

Report for IAF

IAF Grant awarded to: MEMORY LINE exhibition at Sauerbier House Cultural Exchange, as part of the 2024 SALA festival (Jennifer Eadie and Adrienne Semmens).

We are grateful to the IAF for the grant, we would not have been able to create this exhibition without it. The exhibition is a second iteration of the on-going witness/ tree project - a durational, site-responsive project we established in 2023. We consider what it means to authentically bear witness to a waadlawarnka [fallen tree] whose age pre-dates the invasion of Kurna Country. In doing so, the work seeks to simultaneously respect and (re)connect with the histories and stories of Tuthangga (Parkland 17, Adelaide). When researching the place-based history of Tuthangga, it became evident that the colony directed a huge amount of its energy towards clearing this country. We recognize the ancestor tree would have witnessed this violence and now we are attempting to create space for ourselves and the public to bear witness to her. Through consultation and collaboration, our hope is that the project generates awareness and protection of the fallen tree / parklands while respecting and celebrating cultural and historical story connected to her.

The grant allowed us to purchase and hire high-quality equipment and materials; complete experimentation; professionally print work; draw on archival research and complete consultation to create the body of work shared in this exhibition and future iterations. The SALA exhibition emerged in response to a historical document found during our archival research. We were motivated to offer an alternative view to the objectification of the land emphasized in the document, so we focused on the agency, memory and history held in the land and tree. We experimented with multi-disciplinary art practices to see how we could create an embodied response that incorporated the waadlawarnka / blue gum, the site and our own bodies. In particular we explored ideas of memory – how it is held, what does it move like, how does it sound? For example: the textiles were created with charcoal made from fallen blue gum twigs; mark-making directly from her bark; the print installation was a photograph of the parkland site; the projection incorporated the artist in movement with blue gum branches; and the soundscape and poetry were gathered and/or in direct response to the site in Parkland 17. These elements becoming a record of the site and our relationship with it.

In its final presentation, the exhibition incorporated moving image, soundscape, poetry, textile works and mixed-media installation, along with a public artist talk. Thanks to this grant we were able to access professional installation support for the first time in our collaboration, which allowed us to exhibit at a professional standard. The grant also allowed us to receive artists fees for our time and labour. In a country and sector that more often than not asks artists to give their time and skills for no payment, this fee was treasured and not taken for granted. We would again like to express our gratitude to IAF for providing us with the fund to explore, create and share our practice with the public.

Please find some images from the exhibition included:

Exhibition view (textiles installation):



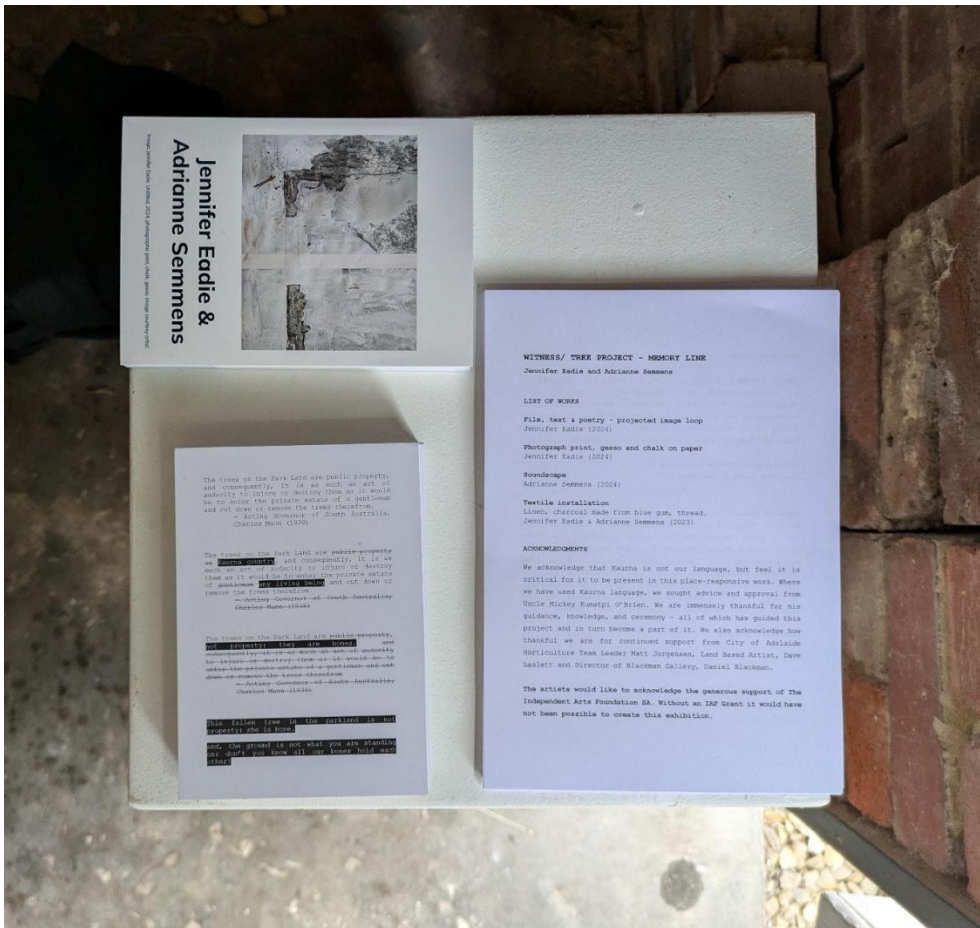
Exhibition view (moving image projection):



Moving image still shot:



Accompanying text and poetry postcards:



Public artist talk:



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