



COMA

Press Release

Shan Turner-Carroll
Edge Of The Garden

Dates:
23 October - 20 November, 2021



COMA is pleased to present *Edge Of The Garden*, a solo presentation by photographer and multimedia artist Shan Turner-Carroll, on view 23 October - 13 November in the gallery. This exhibition is presented in collaboration with Art Incubator.

These night visions emerge as apparitions found at the *Edge Of The Garden*, between dusk and dawn, as though of an alternate dream world. During the period of Covid isolation, I spent several months making wearable sculptures and photographing members of my family on the property I grew up on. More than simply adornment or even protection, each sculpture is an apparatus, designed to interact with the body. The wearables were produced from materials found on the property, including objects from my past such as old sportswear, dance costumes, curtains, carpets, knives and flowers. The process of inventing, wearing and performing for the camera reveals a central part of my childhood growing up in rural NSW, where boredom was a constant threat and entertainment found its outlets in Easter hat parades, dance eisteddfods, nativity scenes and home-made music videos.

Edge Of The Garden both un-earths a family history, at the same time re-earthing that history to my familial (and familiar) environment anew. Boxing gloves become terrariums, and crutches turn into limbs. The resulting imagery lives in the realm of the uncanny, existing between places and times; between vision and blindness, real and imagined, unease and rest. Like animals in headlights, or indeed backyard nocturnal critters exposed by torchlight, my family are reposed as strange spirits of the unconscious, shape shifters in transition, jewels in the night."

- Shan Turner-Carroll

Shan Turner-Carroll (b. 1987) is an Australian artist of Burmese descent. Shan's practice responds to both site and situation specificity, and integrates mediums including photography, sculpture, performance and film. The subjects his works have related to include both human and non-human nature, alternative forms of social exchange and interactions between art, artist and viewer. Looking towards the multiplicity of connections between body and landscape, site-specificity is key to his work. Not only in making, but rather in how an embodied methodology of making emerges upon each site and location

His practice questions current modes of living, and explores alternative methodologies and modes of education. A deep philosophy within his work is thinking through doing. Over the past three years his work has evolved from still photography into a multidisciplinary practice that corrodes the boundaries historical and behavioural conventions have erected between art and life. Shan uses the ritual of art making and its transformative agency to question how art can find meaning outside of the institution of the gallery. At the core of his practice is the conviction that art has a meaningful and active role within contemporary, industrial, globalised societies in which the paradigm of the individual is most present.



Photo by Garry Trinh

Selected Recent press

Murray Art Museum Albury, 'Shan Turner-Carroll's 'Edge of the Garden' captures the ingenuity of 2020', video interview

More information [here](#).

My Maitland, 'Mrag Shan Turner Carroll Bodies On A Rock', video interview

More information [here](#).

Newcastle Herald, 'Newcastle Art Gallery surrounds Joseph Lycett works with contemporary take on 1818', by Jim Kellar

More information [here](#).





Shan Turner-Carroll

Edge Of The Garden, Zion, 2020

archival digital ink jet print, framed

115 x 79 x 6 cm

45 5/16 x 31 1/8 x 2 3/8 inches

edition 1 of 6

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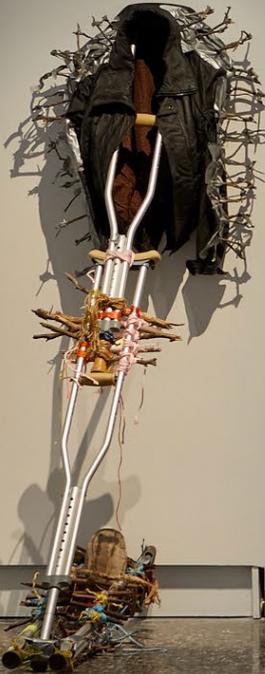
“Turner-Carroll’s work re-affirms our humanness. In engaging with his work we are guided towards a search for a kind of spiritual respite.”

- Simone Douglas, *Artists and Professor of Photography, Parsons School of Design, The New School, New York*



“...the wiser eye that revalues
ancestral landscape and makes
the local global.”

- Ernesto Pujol, *Site-specific Performance
Artist, Social Choreographer, Educator*



Shan Turner-Carroll, *Edge Of The Garden*, 2020, installation view, Murray Art Museum Albury, NSW



Art Incubator
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