

# SPIRITLANDS

Cherie Johnson | Nicole Chaffey | Tara Standing

EXHIBITION 26 March to 17 April 2014



Tara Standing *Mermaids & Cicadas* 2007, still from digital video

Three women explore disconnection and reconnection to land and spirit through photography and video.

Terra Nullius or “a land belonging to no-one” becomes more than a metaphor in the burnt landscapes reclaimed by Cherie Johnson through her series *Not Forgotten*. Nicole Chaffey uses old photographic technology to capture the *Private Lawns* of colonised Australia and its suburbs. Tara Standing constructs ephemeral landscapes as backdrop to the rite of passage of young Aboriginal women growing up in contemporary Australia in *Red Ribbon Series 2* and her video piece *Mermaids & Cicadas*.

## NICOLE CHAFFEY

- 1 *Private Lawns*  
2007  
series of nine digital prints from stand box brownie 120mm negatives \$450 each, limited edition of 5

Nicole Chaffey is a contemporary artist who identifies as Aboriginal. A descendant of a Euin great grandmother and a Biripi grandfather, she has been living on Awabakal lands for the last fifteen years.

Best known for her landscape paintings, Chaffey produced this series using old photographic techniques. She is currently a Master of Philosophy candidate at the Wollotuka Institute.

## TARA STANDING

- 2 *Red Ribbon Series I*  
2007  
digital photographic print  
NFS
- 3 *Red Ribbon Series II*  
2007  
digital photographic print  
NFS
- 4 *I Carried the Suitcase*  
2007  
digital photographic print  
NFS
- 5 *Mermaids & Cicadas*  
2007  
digital video  
NFS

music credits:  
*Crossbones Style* by Catpower  
*Tip of Memory* by Katie Noonan

Tara Standing is a Newcastle based photographer who enjoys working with alternate processes. Her works are often quite feminine whilst not asserting feminism as a direct principle, working on fabrics and incorporating stitching and textures. There is quite a large central focus on emotions,

the body, cultural and family connections, mainly due to having grown up in an almost female dominant family.

She works with both digital and wet photography, although alternate processes such as cyanotypes and van dykes often play quite a large part in her work.

Standing was the recipient of the Cessnock City Council Arts Scholarship 2012 and served as an intern to Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery.

## CHERIE JOHNSON

- 6 *Not Forgotten*  
2011  
series of ten digital photographic prints \$250.00 each
- 7 *Pinafolds*  
c1920s  
ready made, cotton and lace  
NFS

Cherie Johnson is a Murri woman from the Gamilaroi language group who resides in Newcastle, NSW and participates as an active member of the Awabakal Community. Her grandmother, Rachal Darcy, was born on the Beemunnal Mission in Warren, NSW.

Cherie works in Aboriginal cultural education and offers cultural workshops and cross cultural consultancy through Speaking In Colour. She also teaches visual art and digital media.

In 2011, Cherie along with the rest of the Aboriginal reference group at the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, was awarded the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW Cultural Award for Aboriginal Cultural Development for her project *Wrapped in a Possum Skin Cloak: by the Lake*.

*Not Forgotten* was installed as Cherie's first solo show on Rottneest Island in 2011.



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