

Contemporary Fine Art

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JULIE GOUGH – ARTIST STATEMENT

2013 TAHO LC347

TAHO LC347 is a video projection and installation about Archival archaeology. The name refers to the boxes of loose leafed uncatalogued police magistrate reports (LC347) from Northern Tasmania held in the TAHO Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office in Hobart. These records date from the early 1820s and stories involving Aboriginal people and the Aboriginal community's sealer/sailor ancestors are embedded throughout. A Tasmanian wallaby fur 'fenceline' represents the difficult access to these histories – that are practically hidden in archives and require insider knowledge to know what to ask for, where and how to look for them. Accessing these records in a 'quiet space', the archival reading room environment, couldn't contrast more with the original places and times unfolding as I type, and the often extreme violence with which the events I am documenting in the work took place.

TIMEKEEPER

These objects are binding time, holding it tight. They are cross-generational memory keepers. The actions of collecting, cutting and wrapping the kelp onto tea tree sticks also collected and prepared for this purpose took me back and made me think about accessing memories in everyday things, recognising actions and encounters that took place before my time.