

# SPEAKEASY

## THE YARNING CIRCLE - PUBLIC PROGRAM: 2PM SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER AT GALLERY 4A

### ARTIST FIONA FOLEY AND PROFESSOR MARTIN NAKATA WILL JOIN SPEAKEASY CURATOR VERNON AH KEE FOR A CONVERSATION CHARTING SOME OF THE ISSUES ARISING FROM THE EXHIBITION

#### PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE JUMBUNNA INDIGENOUS HOUSE OF LEARNING UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY



THIS YARNING CIRCLE COINCIDES WITH THE GALLERY 4A EXHIBITION - SPEAKEASY which profiles Asian-Australian history entangled with an Aboriginal history of Australia. The exhibition draws its title from the illegal and underground bars which operated during the prohibition period in 1920s America – out of sight, below the radar, yet part of a vital cultural dialogue. In this exhibition, the title refers to the longstanding contribution of Indigenous and Asian history, often overlooked in Australia's colonial history. This exhibition delves into previously untold stories in Australia and marks a fundamental shift in thinking about intercultural relationships, politics and geography. The exhibition charts a range of relationships between Indigenous artists and Asian people and culture, through the familial, the political, the pre-colonial and periods of trade.

#### About the speakers:

Fiona Foley was born in Maryborough, Queensland in 1964. She completed a Certificate of Arts at the East Sydney Technical College in 1983, during which she was a visiting student to St Martins School of Art, London. From 1984 to 1986 she undertook a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Sydney College of the Arts, and in 1987 she completed a Diploma of Education at the Sydney Institute of Education, Sydney University. Throughout her career Fiona has taken an active role promoting indigenous identity and was co-founder of the Boomali Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney in 1987. In 2003, she was appointed Adjunct Professor at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. In 2004, Foley completed an International Studio and Curatorial Program residency in New York, and has since also been resident artist at the University of Woolongong (2006) and Sydney College of the Arts (2006).

Foley has exhibited extensively throughout Australia and overseas including Gallery 4A, Sydney; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne; Campbelltown Arts Centre, New South Wales; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, USA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane. Her work is held in most national collections throughout Australia.

Professor N M Nakata (B.Ed.Hons.PhD) is Chair of Australian Indigenous Education & Director of Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney and Honorary Research Fellow Mitchell Library. He is the first Torres Strait Islander to receive a PhD in Australia. His current research work focuses on higher education curriculum areas, the academic preparation of Indigenous students, and Indigenous knowledge and library services. He has presented eighteen plenary and keynote addresses at national as well as international conferences in ten countries, and published various pieces on Indigenous Australians and education in various academic journals and books in Australia and abroad. His book, Disciplining the Savages-Savaging the Disciplines <[http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal\\_studies\\_press/find\\_a\\_book/recent\\_releases/disciplining\\_the\\_savages](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal_studies_press/find_a_book/recent_releases/disciplining_the_savages)>, was published in 2007 by Aboriginal Studies Press.

#### EVENTS CALENDAR

- ◇ Exhibition Opening  
Friday 25 September 6-8pm
- ◇ Fiona Foley and Professor Martin Nakata in Conversation. Convened by Vernon Ah Kee  
Saturday 26 September, 2pm  
Yarning Circle presented in association with the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning University of Technology Sydney
- ◇ Saturday Afternoon Literature event  
Saturday 10 October, 2pm  
Presented in association with Giramondo Publishing and the University of Western Sydney Writing and Society Research Group

## GALLERY4A

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Open 11am-6pm,  
Tuesday - Saturday, closed public holidays

The Visual Arts and Craft Strategy is supported by:



Gallery 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc (4A). We gratefully acknowledge our Principal Patrons Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth; Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Dr Dick Quan; Patrons Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang, Kerr and Judith Neilson; Benefactors Peter Talbot and Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM and Friends Ari and Lisa Droga, Phillip Haw, David Droga, Richard and Margie Holden, VisAsia, Annika Droga-Susskind, Isabella and Sam Droga, Ann Lewis, Peter Fay, Yeehwan Yeoh and Matt Cox, Liane Rossler, Brooke Aitken, Claire Armstrong and John Sharpe. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.