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Opinions expressed in this magazine
are those of the authors and not necessarily
those of the publisher and editor.

Readers are invited to make up their own minds
on issues debated in Art Monthly Australia.

Letters are welcome.

Cover image:

Bindi Cole, *You Yangs*, 2008, pigment print on rag paper, 135 x 96cm.
Image courtesy artist and Boscia Galleries, Melbourne. Exhibited in
Rapprochement, Manningham Gallery, Doncaster, Melbourne, 20 May
to 6 June 2009. Curated by Reko Rennie, *Rapprochement* celebrates
Reconciliation Week and features the work of 'four young Aboriginal artists,
drawing on their Indigenous heritage and inspired by their visions for
the future'. Bindi Cole is represented along with Megan Cadd, Benjamin
McKeown and Reko Rennie. www.manningham.vic.gov.au/gallery

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Editorial

IN A CHANGE OF TEMPO for our bumper green harvest issue this month, I defer to the poetry of Michael Watts from Alice Springs, where life under a star-bright desert sky sparkles ever more precious.

yours (in sustenance)
Maurice O’Riordan



The death of the universe – at Ellery Creek, NT

Michael Watts

We must be the first people
down here since the rains,
My daughter and I.
There are no human footprints
And the creek is flowing gently,
From waterhole to waterhole,
Between the perfect sandbars,
Etched with the tracks of birds,
And lizards and snakes,
And the soft shadows
Of river gums.

At night the moon and a sky full of stars.
So much beauty, this place, this planet,
And last night we spoke of
when all this will be gone,
When the sun blows up to be a red giant,
And fries our beloved planet,
All this water,
All this striving for life.
My daughter sleeps while I write this amidst
The muted light, the murmuring of the creek,
The soft morning of birds.

But really, what when
The sun has gone?
When all the suns have gone?
When there are no more stars?
The universe too thin, too dispersed
To create new ones.
What then?
Just a few inert stars,
A bit bigger than Jupiter,
That were quite never large
enough to ignite,
They will still be there,
These embryo stars,
Wandering around,
And occasionally, once in an
impossibly long time
To the power of ten,
They will collide head on and
absorb into each other
And ignite,
And lo, there will be light, a tiny star, burning
In a dark universe.
But one day, in an impossibly long
time squared, and squared
again and again and again,
There will be only two such stars left,
Journeying through a universe that
has expanded to such a size
that it makes
Our present-day Universe insignificant.
And in a dark and distant age, they
too will cross paths and the
last star will burn,
And then there will be no more light.
Just the slow dance of black holes,
As they leak themselves to death.

Ellery Creek, Ellery Creek.
I love you.
I love my daughter.
I love this life.

Notes

1. This poem appears in the recently launched anthology *Fishtails in the dust: writing from the Centre*, Ptilotus Press, Alice Springs, 2009, pp. 19-20.

Image: Unknown artist, active in Australia 1940s, *Mankokkarmg (The Southern Cross)*, 1948, earth pigments on paper on cardboard, 45.5 x 58.5cm. Collection: National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Melbourne. Presented by the Commonwealth Government, 1956. Currently showing in the NGV exhibition *Shared Sky*, commemorating the International Year of Astronomy (see Artnotes Victoria, p. 78.)

From the chair

WELCOME to new *Art Monthly Australia* Board members Fiona Foley and Greg Pryor. Brisbane-based, Fiona replaces Suhanya Raffel (Queensland Art Gallery), whom we thank for her contribution to the work of the Board over the years. A major artist, Fiona exhibits regularly in all Australian States and internationally including London and New York. In the last decade, she has completed major site-specific work in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra (at Parliament House and ANU), Brisbane, Carlow in Ireland, the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK. Her most recent solo exhibition was at Niagara Gallery, Melbourne in April 2009. Greg Pryor is a Lecturer in Communications and Arts at Edith Cowan University, Perth WA. As an experienced artist, he has received significant awards, has exhibited Australia-wide and been artist in residence in Paris, Beijing, Vienna, Taipei and Kings Wood Kent UK. Greg’s research interests focus on the landscape and contemporary botanical art with journal articles, group and solo exhibitions. The AMA Board looks forward to their contribution to the development of *Art Monthly*.

Congratulations to Nick Tapper (Melbourne) who is the winner of the inaugural *Art Monthly Australia* (AMA) Emerging Arts Writers’ Award. His article is published in this issue, along with that of Highly Commended entrant Jan Hogan (NSW). Congratulations also to the two other commended writers, Andrew Varano (WA) and Yolande Norris (ACT), and many thanks to our judges Alan Dodge and Tamsin Kerr. The AMA Board was gratified to see such an enthusiastic response to the project.

Compliments also to the *Art Monthly* staff Maurice, Kathreen and Tania who continue to produce our lively and impressive magazine regularly each month, and with a little extra this month for our special green issue.

David Williams
Chair, *Art Monthly Australia* Board



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