



THE ISTHMUS

CAMERON ROBBINS + JON TARRY

HEATHCOTE CULTURAL PRECINCT
16 JUNE TO 22 JULY 2018

THE ISTHMUS

CAMERON ROBBINS + JON TARRY

'The Isthmus' responds to conditions of site, amplifying environmental forces to generate the project in a series of interconnected propositions. Geomorphology operates in relative time and scale. Heathcote Gallery is built on an isthmus of land reaching into the Swan River of Western Australia. Light and air influence state of mind, health, and wellbeing. Breathing back into this space conscious, open questions.

Cameron Robbins and Jon Tarry have worked on an open collaborative series of investigations in site, sound, sensing broadly gathered under the title of 'EarthCone'. This concept has taken the artists to many locations and contexts as diverse as Teuflesberg, an abandoned cold war listening station (Berlin) dormant volcano, Mt Noorat (Vic) and Heathcote Gallery (WA), for 'The Isthmus'.

Works titled 'Skymion Sensor' and 'Listening Station', pointers of relational imperceptible change. Outside, the tapered carbon fibre mast 18-metre-tall 'Skymion Sensor', reacts to meteorological airflow. A companion piece 'TeraStylus' is at the peak of the isthmus, transcribing performative gestures into wall markings inside the controlled gallery atmosphere. Two 'Listening Stations' convert small institutional observation rooms into sound stations, which connect to distant unusual places, including the cold war remnant site of, Tueflesberg, Berlin.

'Noorat'. Sound and Image recording developed at the site of a dormant volcano in Western Victoria. The crater is mapped visually with disorienting precision as sounds simultaneously rupture this temporal sonic pyroclastic moment. Foliage appears stranded, undulating, falling, regaining foot holds in the rim. At the magmatic centre, sound settles as if in a vacuum, no wind, no echo, no reverb, no delay, sound in free fall, deep in entropy.

Three faceted timber 'Fractal Horns' are conical acoustic sound devices. Capable of sound generation and reception,

these sculptural instruments are as portable as a clarinet. 'Fractal Horns I, II, and III' explore the architecture of sound in simple acoustic form. In this situation, the cones announce as implicit sound sensing instruments. Listening to the ambiances of the room as frequencies from outside reverberated in. Footsteps on timber floors, doors swinging closed, whispers in the distance, birds, boats and bbq.

A cast bronze sculptural instrument - 'Magnetometer' - is made to detect local magnetic fields. Rare earth magnets poised on a tungsten and glass bearing align with the geomagnetic force field. When bumped, the magnets irresistibly return to the field as though falling towards the Noorat's nadir. Like a mono cyclist on a tight rope pivoted at a single balance point, poised in complete suspension highlights the invisible forces of gravity. Earth's gravity and magnetism combine in this work presenting a dynamic interplay.

'Interpolate', is made of two vertical totems in bronze and stainless steel, which stand opposing each other suggesting a frequency is exchanged in space in between. Static electrical current carves a moving pathway through the air, charged and present when conditions exist. Localized transmissions bring this atmospheric ionic charge to ground. By holding the vertical stand, one may become part of the circuit. Only the skin will detect the static as the finest body hair stands like scaled versions of the 'Skymion Sensor', able to detect minute changes.

The artworks presented in 'The Isthmus' follow lines of enquiry at the edges of perception. Active and passive the embodied energy of each piece exists in states of constant change. Each work connects with the other, locality, proximity, offer a glimpse of everyday forces and the remarkable potentiality to be active agents.

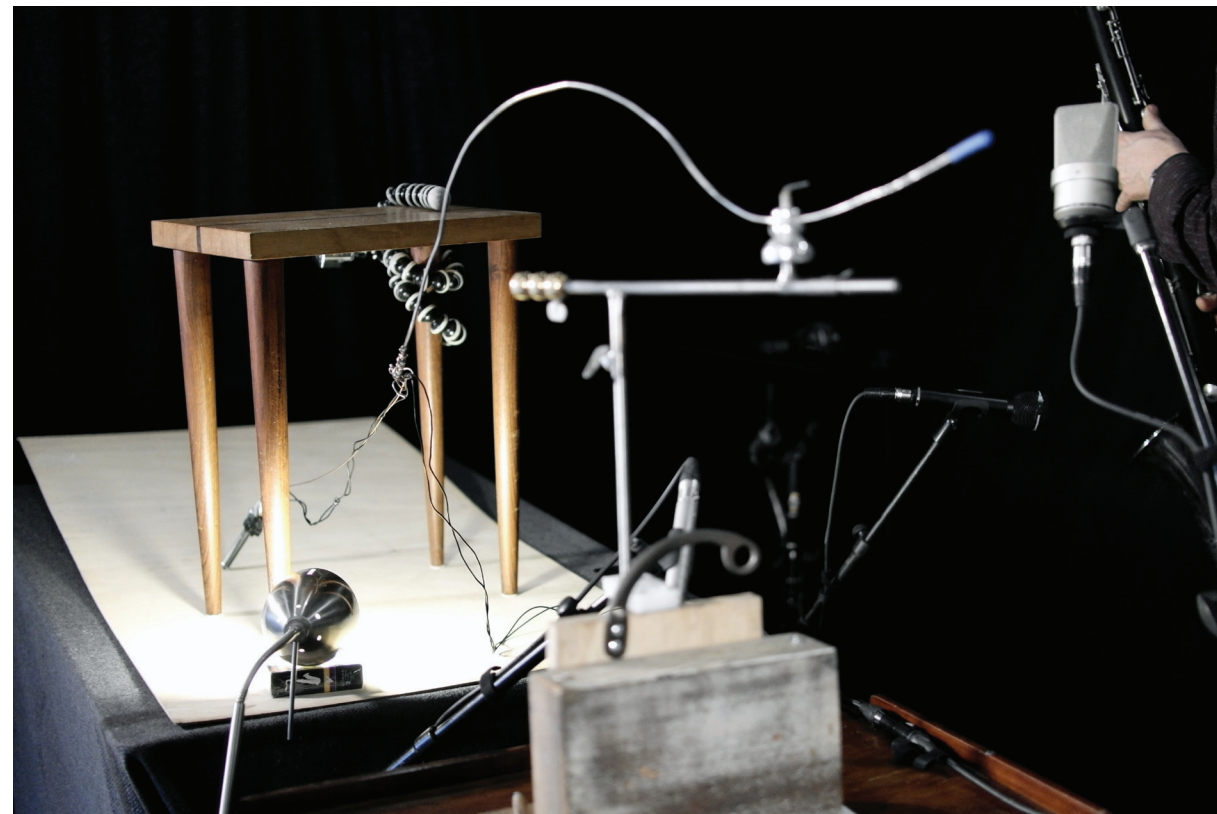
JON TARRY + CAMERON ROBBINS 2018

Front image: Jon Tarry and Cameron Robbins, *NOORAT*, 2017, Photo by Brodie Ellis



Heathcote Cultural Precinct • Swan House • 58 Duncraig Rd, Applecross
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm • Sat & Sun 12pm - 4pm • T: 9364 5666 • heathcotewa.com

ISBN: 978-0-6481041-6-2



Jon Tarry, *RecordingSession*, 2017, WeFo Studio



Cameron Robbins - *MONA*, 2015, Photo by Mia Forrest



Earthcone recording session for *NOORAT*, photo by Jon Tarry, WeFo Studios



Cameron Robbins, *WindMast*, 2017, Photo by Brodie Ellis



Jon Tarry, *Mt Noorat*, 2017



MONA, *SoundPen*, 2015, Photo by Mia Forrest