

CURRICULUM VITAE: GRETEL TAYLOR

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INTRODUCTION

Passionate about place-making through art, Gretel Taylor has extensive experience as curator, artist, facilitator and coordinator, generating and delivering successful arts and cultural projects, often in partnership with local government. She brings outstanding writing skills, innovative creative/action research experience and community engagement skills.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- 2008-2021 **Curator/Director, BodyPlaceProject**, freelance platform
Current grant from Yarra Ranges to curate a series of performances and events: 'Dancing Place: Corhanwarrabul'. Additional commission for a Community Engagement Report as a case study towards planning for major public art and infrastructure project, RidgeWalk. <https://dancingplacecorhanwarrabul.com>
Other recent projects include curating 'Poetics of Home' screendance series (City of Melbourne and Dance (Lens), Dancehouse, 2020), SCOURGE video installation (Mildura Gallery, 2019) and curating Force of Nature exhibition (Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, 2018).
- 2018-2021 **Artist/Research Fellow**, School of Communication & Creative Arts, Deakin University
Currently involved in 'Barefoot on Country' research project with Professor Liz Cameron, investigating Indigenous art and performance practices in relation to wellbeing. Gretel has led the writing of major grant applications and undertaken a literature review.
From 2018-20, Gretel was engaged on 'Dancing between two worlds' project with Shaun McLeod and Dita Banerjee, investigating experiences of the Indian diaspora in Australia through a creative arts methodology, culminating in a successful performance season by Indian artists in the streets of Werribee (City of Wyndham, Multicultural Festivals Victoria, 2019). The team is now developing a performance at Abbotsford Convent as part of Sangam South Asian Arts program 2021.
- 2013-21 **Key artist & Project Coordinator**, Environmental Performance Authority (EPA)
Performance company presenting site-responsive performances supported by/in partnership with local councils, including City of Geelong, Hobsons Bay, City of Melbourne, Moreland and Knox City Council and (currently) City of Yarra.
- 2019 **Lecturer, Art and Performance**, Deakin University
Units: Contemporary Creative Practice for international Masters of Creative Arts students and Applied Theatre/Socially-engaged practice
Supervisor, Postgraduate Dance (Honours and Masters), Deakin University
- 2018 **Interim Project Manager**, HOME Research Lab, Deakin University
Based in the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, Gretel coordinated and managed this team, which focused on innovative transdisciplinary approaches to housing issues.
Coordinator (volunteer), 'Connecting with Culture and Country' Indigenous education program, Mt Dandenong, Yarra Ranges Council
- 2014-2017 **Artist/Research Fellow**, University of Melbourne: 'Challenging Stigma'
Led by sociologist Deborah Warr and supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery grant, Gretel undertook art/research residencies with local councils in Wyndham (Victoria) and Glenorchy (Tasmania), facilitating innovative projects with local residents reflecting upon place and identity. Outcomes: public

artworks, performances, exhibitions and publications, disseminated internationally.

- 2016 **Lecturer, Live Art and Performance**, School of Art, RMIT University
- 2013-14 **Lecturer, Site-specific Performance**, Centre for Theatre and Performance, Monash University
Project Manager & Curator, 'Dance Hub', City of Knox
- 2012-13 **Panel member**, Arts Victoria, Community Partnerships Grants
- 2010-16 **Co-founder, Researcher & Community Cultural Development practitioner** for Southern Ngalia Project, Yuendumu (Aboriginal) community, Northern Territory, facilitating the transference of cultural knowledge from Warlpiri elders to young women.
- 2011-12 **Research Assistant, Victoria University**
Literature review for Dr Elizabeth Dempster's project 'Trouble with Democracy', a broad investigation into socially engaged arts practice.
- 2004-10 **Lecturer & Tutor**, Victoria University: Performance Studies, Creative Arts Industries and Education.

EDUCATION

- 2013 **Postgraduate Certificate in Community Cultural Development**, Victorian College of the Arts/University of Melbourne
- 2004- 2008 **Doctor of Philosophy**, Victoria University. Supervisor: Dr Elizabeth Dempster. Supported by Victoria University Vice Chancellor's Award.
Titled *Locating: Place and the Moving Body*, this project investigated relationships between body, place and identity in Australia through site-specific performance practice. Passed with no changes, 2009.
- 2003 **Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies) Honours**, Victoria University
First Class Honours. Supervisors: Jude Walton & Dr Elizabeth Dempster
- 1996-98 **Bachelor of Arts** (Performance Studies), Victoria University

REFEREES

- Suzanne Earhart Art in Public Places Officer, Creative Communities, Yarra Ranges Council and RidgeWalk Coordinator Ph. 0447 173 838 s.earhart@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
- Dr Shaun McLeod Senior Lecturer, Art and Performance, Deakin University ('Dancing Between Two Worlds' project) Ph. 0425 800 265
Shaun.mcleod@deakin.edu.au
- Prof. Deb Warr Senior Research Fellow, Sociology, Charles Sturt University ('Challenging Stigma', University of Melbourne)
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