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# Ken and Julia Yonetani will transform National Gallery of Australia Contemporary

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With a nine-metre banquet table made from salt and chandeliers glowing green with uranium glass, the National Gallery of Australia Contemporary exhibition opening in December will be in "stark contrast" to the "optimism" of its Tom Roberts summer blockbuster, director Gerard Vaughan says.

Japanese and Australian artist collaborators Ken and Julia Yonetani will transform the lakeside gallery with their *Last Temptation* installation opening days after the Roberts' retrospective.



The Last Supper is a nine-metre table made from more than a tonne of groundwater salt. Credit: Catherine Brossais

It's the artists' first large survey show.

"It will be fascinating to see ... and it's sure to get a lot of attention too," Dr Vaughan said.

The chandeliers represent nuclear-powered nations in response to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident.

Each of the uranium glass chandeliers emanates UV light and represents a country that operates nuclear power stations.

Small traces of uranium are contained within the glass, but it is legal and poses no health risks.

"You can't see, smell or perceive radiation with your senses, but it becomes visible in our works when illuminated with ultraviolet lights," the artists say.



Ken and Julia Yonetani's chandeliers glow green with uranium glass. Credit: Catherine Brossais

"Presented in darkness, the glass chandeliers and tubes glow with an eerie bright green light indicating the presence of radiation.

"We hope to prompt viewers to react in their own way to this radioactive presence."

Alongside the chandeliers will be *The Last Supper*, a nine-metre table made of more than one tonne of groundwater salt sourced from the Murray Darling Basin.

The table features food in the form of an exquisite banquet.

"Here salt is a metaphor for the death of the land, sacrificed in the production and consumption of what has become *The Last Supper*," the artists say.

The Yonetanis have been collaborating on projects since 2009 and have exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Venice Biennale in 2009, in the United Kingdom, Finland, and Germany in 2011-2012, at the Singapore Biennale in 2013, and in their first major solo show in Europe at the Abbaye de Maubuisson, Paris 2015.

**The exhibition opens at NGA Contemporary on 12 December 2015. Free entry.**