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Film, dance and art collide in Carriageworks' 24 Frames Per Second exhibition

Andrew Taylor | 2 June 2015



Bangarra dancer Beau Dean Riley Smith in Tony Albert and Stephen Page's video work *Moving Targets*. Photo: Alex Wisser

Inside a burnt-out car, a young Aboriginal man with a target on his chest dances in an increasingly agitated manner. The music and his movement become more frantic until the final scenes, when Bangarra dancer Beau Dean Riley Smith is shown lying in the boot of the car.

The confronting scene was inspired by the shooting of two Aboriginal teenagers by police in King's Cross in April 2012 and was the trigger for *Moving Targets*, the centrepiece of the *24 Frames Per Second* exhibition at Carriageworks.

"I think Beau is representative of young Aboriginal men figuring out their place in an urban society," says Carriageworks curator Beatrice Gralton. "He's representative of young Aboriginal men who are questioning their own identity and how other people identify them."

But Gralton, the show's co-curator, says the installation by artist Tony Albert and choreographer Stephen Page touches on broader issues confronting indigenous men, including racial profiling.

She says the vehicles have often been used by Aboriginal artists such as Page and artist Mavis Holmes Petyarre. "I think you could say 'burnt-out car, Kings Cross.' Yes, that happened but it's actually a motif that has been used previously," she says.

Albert is one of 24 artists, dancers and filmmakers who were selected by Gralton, co-curator Nina Miall, Carriageworks director Lisa Havilah and associate director Lisa French to create new multidisciplinary works. Each artist was given between \$7000 and \$15,000 from Carriageworks (many sought additional funding from other sources) and free rein to "experiment" with a work involving film, dance and visual art.

"It's a very brave thing for an artist to take on an open commission," Gralton says. "They've got to think about how this is going to fit with what they're doing right now. Some of these artists had never made film works before. Some had never made dance works before."

24 Frames Per Second is at Carriageworks from June 18 to August 2.

