

# Curriculum Vitae: Gretel Taylor

ARTIST/RESEARCHER

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## SUMMARY

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- 2018 **Research Fellow**, 'Dancing between two Worlds' project with Indian diasporic communities, Deakin University, School of Communication and the Arts
- 2018 **Freelance artist and curator**  
Curator, *Force of Nature* exhibition, Yarra Ranges Regional Museum  
Lead artist & administrator, Environmental Performance Authority (EPA)  
Dance teacher, Body Weather, Dancehouse  
Lead teacher, 'Big Dance', Ausdance community project  
Performance artist, *Near*, solo site-specific work, Telopea Gardens, Emerald
- 2017-18 **Honorary Research Fellow**, University of Melbourne
- 2008-2018 **Director**, BodyPlaceProject  
An independent platform for performance, research, workshops and facilitation of art projects exploring relationships of place, body and identity.
- 2014-2017 **Artist/Research Fellow**, University of Melbourne  
Gretel's project with sociologist Deborah Warr, 'Challenging Stigma', supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery grant, involved facilitation of collaborative, site-responsive arts projects exploring issues of place and identity with residents of neighbourhoods experiencing stigma. She has undertaken long-term residencies in partnership with local councils at two sites: Wyndham (Victoria) and Glenorchy (Tasmania), investigating potentials at the juncture of site-responsive art and community cultural development.
- Major project outcomes include exhibitions:  
*New Frames* (Wyndham Park, 2015),  
*Curtain Call* (Moonah Arts Centre, Tasmania, 2016),  
*Not THAT Place: Art versus Stigma* (George Paton Gallery, 2016) &  
*Dancing Place* (Wyndham Cultural Centre, 2017).
- Gretel has been awarded four grants from City of Wyndham and an Ian Potter Foundation travel grant for these projects. She has presented insights from the project at numerous international conferences, including a keynote presentation at Encounters conference, University of Eastern Finland on intercultural arts/research practice (2017).
- 2016 **Lecturer, Live Art and Performance**, School of Art, RMIT University
- 2000-ongoing **Independent dance and performance artist**, various sites and venues in Australia and internationally.

Gretel creates performance and other artworks exploring relationships between place, body and identity, highlighting cultural, historical (decolonising) and ecological concerns. Working as a solo artist, with community groups and in collaboration with other artists, her work is often site-specific. Collaborators include James Geurts, Jill Orr, Tony Yap and Jo Lloyd. Gretel currently performs with Environmental Performance Authority (EPA), which she co-founded with Peter Fraser and Stuart Grant in 2013, supported by Monash University Centre for Theatre and Performance and local government grants.

Selected performance works:

*Divining Melbourne*, a triptych of site-specific performances at historic water sites (City of Melbourne, 2016),

*Dances with Lyrebirds*, interdisciplinary exhibition & performance with photographer Kate Baker, sound artist Anthony Magen and Djirri Djirri Dancers, Burrinja Cultural Centre & The Memo, Healesville (Yarra Ranges Council, 2015), *Settling In*, Dance Massive @ Arts House (2013) & Melaka Arts Festival, (Malaysia, 2014)

*Still Landing*, video installation at Arts House, Shifting Ground, Alice Springs and Critical Path, Sydney, (2007-9).

- 2014 **Research Assistant** to Prof. Sally Mackey, School of Speech and Drama, Royal Central, University of London, reviewing recent Australian and Oceanian performance for book series, *Performing Landscapes*: (Palgrave forthcoming publication).
- 2013-14 **Lecturer, Site-specific Performance**, Centre for Theatre and Performance, Monash University
- [2010-11 Career break- care of baby]
- 2010-15 **Examiner** of Honours and postgraduate theses and performances (Victoria University, Monash University)  
**Guest Lecturer** for the following courses: Master of Community Cultural Development at Victorian College of the Arts, Dance at Deakin University, Performance Studies at Victoria University, Fine Arts Postgraduates at Federation University (Ballarat), NGV Education program
- 2012-13 **Panel member**, Arts Victoria, Community Partnerships Grants
- 2010-13 **Co-founder, Researcher & Community Cultural Development worker** for Southern Ngalia Project, a series of intergenerational dance camps for Warlpiri women from Yuendumu (Aboriginal) community, Northern Territory, facilitating the transference of cultural knowledge from elders to young women. Gretel garnered a **Victoria University Research & Development Grant** for investigating processes of cultural transference. (Chief and Mentor Investigators: Christine Babinskas and Elizabeth Dempster)
- 2012 **Solo Performance Residency**, Victoria University (studio space, overseas travel and support of arts practice)
- 2011-12 **Research Assistant** for Dr Elizabeth Dempster's project 'Trouble with Democracy', a broad investigation into collaborative and socially engaged arts practice (with particular focus on dance and performance), Victoria University.

2004-10      **Lecturer & Tutor**, Victoria University: Performance Studies, Creative Arts Industries and Education

## EDUCATION & AWARDS

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- 2013      **Postgraduate Certificate in Community Cultural Development**, Victorian College of the Arts/University of Melbourne
- 2009      **Outstanding Postgraduate Student Achievement Award** by Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development, Victoria University
- 2004- 2008      **Doctor of Philosophy**, Victoria University. Supervisor: Dr Elizabeth Dempster  
Classified 'passed with no changes', December 2008, conferred June 2009.  
Supported by the Victoria University Vice Chancellor's Award.  
Entitled *Locating: Place and the Moving Body*, this practice-led interdisciplinary project consisted of a 70,000-word thesis and a series of site-specific performance works. The project articulated between Australian studies, theories of place and space, postcolonial discourse and theory on 'whiteness', contemporary art and performance studies to explore relations between body, place and identity in Australia.
- 2003      **Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies) First Class Honours**, Victoria University  
Honours project: 'Dancing Place', supervised by Judith Walton & Dr Elizabeth Dempster
- 1999 & 2000      Intensive dance workshop ('Body Weather') with Min Tanaka, Japan  
1996-98      **Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies)**, Victoria University

## PUBLICATIONS:

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Taylor, G, Warr, D, 'Touchy Art: A phenomenological approach to artistic practice in stigmatised neighbourhoods', *Conjunctions Transdisciplinary Journal of Cultural Participation*, Vol 4, No. 2, 2018

Taylor, G, Warr, D, Williams, R., 'Artfully thinking the pro-social' in Atkinson, R., McKenzie, L and Winlow, S, *Building Better Societies*, Policy Press, 2017

'Dancing into Belonging: towards co-presence in place', *Brolga*, Issue 41, Deakin University Press & Ausdance, 2017

'The omnipresence of time in place in Australian site-based performance', *Time Transcendence, Performance conference proceedings*, Monash University, 2010, and trans., Paulo Aureliano da Mata, in *Performatus*, Brazil, 2013

'Dancing Country Two Ways', *Writings on Dance* #25: Falling Behind: Politics and body states, Autumn 2012, pp 35 - 45

'Empty? A critique of the notion of 'emptiness' in Butoh and Body Weather training' in *Theatre, Dance and Performance Training*, Routledge, Glasgow, Issue 1, 2010

'An Australian spatial practice: dancing as locating', *SEAM (Dance and Architecture) proceedings*, University of Western Sydney and Critical Path, 2010

'Perceiving and Expressing Place: Site-Specific Performance by a White Sheila' in Martin Mulligan, (ed.), *Local-Global*, Vol. 3, 2007, Globalism Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne, pp135-142