

SARAH ELSON : rapier lehmanni

17 July - 14 August 2011

Sarah Elson's new work continues her interest in florabunda.

Through small scale sculptural forms she explores the issue of economic wealth derived from Western Australia's mineral riches against the biodiverse environmental richness of WA. The subject of much of the work is the deceased flower of the Eucalyptus Lehmannii, commonly known as the spider gum. This defensive looking seed casing is cast in precious recycled metals to enhance its severity of form, whilst being hollowed out to accentuate lightness and the complexity of its internal structure. This is an attempt to work through issues of objectification and security, and perceptions of value placed on ones intimate relationship to the genitalia of all plants - the flower.

In rapier lehmanni I have created a range of questionably wearable forms and objects derived from recycled jewellery cast into deceased plant forms.

The severity of an organic form becomes sharp and heavy when transferred to metal and with the use of precious metals the works become a sort of mourning jewellery with a sting, or perhaps a deep scratch. Traditional brooch and ring forms are cast with inclusions of plants that can be fiddled with and rotated by the wearer.

The structure of many of the wearable works came from cuttlefish castings of works given to me by my mother inlaw before she died.

The distinct colours of silver (white) copper (red and black) and a little gold (yellow) are combined and presented in their unpolished state to emphasise the raw nature of the material, and as each form is handled it will ultimately become polished by touch.

The table of weapon-like works are an attempt to work with the strength of the alloy of copper and silver, known as shibuishi (traditionally used in samuri swords) against the often perceived fragility of a flower pod or seed casing, as the handle.

Sarah Elson 2011

Objects, Brooches, Pendants, Rings and Necklace.

Materials used - recycled silver, copper, bronze, brass and gold. All works completed 2011

01 \$990	02 \$850	03 \$850	04 \$990	05 \$320	06 \$420
07 \$320	08 \$380	09 \$350	10 \$280	11 \$320	12 \$220
13 \$300	14 \$240	15 \$240	16 \$220	17 \$350	18 \$350
19 \$320	20 \$380	21 \$320	22 \$280	23 \$280	24 \$380
25 \$380	26 \$320	27 \$300	28 \$280	29 \$550	30 \$240
31 \$240	32 \$320	33 \$320	34 \$340	35 \$320	36 \$420
37 \$360	38 \$340	39 \$220	40 \$240	41 \$220	42 \$320

Sarah Elson **Short Biography**

Sarah first graduated from Curtin University in 1991 with a BA in Visual Art majoring in Jewellery and 3D Design. In 1994 she completed a Graduate Diploma of Education, and then in 1999 returned to Curtin to undertake an Honours Degree in Art. Sarah was awarded the Galerie Düsseldorf / Curtin University Post Graduate Scholarship from the graduate show at John Curtin Gallery and had her first solo show *Necromancy* at Galerie Düsseldorf in 2001.

In 2000 she was the winner of the City of Perth Craft Awards and in 2002 Sarah was the recipient of a Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship, with which she completed a Masters in Fine Art at Chelsea School of Art and Design, London. Sarah has worked as a Tutor at Curtin University in the Department of Art, at Central TAFE and Fremantle Arts Centre.

Her work has been exhibited in the UK and throughout Australia since 1991. Some of these shows include; *Accommodation*, Edinburgh, Scotland 2003. *Metal Element 6*, Quadrivium, Sydney 2003. *[not] from here*, House Space, London 2002. *Into the Blue*, Monash Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2002. *Parallel Worlds*, IASKA (International Arts Space, Kellerberin) 2002. *Double Take*, Object Gallery, Sydney, Craft Queensland and Craft West, Perth. 2001, *shelf life*, Perth International Arts Festival, Galerie Düsseldorf, 2005. Sarah held her second solo exhibition *Anigozanthos (eudamonia hybrid)* at Galerie Düsseldorf in August 2007 and a solo exhibition at PICA in February 2010 titled *phloem poetica*.

Her work is currently exhibiting in *Infest* at Gallery Central as well as her fourth solo exhibition *rapier lehmanni* at Galerie Düsseldorf in July 2011.