





*LE BROCCOLINI*  
*feat. KING*  
*KNIGHTSHADE,*  
*BLUE SINGLETS*  
*et la FAMILLE*  
*DU CHOU*



Le Broccolini feat.  
King Knightshade,  
Blue Singlets  
et la famille du chou

## Cast

CAULI FIORI  
DAVID EGAN  
ALISON KNOWLES  
TONY CLARK  
GAINSBOROUGH  
JOSHUA REYNOLDS  
OLIVIER DE SERRES  
JANIS BAILEY  
THE PINK TROJAN HORSE

## Chorus

THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

## Setting

CROWN SHYNESS (the phenomenon in which the  
crowns of fully stocked trees do not touch each other)  
[https://twitter.com/rainmaker1973/  
status/1118438671538118656](https://twitter.com/rainmaker1973/status/1118438671538118656)

Printed to coincide with the exhibition:

*for you broccoli*

Colleen Ahern, Amanda Marburg, Lisa Radford

Sutton Gallery  
254 Brunswick St  
Fitzroy VIC 3065

September 07–October 05, 2019

Typeset by Rowan McNaught  
Printed at Print City, Melbourne

Lisa Radford would like to thank Sam George,  
Simon McGlinn, Mark Friedlander, Matt Davis,  
Ellen Sayers, Kati Rule, Holly Hein, Hugh Westland,  
Sanja Pahoki, Phasmid Studios, and David Egan.

Musical composition by Yundi Wang and Evelyn Pohl.  
ISBN 978-0-9804449-4-0

Further contents will be added to this unbound and  
ongoing book under the title  
ISBN 978-0-9804449-4-0 at a later date.

TREES part and THE PINK TROJAN HORSE holds a sign that reads:

**WOMEN ARE BATHING ON THE SPANISH COAST.  
THEY CLIMB UP FROM THE SEASHORE TO THE  
CLIFFS AND OFTEN FIND BLACK OIL ON ARM  
AND BREAST: THE ONLY TRACES LEFT OF  
SUNKEN SHIPS.**

### THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

Je suis, je suis, je suis broccoli  
swipe light or left for polyamory  
Je suis, je suis, je suis  
broccoli touch stone  
romanesque fibo naughty  
tai chi  
Je suis, je suis, je suis  
broccoli flip the bean, plant  
a pea,  
Je suis, je suis, je suis broccoli  
Clark's classicism and the new nazi  
Je suis, je suis, Je suis broccoli  
mais oui, je suis nous sommes  
tous des brocolis

## CAULI FIORI

A man's character is judged not merely by his public services and his political views but also by his private life and individual interests. Similarly the history of a nation is to be read not only in its military exploits, its constitutional experiments, its art and literature, but also in the social habits and predominant interests of its citizens. Just as a garden mirrors the character of its owner, so the gardens of a nation reflect the character and the degree of advancement of the State.

## DAVID EGAN

The extraordinary position now held by the potato was occupied by the cabbage family, of which Columella mentions fifteen members.

15 Members!

...

the common cabbage,  
the cauliflower,  
the brussels sprout, but not till Belgium  
in the late 18th century.

kale

...

## THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

It's Brassica oleracea!

## ALISON KNOWLES

Did you know the original family name of brassicas was Cruciferae? The flower petal pattern of the brassicas was thought by many medieval Europeans to resemble a crucifix, thus the name. And, the word brassica derives from bresic, the Celtic word for cabbage. Many European and Asiatic names for cabbage are derived from the Celto-Slavic root cap or kap, meaning "head".



## THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

A head? A head?

A Potato Head of State?

### TONY CLARK

No head of state, he paints in darkness semi,  
brushes 6ft long and canvas hung like a sail  
I paint in my lounge, with florets never stale.  
He places cork and coal for grounds of fore,  
and maketh middle forms with sand and Clay  
bushes are mosses, lichens are too,  
and the distance is set with broccoli de plume

### GAINSBOROUGH

Broccoli, I never did use in this way.  
Asparagus Italia is how it was known in my day.

### TONY CLARK

Mais oui, je suis.  
je suis, Mais oui,

## THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

Je suis, je suis  
Je suis broccoli  
games under the table of King IV Louie  
je suis, je suis  
Je suis broccoli  
Le Theatre de l'agriculture stars cauli-fiori  
je suis, je suis  
Je suis broccoli  
le product of Rome not Barbara Strozzi  
je suis, je suis,  
Je suis broccoli  
mais oui, je suis  
nous sommes tous des broccolis.

DAVID EGAN

The onion family is like a Union.  
Represented by the onion, shallot,  
chive, leek, and the garlic Horace once  
exclaimed, O dura messorum ilia! —

ALISON KNOWLES

Oh, Hardworkers are they  
The gardens we build  
A people to say  
mais oui, je suis  
mais oui broccolis  
Food instead of sex,  
the church today is Master Chef!  
Je suis, je suis  
je suis broccoli  
swipe light or left for polyamory  
Je suis, je suis  
je suis broccoli  
flip the bean, plant a pea,

GAINSBOROUGH

Constable, Turner and I all studied Claude and his landscapes  
of the Roman campagna in particular; Constable, indeed,  
became so besotted that he once wrote to his wife: “I do not  
wonder at your being jealous of Claude – if anything could  
come between our love it is him”. Did you know that before  
the mid-18th century the British simply couldn’t paint?

DAVID EGAN

Print. Stamp. Repeat. Painted in green synthetic polymer  
paint using broccolini as a brush, the frieze references a  
different type of backstory to that of the cards: this one  
pertaining to the Australian landscape painter Tony Clark.  
An anecdote has circulated that Clark finds broccoli

a useful paintbrush when painting trees (a readymade shape) in his landscapes, and there have been reports of finding fibres from the green vegetable in his paintings.

TONY CLARK

Terre appartenant à d'autres as Duchamp's Readymade!

JOSHUA REYNOLDS

A mere copier of nature can never produce anything great.

DAVID EGAN

Aspabroc!

GAINSBOROUGH

It's a mirror not water, for deep narcissiques.

DAVID EGAN

I am a broccoli and  
I look like a tree  
I am a nut and  
I look like a brain  
I am a mushroom and  
I hate this game

OLIVIER DE SERRES

Je suis un broccoli et  
je ressemble à un arbre  
Je suis une noix et  
je ressemble à un cerveau  
Je suis un champignon et  
je déteste ce jeu

CAULI FIORI

If we complain that these gardens lacked colour and variety through over-emphasis of practical aims, we must admit that their owners were open to the same indictment. When with the coming of national prosperity the simple virtues were lost sight of and gave way before personal ambition and love of luxury, the extravagant tastes of the wealthy found expression in the barren splendour and artificiality of their pleasure-grounds.

## JANIS BAILEY

In 2000, I researched the '1997 Third Wave' Union campaign in Western Australia. It is the study of union culture as a 'lived practice'. It's a 'people's history'. Raymond Williams talks about culture as a 'whole way of life' and E.P. Thompson refers to it as a 'whole way of struggle'.

Broccoli is culture, not agriculture.

A contested legal site transforms into a chaotic and colourful encampment : a vegetable garden, and stage for a burgeoning series of rituals and performances.

## OLIVIER DE SERRES

Le théâtre d'agriculture!

## JANIS BAILEY

It's the Broccoli Phase.

When you trace the development of the garden through the chatter of the participants, it becomes clear that the garden is more than its material reality! That it produced more than broccoli for the minestrone bubbling and was more than mere visual entertainment for its participants.

The garden was a complex extended metaphor, a symbol for a wish to continue to challenging the chain of power and parliamentary decisions.

## OLIVIER DE SERRES

Maillots bleus et broccolis!

Mouvement des gilets jaunes a besoin de broccoli

THE PINK TROJAN HORSE walks across the stage  
reading the Gore Vidal book of interviews  
Julian Assange was carrying as he was carted  
off to prison in April 2019.

### THE BROCCOLINI SLAVE PIANOS

King Knightshade's returned  
but we shouldn't dismay  
Le famille de chou,  
must again have its day.  
By eating only what we call baby buds,  
An inflorescence selection can throttle the spud.

In century fifteen the esteemed Cauli Fiori,  
cast in silver by Germans in the eighteenth for ye.  
And then, in time circa sixteenth Century  
we find Italy is eating our sweet broccoli.

Je suis, Je suis  
je suis broccoli  
for you broccoli  
sont suprême désiré

## SOURCED TEXTS

- 🌱 Brecht, Bertolt, and Willett, John. *War primer*. London: Verso, 2017
- 🌱 Lawson, J. (1950). *The Roman Garden*. Greece and Rome, 19(57), 97–105.
- 🌱 *Cabbage*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabbage>, accessed July 10, 2019.
- 🌱 Michael Prodger, *Constable, Turner, Gainsborough and the Making of Landscape*, The Guardian, November 24, 2012. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2012/nov/23/constable-turner-gainsborough-making-landscape>, accessed May 10, 2019.
- 🌱 Helen Hughes, *DAVID EGAN: ACTUALLY ENERGY HELP LIGHT*, Gertrude Contemporary, January 2015.
- 🌱 *Joshua Reynolds*, Wikiquote, [https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Joshua\\_Reynolds](https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Joshua_Reynolds), accessed May 12, 2019.
- 🌱 *Saved by Sébastien Dubreuil*, <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/406168460118380863/>, accessed March 8, 2019.
- 🌱 Bailey, Janis, *Blue Singlets and Broccoli: Culture in the Service of Union Struggle*, Illawarra Unity—Journal of the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, 2(1), 1999, 14-35.
- 🌱 Olivier de Serres, *Theatre d'Agriculture et Mesnage des Champs*, 1600.
- 🌱 Francis Stark, *Reading the Gore Vidal book of interviews Julian Assange was carrying as he was carted off to prison in April 2019*, 2019 Gouache, gesso and Sumi ink on canvas, 145 x 112 cm.
- 🌱 Slave Pianos, *The Broccoli Maestro*, 36 min. A chamber opera in two acts for six voices and six players and two-channel tape. Libretto by Slave Pianos after writings by Tony Clark and his circle. First performed on Friday 22 June and Saturday 23 June 2001 at the North Melbourne Town Hall, <http://slavepianos.org/?work=016&id=016-000>, accessed May 3 2019.



