



“...one aspect of our reading (of works of art) is based on notions of the power of representations to mirror or simulate reality itself. This is associated with the privilege of sight over the other senses in western philosophical discourses on knowledge. To see, fully and accurately, is to know; consider the enormous significance granted to seeing bodies, cells and atoms in our scientific understanding of the world. To represent the objects in the world correctly is to know and understand them. Representation is inextricably linked to the power of knowledge”

Marsha Meskimmon, *The Art of Reflection*, Scarlet Press, London 1996.

mary rosenngren

groundcover

installation 2000

wall & floor

To engage with this installation it is necessary to traverse a floor of coloured canvas, silk and other natural materials to see and read the contoured wall panel. Together the wall and floor pieces refer to experiencing, reading and knowing the environment of Lake Mungo in NSW, Australia through the eyes of an ecologist.

Crossing the canvas and silk floor grid refers to the method of ground-truthing, measuring and recording areas of ground cover (soil and vegetation) for comparison to remotely sensed data. A process used for reading the landscape by the late Dr. Toni O'Neill in her fieldwork at Lake Mungo.

A distant horizon is recalled by the 5 meter strip of inkjet prints, and closer examination is aided by magnifying glasses. At one end, electron microscope images of plant cells give way to botanical illustrations, then topographical drawings, SLR photos of landscape and plant specimens and finally those of the satellite. The text woven through the images (and repeated on the silk of the floor piece), discusses the reflectance* properties of plants found in this region.

As in the prints of the artist's book *fruitingbodies* the combination of these images refers specifically to the process of identifying Lake Mungo's ground cover and it's contribution in the developing picture of this and other environments.

groundcover (2000) at FCA Gallery, University of Wollongong NSW Australia, dedicated to the memory of Dr. Toni O'Neill (1945-1999).

Dimensions & Materials

Wall panel: (H) 10 x (W) 500 x (D) 2-7 cm, 17 wooden panels with inkjet prints on archival paper, magnifying glasses.

Floor area: (W) 500 x (L) 700 cm, variable configuration of canvas, silk, dry leaves.

*As explained by Lesley Head in the essay "Lake Mungo in space and time", catalogue Lake Mungo Revisited 2000, touring exhibition, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, NSW Australia.

"Reflectance of electromagnetic radiation from the surface of the earth, as picked up by orbiting satellites, varies with 'type, cover and spacing of vegetation, the colour and composition of soil, topography, angle of the sun and pattern of shadows' O'Neill (998:26)."

mary rosen gren

groundcover

installation 2000



groundcover 2000, FCA Gallery, University of Wollongong, NSW Australia
floor: canvas, silk, sand, dry leaves, 500 x 700 cm
wall panel: digital prints 10 x 500 x 2-7cm & 3 magnifying glasses



floor detail,
100 x 100 cm
canvas & printed silk.

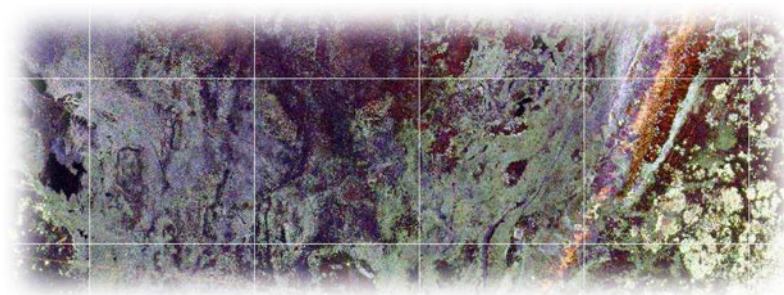
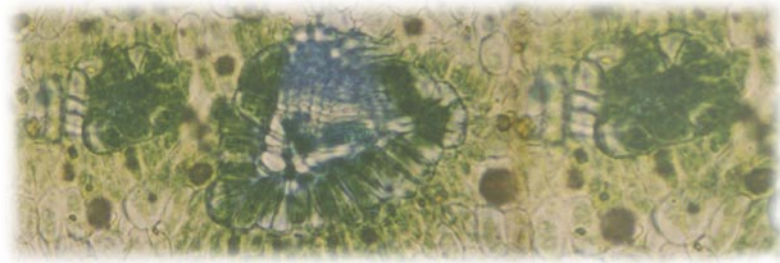


100 x 100 cm
canvas, paint, sand,
dry leaves.

mary rosen gren

groundcover

installation



groundcover, details from wall panel digital prints showing electron microscope image of plant cells (top), SLR photo of plant sample and other vegetation & text, satellite image Lake Mungo NSW (above).

mary rosenngren

fruitingbodies

artist's book 2000

book

A hard bound three section concertina book with printed silk cloth cover containing 15 digital inkjet prints on archival paper. Each of the concertina sections displays 5 prints, these are viewed through the incised surface of the alternate page.

Size : folded 29.5 (H) x 22.5 (W) x 4 (D) cm.

prints

The prints are based on the fruiting bodies of plants found in the Lake Mungo region* NSW, Australia.

In this work botanical illustration, SLR photographs, electron microscope and remotely sensed satellite images are integrated.

The combination of these images refers specifically to the process of identifying Lake Mungo's ground cover and it's contribution in the developing picture of this and other environments.

The incisions, from organic to grid, are a reference to viewing, documenting and recording with microscope, naked eye and remotely sensed data.

fruitingbodies is part of "Lake Mungo Revisited", the touring exhibition 2000-01, curator Jennifer Lamb of Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Australia.

*Lake Mungo is part of the Wilandra Lakes System in western NSW, it was declared a World Heritage Area in 1981.

mary rosenngren
fruitingbodies
artist's book 2000



fruitingbodies three section concertina book, 15 inkjet prints on archival paper, size folded 29.5 (H) x 22.5 (W) x 4 (D) cm, (display size variable).

mary rosenngren
fruitingbodies
artist's book 2000



Atriplex stipitata (bitter saltbush), 1999.



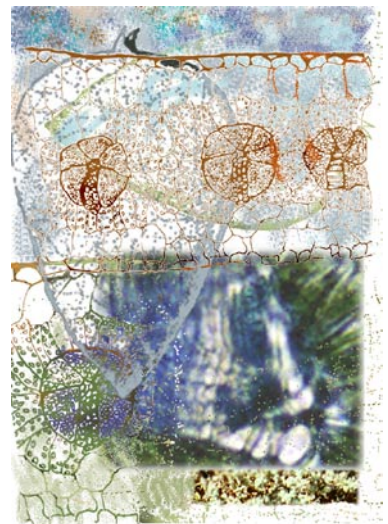
Bassia divaricata (pale poverty-bush), 2000.

Selection of prints from series *fruitingbodies* 2000.
inkjet prints on archival paper,
image size (approx.) 180 x 140mm.

mary rosenngren
fruitingbodies
artist's book 2000



Bassia patenticuspis (spear-fruit copperburr), 2000



Atriplex holocarpa (pop saltbush), 2000.

Selection of prints from series *fruitingbodies* 2000.
inkjet prints on archival paper,
image size (approx.) 180 x 140mm.