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**THREATENED AND
 THREATENING NATURE**

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, located in the heart of the city, offer an abundance of flora and natural life framed by dramatic views of Sydney Harbour. Take the Vittoria Biennale ArtWalk and discover three iconic works on the theme of threatened and threatening nature.



FIONA HALL

Born 1953 in Sydney, Australia
 Lives and works in Adelaide, Australia

Fiona Hall is best known for works that transform ordinary, everyday materials into organic forms with both a historical and contemporary relevance. They are characterised by their intricate construction and thematic resonance with issues of globalisation, ecology and natural history. The site-specific installation, *The Barbarians at the Gate* (2010), introduces a group of beehives, painted in military camouflage patterns associated with different countries, into the Royal Botanic Gardens – as foreign objects analogous to the shipping in of people during early colonial times. To allude further to the sprawl of human and botanic traffic around the world, each hive is given a new, stylised 'roof' to reference its country. In this complex work, the artist creates a microcosm of the colonial-era nation-building processes of introducing people, plants and animals into foreign habitats, forever changing the ecology of a particular place. Feelings of paranoia follow as the foreign becomes 'the nation' while, as before, 'the barbarians [are] at the gate'.



Fiona Hall
Breeding Ground | 2007
 Courtesy the artist and Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney
 Photograph: Fiona Hall
 This project was made possible through the generous support of The Keir Foundation

JANET LAURENCE

Born 1947 in Sydney, Australia
 Lives and works in Sydney

In paintings, sculptures, site-specific installations, photography and architectural interventions, Janet Laurence has examined the hybridity of natural and built environments, with a deft transformation of materials that recalls alchemy. Ideas of nature, science, history, transformation and memory are explored with poetic and thoughtful sensibility and profound ecological understanding. *WAITING – A Medicinal Garden for Ailing Plants* (2010) is a site-specific medicinal garden that continues her investigation of threatened environments within the framework of the metaphor of medicine. It takes the form of a built structure echoing the glasshouses and mazes that can be found in botanic gardens. Laurence has created here a space of revival and resuscitation – a sickbay for fragile plants. Using glass and mirrored stainless steel, this sanatorium for flora is a playful addition to the gardens with the real intent of amplifying the concerns and urgency of threats to our physical habitat.



Janet Laurence
 working image for 'Crimes Against the Landscape' series | 2008
 Courtesy the artist and Arc One Gallery, Melbourne
 The artist's Biennale project was made possible with assistance from Eden Gardens, Sydney

JANET LAURENCE USES
 LAYERS OF IMAGES TO
 CREATE SHADOWS AND
 REFLECTIONS, AND HER
 EVOCATIVE INSTALLATIONS
 DRAW THE VIEWER INTO A
 REVERIE ON NATURE AND
 OUR ROLE IN THE WORLD