

STARFISH SWARM WITH WALLABY BONES

A book by Victoria Cooper

A double-sided cyanotype made from objects gathered in Tasmania. The work was made to celebrate the 2019 World Cyanotype Day.

Walking and meandering in the landscape and by the sea is very much my happy place. This solitary experience is absorbing and transforms my awareness of being in a time and place.

While walking along a bay in Tasmania, I noticed the appearance of a large number of starfish on the shore and in the water. Later I discovered that this starfish is an exotic, invasive species.

In other journeys around Tasmania, I have also encountered animals including spotted quolls, Tasmanian devils and wallabies. Sadly many of these sightings were of the dead animals lying on, and along the side of, busy roads. The wallaby bones in this work were respectfully kept from the remnants of a restaurant dinner for the creation of this work.

I placed the two creatures together as part of an exploration into the contemporary condition in land and sea; sustainability and food production in Australia.

CREATED: 2019 in Cygnet, Tasmania

MEDIA: Cyanotype on recycled linen pillowcase

SIZE: 30 x 30 cm

EDITION: Unique state

EXHIBITION/PUBLICATION

The cyanotype print was included in the *2019 World Cyanotype Day* exhibition at Maud Street Photo Gallery in Brisbane and published in the *2019 The Cyanotype in Australia* catalogue.

The print was subsequently exhibited in A Smith Gallery in Texas USA as part of the *2019 World Cyanotype Day* celebrations and later exhibited at PHOTONOLA in New Orleans.

