal and Yuggera people. It involves four women artists of colour who invite one to saunter alongside the "non-human" Indian Banyan tree. The project deploys participatory design as a research method. It uses digital media such as audio, images, and poetry to reflect on ecology, mythology, social, cultural, postcolonial, and personal narratives creating an accessible space for unknown histories. The artists are Agapetos Fa'aleava of Samoa, Lan Thanh Ha of Vietnam, Naputsamohn Junpiban of Thailand, and Indian-Australian Natasha Narain. Creatively produced by Kavita Gonsalves, the iteration for the Conference on Memory at COVA focuses on Agapetos' and Natasha's work in the form of a combined performative presentation. Agapetos' work explores her relationship with the Banyan Tree through the traditional Samoan tattoo called the Malu- shelter/protection. The malu's motif is a map of her ancestors navigating through the ocean to find land and opportunity. Like the Banyan tree, the malu has travelled far and wide to settle on Australian soil. Natasha's work offers a polyphonic pilgrimage invoking the earth goddess of Bengal while exploring the colonial history of botanical gardens, trade, and indenture, revealing memories etched into barks and speaking for the tree as having feelings and forming new friendships. The works contribute to pluralistic ways of knowing through an evocation of unseen narratives: the "lesser"-beings and the "non"-beings. The project is accessible via a smart phone or a computer on Website.

PERFORMANCE. IMAGE CREDIT BY AGAPETOS FA'ALEAVA





Left Image: Presentation in progress with Agapetos (left) & Natasha (right). Right Image: Session Attendance.

PERFORMANCE. IMAGE CREDIT BY AGAPETOS FA'ALEAVA



The TransHuman Saunter team: Kavita (left), Agapetos (middle) & Natasha (right).

THE PROJECT

TransHuman Saunter is a geolocative artwork that documents the entanglements of four women artists with the multispecies ecosystem of the Indian Banyan Tree. These entanglements constitute re-created and re-imagined narratives of their relationship with the nonhuman colonised Indian Subcontinent being: Indian Banyan Tree. The work further builds its foundations on themes of multispecies relationships with the "nonhuman" Banyan Tree, colonialism, mythologies, migration, oppressions, the artists' own micro-narratives of being 'lesser' humans and everyday living in Australia. This is further juxtaposed with human-planetary crises of climate change, forest fires, a pandemic: all psychosis of disjointed human/nonhuman entanglements. This artwork digitally locates itself in Australia and on the Indigenous land of the Turrbal and Yuggera people. In engaging with the Indian Banyan Tree, the artists hope to provide a space to transcend and disrupt colonial forms of knowing so as to heal and repair. The eventual work will be a contribution to the pluralistic ways of knowing through an evocation of the narratives of the unseen: the "lesser"-humans, the "non"-humans, and the "non"-beings.

Website

THE ARTISTS

Experience the Great Banyan Tree in City Botanic Gardens through four artists who, like the Banyan Tree, possess roots beyond Australia.







Agapetos Fa'aleava Samoa-Australia Filmmaker

SAUNTER 02





Lan Thanh Ha Vietnam Digital Communication

SAUNTER 03





Naputsamohn Junpiban Thailand Experience Designer

SAUNTER 04





Natasha Narain India-Australia Visual Artist

TEAM

Artists Agapetos Fa'aleava

<u>Lan Thanh Ha</u>

Naputsamohn Junpiban

Natasha Narain

Creative Producer <u>Kavita Gonsalves</u>

Concept Kavita Gonsalves

Hira Sheikh

Project Advisors Professor Marcus Foth

Associate Professor Glenda Caldwell

Dr Keith Armstrong

CGeomap Platform Fred Adams

Geert Vermeire

Project Sponsor QUT More than Human Futures Research Group

In memory of Walter Fieuw

Special thanks QUT Art Museum, Uroboros festival, BAD festival, QUT Urban Informatics, QUT

Creative Industries HDR Society, VisArts

Music Kai Engels "Scenery"





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