

# **KEN + JULIA YONETANI**

## **THE LAST SUPPER**

**EDUCATION KIT**  
**KINDERGARTEN - YEAR 6**



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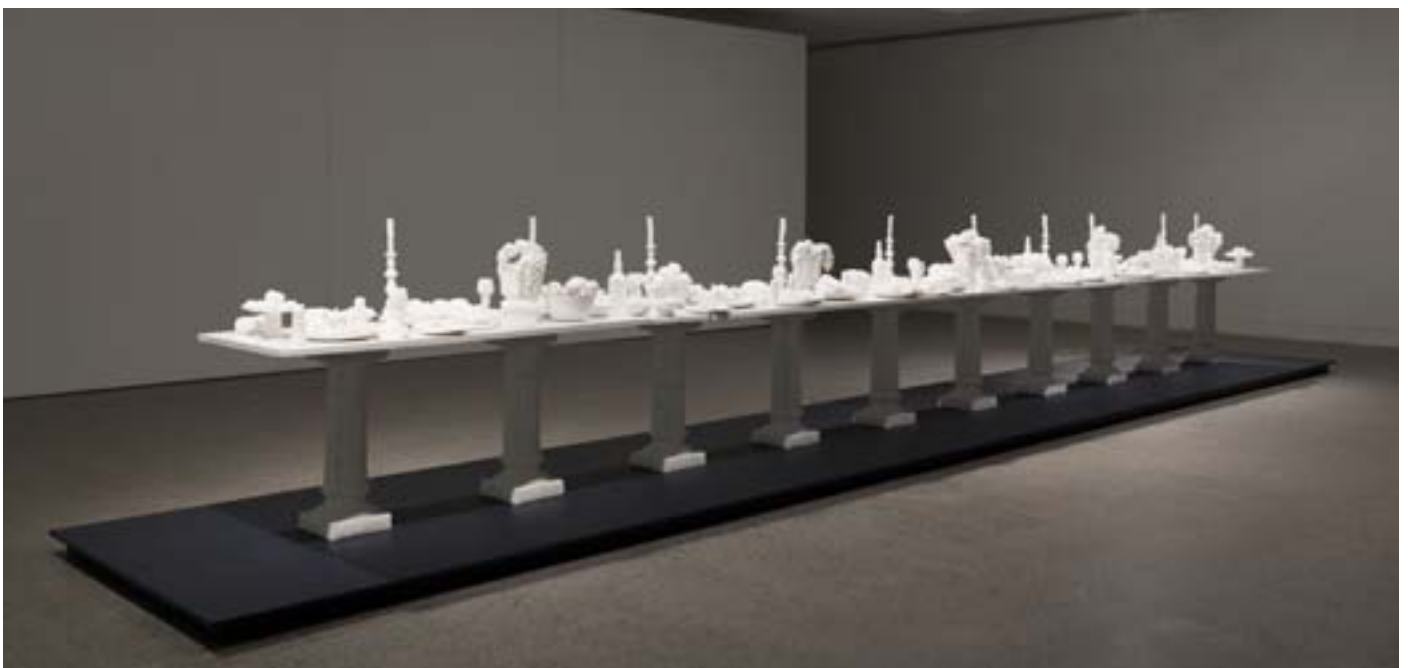
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### PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss some gallery rules with reasons why we have these- state the positive behaviour you want at the gallery.
2. Pre-visit familiarisation with the artworks to be viewed: reproduce the image from this education package and display in the classroom. This will aid the children's connection to the work once they enter the exhibition.
3. Programming ideas are linked to outcomes from the Visual Arts syllabus for teachers, see below.

### POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Post visit activities at school should involve the steps of display and critique. Children should be encouraged to use positive responses to each other's work to describe it.
  2. Suggested art appreciation and making activities are listed in Questions section.
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## THE EXHIBITION

*The Last Supper* is a new sculptural installation by Ken + Julia Yonetani whose diverse practice encompasses sculpture and installation, video and performance. Environmental issues are central to their works which often use materials such as sugar, salt, and uranium glass that directly relate to specific environmental concerns.

Created during a four month residency at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre, *The Last Supper* is a nine metre long banquet table made entirely from more than one tonne of Murray River salt. The work points to concerns arising from increasing salinity levels in Australia and unsustainable agricultural practices. In the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster, the massive banquet of luxurious foodstuffs also becomes a larger visualisation of the problems of food security and safety in an increasingly toxic world.



## THE ARTISTS

Ken + Julia Yonetani are collaborative contemporary artists. Their work explores the interaction between nature, science and the spiritual realm in the contemporary age, unearthing and visualising hidden connections between people and their environment.

Ken Yonetani was born in Tokyo and after working in the Foreign Exchange Market for three years, he worked as assistant to pottery master Toshio Kinjo. He holds an MA from The Australian National University and a PhD from Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney. Amongst other solo and group exhibitions, Ken exhibited in the 2008 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art and was selected for the Australian contingent at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009.

Julia Yonetani was also born in Tokyo to expat parents and is an artist, researcher, writer and academic who holds a PhD from the Australian National University. She has co-exhibited with Ken and published extensively. In 2010 she held a bed-in with Ken at Federation Square Melbourne titled *Global warming is over!*

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## SALT

Salinity is a major problem for civilizations, both historically and today. Following a residency at the Murray–Darling basin in Victoria, the Yonetani's produced *Still Life: The Food Bowl* in 2011, a body of work made from salt pumped from the ground in an effort to stem the rising level of salinity caused by modern agricultural methods.

Salt has many significant connections: historically it has been used to preserve food, yet it destroys ecosystems. Salinity is also related to climate change, environmental decline and food security.

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## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This Education Kit makes links to the Visual Arts Syllabus K to 6: by developing students' knowledge and understanding of artists, artworks and the world; by developing values and attitudes towards subject matter of works, the techniques the artists used and the meanings the works may generate; by investigating the range of the expressive form of installation; and by considering the artists' relationship to an audience and reflecting on their own relationship as audience members.

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## QUESTIONS

**Influences and Background:** Installation and sculpture, moulds and casting, concern for the environment

**Language:** Environment, agriculture and food production, texture, still-life

**Subject:** Objects/other living things

**Key Learning Areas Integration:** HSIE-(H), Mathematics-(M), English-(E), Science and Technology-(S) Personal Development, Health and Physical Education-(PDHPE)

**Kinder to Year 2:**

### Appreciating Activities:

**Look** at this installation by Ken and Julia Yonetani. How big is it? How many tables can you see? (M)

**Describe** what you see. Is it food you like to eat? (E)

**Discuss** the materials used. (S)

Do you like to eat salt? Is it good for you? (PDHPE)

How do you think the artists make this work? (S)

### Making Activities:

Make a large drawing of your favourite foods.

Use line and pattern for detail and textures. Complete with crayon or texta to add colour.

How many pieces of fruit, vegetables and sweets are there? (M)



## Years 3 – 6:

Appreciating Activities:	Making Activities:
<p><b>Look</b> at this installation by Ken + Julia Yonetani.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> what an installation is. (E) How big is it? How many tables can you see? (M) How do you think the artists make this work? (S)</p> <p><b>Describe</b> what you see. (E) Is it food you like to eat?</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> where the original food came from.</p> <p><b>Think</b> about salt: Do you eat it? What is it used for? (S) Do you like to eat salt? Is it good for you? (PDHPE) Is it good for the environment? (HSIE)</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> what you think are the Yonetanis' concerns for the environment. (HSIE) Why have they called this <i>The Last Supper</i>?</p>	<p>Set up a still life in the class room. Draw this large in pencil. Add colour using crayons and paint. Using magazines to add collage for texture.</p> <p><b>Compare</b> the final works to a photo of the Yonetanis' <i>The Last Supper</i>.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> similarities and differences, considering techniques and materials used, colour and pattern. How is its size different? (M) What effect does this have?</p> <p><b>Write</b> a short story about your favourite food. (E)</p>

## REFERENCES

[www.kenandjuliayonetani.com](http://www.kenandjuliayonetani.com)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDk47582tjY>

Ken + Julia in Conversation, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre produced video

**Images:** Ken + Julia Yonetani, *The Last Supper (detail)*, 2014. Commissioned by Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre.

Photography by Silversalt. Image courtesy of the artists and Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre.

*A Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre commissioned project toured by Museums & Galleries of NSW*