

# MARIA TUMARKIN

— **MARIA TUMARKIN WRITES** books, reviews, essays and pieces for performance and radio. Her latest book is *Axiomatic*. She collaborates with visual artists, psychologists and historians and her work has been published, performed, carved into dockside tiles, and set to music. Maria holds a PhD in cultural history from the University of Melbourne, where she teaches in the creative writing program.

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ABOUT  
ENTERED WORK

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LITERARY CAREER

— **THE PAST SHAPES** the present – they teach us that in schools and universities. (Shapes? Infiltrates, more like; imbues, infuses.) This past cannot be visited like an ageing aunt. It doesn't live in little zoo enclosures. Half the time, this past is nothing less than the present's beating heart. How to speak of its aliveness? Stories are not enough, history & psychology—not enough. — **IN AXIOMATIC MY** starting point is five axioms: 'Time Heals All Wounds', 'Those Who Forget the Past are Condemned to Repeat It', 'History Repeats Itself', 'Give Me a Child Before the Age of Seven...', 'You Can't Enter The Same River Twice'. In this book I am not: a debunker, an apologist, a historian, a social commentator. I

take the axioms as deep statements about our world and our times (they are also the crustiest of clichés, part of the culture's furniture).

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**“I THINK, SHIT, IT’S WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO, ISN’T IT? WE—WRITERS. WE LIFT A BIT OFF. WE CARRY SOME CORNER OF IT SOME OF THE WAY. WE ASK WITHOUT ASKING, WOULD ANYTHING MAKE IT LIGHTER?”**

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QUOTE FROM  
*AXIOMATIC*  
(2018)

