TALOI HAVINI:

My name is Taloi Havini, and I'm born in Bougainville, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. I also share Australian ancestry. I'm based in Sydney and I work primarily in sculpture, photography, video, immersive sound and video installations.

QUESTION: WHAT HAS BEEN A TURNING POINT IN YOUR CAREER?

The turning point for my career, I hope, hasn't happened yet. You never know what's ahead. But I can think to recent times and I think when I exhibited my 'Beroana' work in the 2015 Primavera Exhibition, exhibitions like that really support emerging artists, and there needs to be more of that. And I was able to really push a work that I had in mind for that space at the MCA. And it brought a whole range of audiences and people that I would never have had the opportunity before that time. So the more of these exhibitions in Australia, the better artists who come from it.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU’D LIKE TO SEE RESHAPED IN THE ARTS SECTOR?

Absolutely, a lot. I think art schools need to get back to well resourced, well-funded. Art schools are really important places. That's what I'd like to see first and foremost. And more impetus on mid to later living artists. I'd love to see monograph solo shows of living artists. There's a push for that, and I think there needs to be more. And I'd like to see institutions trust the curators a lot more. We really need really exciting new curatorial projects out there.

QUESTION: WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY IN YOUR WORK?

Well, in my work, I haven't seen a lot of joy for a while. (LAUGHS). Working the kind of topics that I have been working on are quite personal history around this idea, around transmission of knowledge, but also sites of conflict. So, the joy that I bring or the joy that I look for is in the idea of something, even if it's not a joyful one. The idea to create, the idea that you can think of something to want to put all of your energy into doing and creating as a maker. That's the joy. That's the reason that I make art. And also collaborating. It's a big part of my processes, it's to not do it alone. It's to work with people that I trust and to develop these relationships with my family and my community, and to make sure that that process is a joyful one and learning one too.