



THE TREE SCHOOL

11-23.03.2021

Monash University Museum of Art

Ground Floor, Building F
Monash University
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Opening Hours

Tue–Fri: 10am–5pm
Sat: 12–5pm
Closed Sun
Mon by appointment only
Entry is always free

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We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders—past, present and emerging—of the lands on which Monash University operates. We acknowledge Aboriginal connection to material and creative practice on these lands for more than 60,000 years.



Use your phone to scan this QR code to find out more about *The Tree School*

Image: Boon Wurrung Tree. Photo: MUMA

The Tree School is a place where people gather for communal learning grounded in lived experience and community connection. The tree, with its own characteristics and history, creates a physical and metaphorical commons that reclaims different ways of learning—ways that transgress the traditional roles of teacher and student, cut across conventional disciplines, and welcome a multiplicity of knowledges.

Over the course of two weeks, yarning circles, discussions and embodied conversations are being held that are both open to the public and by invitation only. The program has been shaped by conversations with a group of Monash educators who share an urgency to decolonise, unlearn and relearn. The full program is available at Monash University Museum of Art's website via the QR code on the cover.

At the centre of *The Tree School* is the Boon Wurrung Tree, a scar tree which with its very presence alludes to the foundation, strength and resilience of Aboriginal culture. The conversations and yarning circles that take place around the tree are informed by it, bringing to the forefront ideas of caring for Country, learning from trees and storytelling.

Conceived by artists and architects Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti, and in Melbourne developed by Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung artist and educator Moorina Bonini, *The Tree School* curriculum has been organised in dialogue with N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM and Dr Brian Martin of the Wominjeka Djeembana Indigenous Research Lab at Monash University; and colleagues from the Monash Sustainable Development Institute; Monash Science; Monash Education; and Monash Art, Design and Architecture, including Mark Romei.

Since 2014, *The Tree School* has taken place in São Paulo, Porto, Beirut, Jerusalem, Bangalore, Eindhoven, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong as an artistic and architectural installation and site of experimental education.

This iteration of *The Tree School* has been organised for the exhibition *Tree Story* at Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA (6 February – 10 April 2021). Elements from previous iterations, including the wall treatment, publication and incense, are present here.



RELATED PROGRAMS

Guided tour of the Tree School and Tree Story

With Charlotte Day, Director, MUMA
Saturday 13 March, 2–4pm

Water, Bodies and Nourishment

With N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM and Curatorial Researcher Madeleine Collie
Saturday 20 March, 12–2pm

This conversation has been supported by Curatorial Practice at Monash University.

INFRACTIONS

Film screening and introduction by artist Rachel O'Reilly
Saturday 20 March, 3pm

INFRACTIONS is toured in Australia with the support of IMA and Arts Queensland.

Tree School: Embodied Conversations

Held on the hour on selected days, Embodied Conversations is a self-guided program within *The Tree School* that invites visitors to settle in the space and consider and embody the question provided (see below). Accompanied by the voice of Boon Wurrung Elder N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM, these questions have been drawn from the conversations of *The Tree School* working group and consider issues of sustainability, decolonising, disruption and learning.

Friday 12 March

- 2pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 3pm How do you practice sustainability?
- 4pm How do you decolonise your mind, body and work?

Saturday 13 March

- 12pm How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?
- 1pm How do you learn? Who do you learn from?
- 2pm How do you care for Country?
- 3pm Can an institution own knowledge? Does knowledge have agency within an institutional setting?
- 4pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?

Tuesday 16 March

- 10am How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 11am How do you practice sustainability?
- 12pm How do you decolonise your mind, body and work?
- 1pm How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?
- 2pm How do you learn? Who do you learn from?
- 3pm How do you care for Country?

Wednesday 17 March

- 2pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 3pm How do you practice sustainability?
- 4pm How do you decolonise your mind, body and work?

Thursday 18 March

- 10am How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?
- 11am How do you learn? Who do you learn from?
- 12pm How do you care for Country?

- 4pm Can an institution own knowledge? Does knowledge have agency within an institutional setting?

Friday 19 March

- 2pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 3pm How do you practice sustainability?
- 4pm How do you decolonise your mind, body and work?

Saturday 20 March

- 3pm How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?
- 4pm How do you learn? Who do you learn from?

Monday 22 March

- 10am How do you care for Country?
- 11am Can an institution own knowledge? Does knowledge have agency within an institutional setting?
- 12pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 1pm How do you practice sustainability?
- 3pm How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?

Tuesday 23 March

- 11am How do you care for Country?
- 12pm Can an institution own knowledge? Does knowledge have agency within an institutional setting?
- 1pm How do you position yourself to the Boon Wurrung Tree?
- 2pm How do you practice sustainability?
- 3pm How do you decolonise your mind, body and work?
- 4pm How do you acknowledge and engage with the Traditional Owners of the Country in which you live and work?