

YAM|2023

YAM | 2023 showcases the creative works of **Cim SEARS**

YAM is a collaboration between the team at Anthropology from the shed and artist/researcher Cim Sears. Sears' creative responses to the research papers includes photography, printmaking processes, ceramics, and installation as a fresh way of looking and absorbing the knowledge.

Officially opened by Dr **Paul UHLMANN**

Gallery25

Opening: Wednesday 28 June 2023 5pm – 7pm

Exhibition dates: 28 June to 20 July 2023

Floor talk: Wednesday 12 July 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Building 10, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

ECU Galleries acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and elders past and present. We pay our respects for the great privilege of living, making and researching on these unceded lands.

ECU Galleries



Artist's Statement

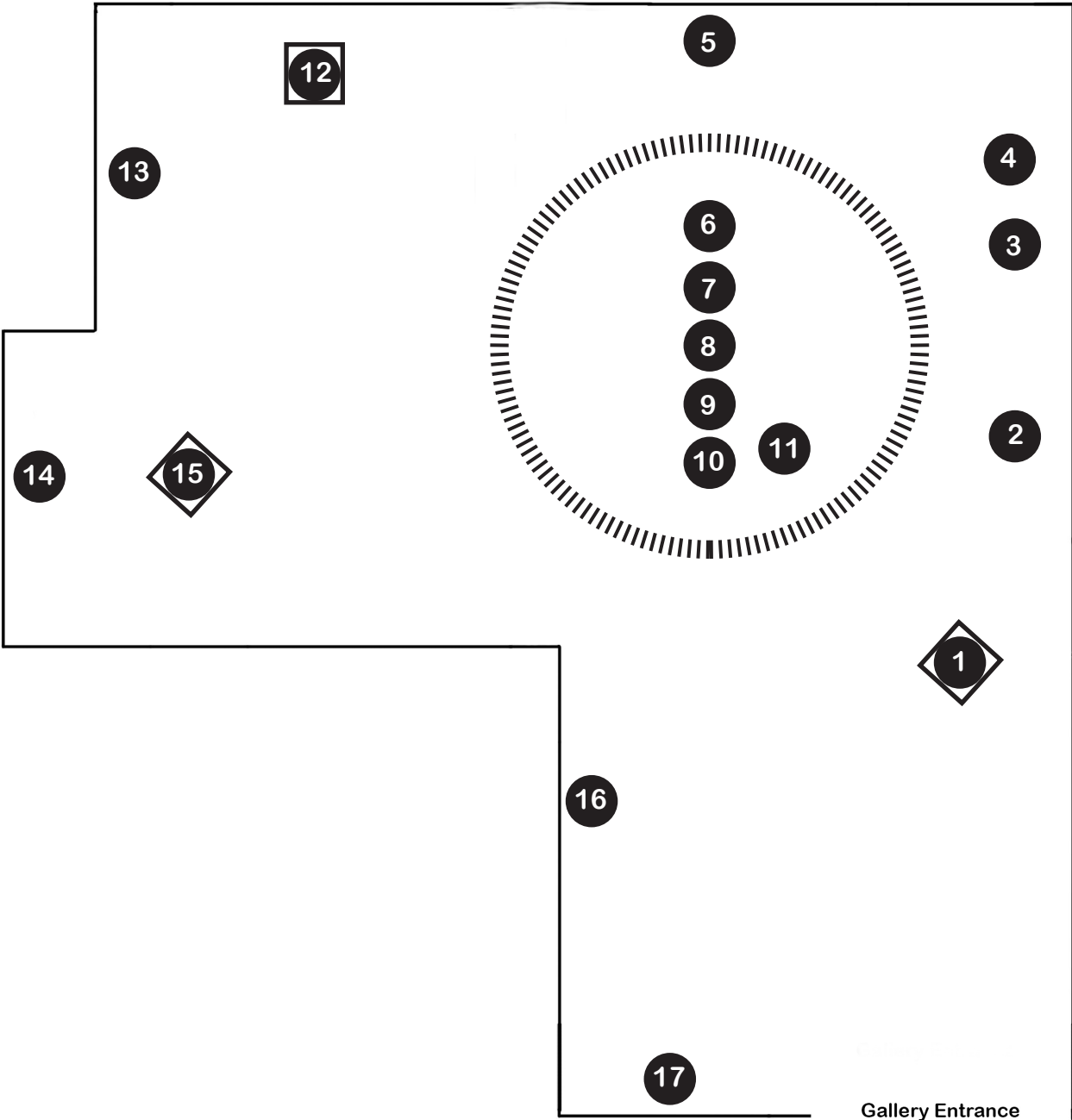
YAM is a collaboration between artist, Cim Sears, anthropologists, Ken Macintyre and Barb Dobson, and Nyungar researcher, Iva Hayward-Jackson. The original intention to rework the anthropological research papers in a way that communicated aspects of traditional science, slowly moved from mainly text to include image, as the artist began to automatically rework and modify the material. Experimentations with image making and type on different handmade papers began to present the content in a different light and gave the researched works a new space. Field trips for collecting more samples ensued in order to photograph and record Indigenous cultural traditions of horticulture and food sources into art pieces that were visually stimulating and imbued with new curiosity. The indigenous **yam** '*warrein*' took a starring role as the team grew, cultivated, and harvested the impressive tubers of this delicate but vitally important species. Other traditional food sources feature in the exhibition but it is the indigenous **yam** '*warrein*', with its male and female parts, its tiny and delicate above ground stem, its vigorous vine and flowers and its powerful tuber and roots below ground that is a striking metaphor for the genius, resilience and survival of its Indigenous cultivators since the beginning of their existence. The '*Anthropology from the Shed*' website was simultaneously transformed to be easily accessible and visually striking while maintaining its academic excellence. The commonality of all participants was that all the work, both online and in the exhibition would be a form of giving for the benefit of those who freely came to it, and an honouring of the Indigenous people and all who contributed to the vast knowledge and inspiration contained within.

Biography

Cim completed a Master of Visual Arts by Research at ECU in 2020. She has a Photography degree obtained at ECU and previously, an Arts degree in Anthropology and Politics from UWA. Subsequent to this she studied and worked as a Social Worker for a number of years where her main emphasis was in the area of women's health. She has exhibited her art and photography internationally and locally, though her priority is to develop acute immersive processes and practice. She has a multidisciplinary practice that includes, printmaking processes, photolithography, ceramics and script. She travels long distances to the Western Desert where she draws on connections to explore and discover narratives that are lost from memory and the historical landscape.

Contact Information

Website: <https://www.anthropologyfromtheshed.com/>



List of Works

- 1 Ceramic vessels (2023), with dried *Dioscorea hastifolia* (warrein) vine, flower and seed pods from Toodyay, Western Australia. Pit fired clay with copper and iron oxide, various sizes.
- 2 *Dioscorea hastifolia* (warrein) seed pods (2022), digital photograph printed on Tesuki-Washi EchiZen Japanese handmade paper, 67cm x 98cm.
- 3 *Dioscorea hastifolia* (warrein) flower (2022), digital photograph printed on Tesuki-Washi EchiZen Japanese handmade paper, 67cm x 98cm.
- 4 *Dioscorea hastifolia* (warrein) seed pods (2022), digital photograph printed on Tesuki-Washi EchiZen Japanese handmade paper, 67cm x 98cm.
- 5 *Dioscorea hastifolia* (warrein) vine, leaves, flowers, tuber, seed pods and text (2023), photolithographs - Charbonnel inks and washed ink jet prints on prepared Kozo Natural Japanese handmade paper, 26cm x 21cm.
- 6 *Banksia attenuata*, Yallingup, Western Australia (2023), plant material collected and dried, dimensions vary.



7 Banksia menziesii, Cookernup, Western Australia (2023), plant material collected and dried, dimensions vary.



8 Acacia (Wattle) seeds (kwonnert) (2022), Toodyay, Western Australia, dimensions small.



9 Grinding stone and top stone (n.d.), stone material, 34cm x 22cm x 3.5 and 10cm x 8cm x 5cm.

10 Digging stick (n.d.), wooden material, 114cm x 3.5cm.

11 Ceramics vessels (2023), containing macrozamia seed pods, acacia seeds, yam seeds pods and plant resin. Hand built clay using Japanese raku techniques with plant material and pit-firing techniques with iron oxide, copper, salt and steel, various sizes.

12 Loose leaf book (2023), photolithographs – Charbonnel inks printed on prepared Kozo Natural Japanese handmade paper, 26cm x 21cm.

13 Typha (yanjet) plant and text (2023), photolithographs – Charbonnel inks printed on prepared Kozo Natural Japanese handmade paper, 26cm x 21cm.



14

The Rhythm of Dark and Light Seasons (2023), printing press prints and photolithograph - Charbonnel inks on Kozo Natural Japanese handmade paper, 26cm x 21cm.



15

Emu the Dark Season Breeder (n.d.), emu egg and plant material, 13cm x 9cm x 7cm and 20cm x 7cm.



16

Macrozamia (by-yu) fruit, (djiridji) nuts and text (2023), photolithographs – Charbonnel inks and washed ink jet prints on prepared Kozo Natural Japanese handmade paper, 26cm x 21cm.



17

Macrozamia plant (2022), digital photograph printed on Tesuki-Washi Echi-Zen Japanese handmade paper, 67cm x 98cm.

