Lecture summary:
Like the pools of pigment and washes of ochre that seep slowly into her canvases, Judy Watson (Waanyi, born 1959) absorbs the stories of the Waanyi people to create works of art that resonate with cultural memory. Through listening to oral histories, delving into official records and travelling into country, Watson has developed a visual language that responds to the pre-contact and post-colonial experiences of her people. While much of the artist’s oeuvre work is concerned with the specifics of northwest Queensland, Watson’s career has been punctuated by many residencies in Australia and overseas, and these opportunities have engendered a sensitivity to the politics of place. Similarly, Julie Gough (Trawlwoolway, born 1965) invites viewers to revisit events, places and practices to counteract the selective accounts of Tasmanian History. Gough’s strength as an artist lies in her ability to underscore the amnesiac tendencies of contemporary Australian society in ways that are uncompromising and achingly beautiful. Through her experiential and interrogative practice she models the importance of self-involvement in these historical narratives and demonstrates the value of gathering the past into the present occasioning moments of personal and national understanding.

Reference:
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2010 *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2010 Report*


Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Act 2001

Middleton, Alison, “Naval officer breaks down at SIEV 36 inquest” ABC news website, January 27, 2010, viewed 20 August 2011


National Gallery of Victoria, Artist File, Julie Gough.


Scates, Bruce, *A Monument to Murder: Celebrating the Conquest of Aboriginal Australia* in Layman, Lenore and Tom Stannage (eds), Celebrations in Western Australian History (Studies in Western Australian History X), University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia, 1989.


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**Slide list:**

1. The Explorers' Monument is a monument located in Esplanade Park in Fremantle, Western Australia, Photograph: Stephen Gilchrist

2. Judy Watson, *bunya*, 2011, pigment, acrylic and watercolor pencil on canvas, Private Collection, Melbourne


4. Judy Watson, cyclone yasi, 2011, acrylic and pencil on canvas

5. Judy Watson, *names of natives*, 2011, pigment, acrylic and pencil on canvas


7. Judy Watson, *museum piece*, etched on glass, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France


9. Judy Watson, the names of places, interactice multimedia


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