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Brisbane Australia

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(2021)

TransHuman Saunter: Multispecies Techno-Entanglements in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. In  
*Memory*, 2021-09-02 - 2021-09-03, Melbourne, Australia, AUS.

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# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

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.

# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

## 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](#).

# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

PERFORMANCE. IMAGE CREDIT BY AGAPETOS FA'ALEAVA



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

# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

PERFORMANCE. IMAGE CREDIT BY AGAPETOS FA'ALEAVA



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

# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

## 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](#)

# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

## THE ARTISTS

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

SCAN TO SAUNTER



SAUNTER 01



**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



# TRANSHUMAN SAUNTER

## TEAM

### Artists

[Agapetos Fa'aleava](#)  
[Lan Thanh Ha](#)  
[Naputsamohn Junpiban](#)  
[Natasha Narain](#)

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### Creative Producer

[Kavita Gonsalves](#)

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### Concept

[Kavita Gonsalves](#)  
[Hira Sheikh](#)

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### Project Advisors

[Professor Marcus Foth](#)  
[Associate Professor Glenda Caldwell](#)  
[Dr Keith Armstrong](#)

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### CGeomap Platform

[Fred Adams](#)  
[Geert Vermeire](#)

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### Project Sponsor

[QUT More than Human Futures Research Group](#)

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### In memory of

[Walter Fieuw](#)

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### Special thanks

QUT Art Museum, Uroboros festival, BAD festival, QUT Urban Informatics, QUT Creative Industries HDR Society, VisArts

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### Music

Kai Engels "Scenery"

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trans  
human  
SAUNTER

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