

Shan Turner-Carroll embodies the role of the trickster, magician or pilgrim. His practice encompasses photography, wearable sculpture, installation and the documentation of subtle performative gestures that see him interact with his environment and the objects and people around him. Site-specificity is key to his work, as he seeks to uncover multiple connections between the landscape and the body.

Turner-Carroll's recent projects have combined dramatic tableau photography with installation and sculpture. His portraits evoke a sense of the magical, depicting family members in wearable apparatuses created from household detritus and objects from childhood. The sculptural components of his installations roam from makeshift constructions of discarded trampolines, boogie boards and sports paraphernalia complete with duct tape, to impeccable trompe l'oeil renderings of rock formations carved from hand-painted polystyrene. This pairing of the detailed with the loose, the dramatic with the funny, underscores Turner-Carroll's disinterest in any demonstration of technical prowess. Instead, his practice prioritises opportunities for his art to merge and cohabitate with life.

For his commission for *From Impulse to Action*, Turner-Carroll began by consulting with seven psychics for guidance. He received various overlapping messages, the most prominent of which emphasised the surge of energy throughout the Bundanon landscape and encouraged him to engage his intuition as a working methodology. At the site, Turner-Carroll was struck with three primary ideas: a splash in the river; a red-bellied black snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*); and Telstra Rock, a familiar staff reference for the location at which mobile-phone reception is best. On a second, longer visit as a part of Bundanon's Artist in Residence program, these initial sketches formed a constellation of ideas, actions and topics for investigation.

Research into the red-bellied black snake revealed the animal's mechanism for hearing. Like a ship navigating the waves, a snake's jawbone rests on the ground, receiving sound waves transmitted through the earth. Tapping into the folklore of Telstra Rock, Turner-Carroll conducted twenty telepathic conversations with friends and family, and, in plunging himself into the Shoalhaven River to act out his 'splash', the artist's body became the apparatus, sending waves through the water. The many objects and photographs in *The Snake, The Rock and The River* are connected by Turner-Carroll's intuitive investigation into the poetic and physical effects of waves, vibrations and ripples. Interacting like notes in a musical composition, the components of this installation reveal the transmission of energy between all things-animal, human and landscape alike.

- Text by Boe-Lin Bastian