

MEDIA RELEASE

11 FEBRUARY 2015

TARRAWARRA
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KATE BEYNON AN-LI: A CHINESE GHOST TALE

TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART
28 MARCH – 8 JUNE 2015

Love extends beyond the grave in this strange and marvellous story.

New works by Hong Kong-born, Melbourne-based artist Kate Beynon on exhibition at TarraWarra Museum of Art, continue her exploration of transcultural life, feminism and notions of hybridity in dealing with a 'mixed up' and precarious world.

Beynon's new work is inspired by a supernatural Chinese tale of two young spirits who traverse two worlds; one magically aquatic, the other earthly. Beynon has imagined the guiding spirit of the goddess Kwan Yin as their paths lead from tragedy to transformation, hope and healing.

The works have been commissioned by *Art and Australia* for a new hardcover publication, *An-Li: A Chinese Ghost Tale*, edited by Laura Murray Cree, which will include the tale alongside colour reproductions of the works in this exhibition. The book will be launched to coincide with the exhibition.

The exhibition features works on paper, paintings, an animated video and a suspended sculptural installation. The works draw on diverse source material including Chinese and Japanese traditional imagery, Taoist magic calligraphy blended with influences from contemporary comic book graphics, film, animation and fashion.

The artist states that "These new works include many family associations. References to Chinese ornamental art objects I grew up with and my maternal grandfather's scroll paintings, appear in the mix with contemporary dress, sneakers, jewellery and tattoos of family members who also resemble some of the characters. In addition I was inspired by the colours and sights of recent travel to India, where we met some wonderful artists skilled in miniature painting."

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Kate Beynon
Rose of Evening/Spirit of Kwan Yin in the lotus field 2014 (detail)
watercolour, gouache and pencil on cotton rag
77 x 56 cm
Courtesy the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY:

Born Hong Kong, 1970; Arrived in Australia 1974: Lives and works in Melbourne

Informed by a diverse range of pictorial traditions including Western and Eastern comic books, animation, film, graffiti, calligraphy and fashion, Kate Beynon's works are a nexus of influences. Her paintings manifest the hybrid reality of today's multicultural global citizen. In 1996 Beynon first exhibited images depicting Li Ji, a heroine drawn from an ancient Chinese legend, adapted into a contemporary urban warrior. Li Ji has become a central character in Beynon's works, negotiating her way through a global landscape marked by politics of race and class.

Since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1993, Beynon has held over 25 solo exhibitions. Significant individual exhibitions include *Auspicious Charms for Transcultural Living*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2008; *Mixed Blood and Migratory Paths*, The Physics Room, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2005; and *Kate Beynon 1994-2002*, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide, 2002. She has presented regular solo shows at Sutton Gallery since 1996 and is also represented by Milani Gallery, Brisbane.

Beynon has participated in over 100 local and international group exhibitions, with recent selections including: *The F Word: Contemporary Feminist Art in Australia*, Ararat Regional Art Gallery, Ararat, Victoria, 2014; *The 2014 Archibald Prize*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and touring to Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery and NSW regional galleries; *Mythopoetic*, Women Artists from Australia and India, Webb Gallery, Griffiths University, Queensland College of Art, Brisbane, 2013; *Re-Picturing the Feminine: New and Hybrid Realities in the Art World*, Open Eyed Dreams (OED) Gallery, Cochin, India, 2012; *The Naked Face: Self-portraits*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2011; *Change*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne 2010; and *The China Project, Three Decades: The Contemporary Chinese Collection*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, 2009. Earlier significant selections include *Global Feminisms*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, USA, 2007; *TarraWarra Biennial 2006: Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Victoria, 2006; *C'town Bling: art and the youth demografik*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney, 2005; *Identity and Desire*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 2005; *A Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces 1985-2005, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne, 2005; *The Plot Thickens; the narrative in Australian Art*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2004; *The Future in Every Direction: Joan Clemenger Endowment for Contemporary Australian Art*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003; *See Here Now: Vizard Foundation Art Collection of the 1990s*, The Ian Potter Museum, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, 2002; *Fieldwork; Australian Art 1968 - 2002*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2002; *Upstream: International Art Event*, 400-year Anniversary of Dutch East Indies Co., The Netherlands, 2002; *Tales of the Unexpected*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, 2002; *Our Place: Issues of Identity in Australian Art*, Monash University in Prato, Italy, 1999; and *Perspecta 99*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 1999.

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Beynon received an Australian Post Graduate Award (APA) in 2013, and is currently undertaking a PhD in Fine Art by Research, at Monash Art Design and Architecture (MADA), Monash University, Melbourne. Beynon has also been the recipient of several other grants and awards, including Arts Victoria International Program, 2012 for travel to exhibit in India; Australia Council for the Arts, New Work in 2009 and Professional Development for a self-organised studio in Harlem, New York in 2004. Beynon held a studio residency at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces between 2000 and 2002. She has been a finalist in the Archibald Prize, presented at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (and touring to Victorian and NSW regional galleries), in 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014.

Her work is held in significant public collections including American University, Washington DC, USA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; The Museum of Modern Art (MMK), Frankfurt, Germany; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, Victoria.

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