

JANET LAURENCE

2007 CHURCHILL FELLOW

WORKS

VEIL OF TREES

2007 [glass duraclear, oil pigment]

The creation of a passage of reflection, a space where memory is gathered.

The work entails the planting of a ribbon of 100 red forest gums - eucalyptus tereticornis - that once forested this site and will transform the work as they grow.

Within this line of trees are placed 20 translucent glass panels edged with cor-ten steel.

These glass panels enclose substances that embody botanical memory. Substances such as ash and seeds.

Verses of Australian poetry by major Australian poets, selected for their evocation of the nature of trees, are inscribed into the glass panels creating a poetry walk.

Weaving either side of the ribbon of forest and panels native grasses have been planted to define the linearity of the passage.

The relationship of glass and plants connects to the history of conservatories. As this site is within the grounds of the botanic gardens, the work attempts to focus the viewer onto trees and their relationship to them, as they, the trees and the surrounding landscape are enfolded into one, and reflected into the glass. If one engages with this work there can be / it enables a perceptual experience very light oriented as one shadow and reflection play against the reflection and view of the surrounding landscape and layer onto the seeming enclosed memory within the glass like the speaking of trees the poems scripted in the glass enable one a more intimate connection to the particular content I want to focus on a botanical voice.

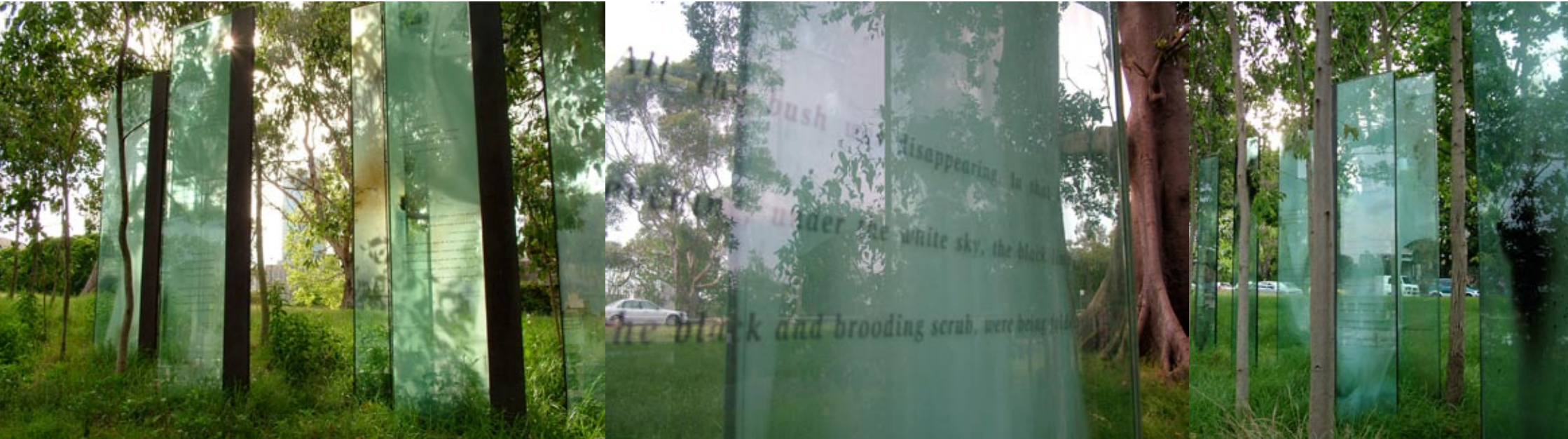
The seeds within the glass speak of the phenomology of the life forces themselves as well as the relationship of this space to the herbirion nearby and its scientific way of analyzing such material

*Here in the slack of tideless night
the tree breathes honey and moonlight.*

*Here in the blackened yard
smoke and time and use have marred,
leaning from that fantan gloom
the bent tree is heavy in bloom.*

*Under the house the roots go deep,
down, down, while the sleepers sleep ...*

Judith Wright
From Camphor



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