



SANDSTONE POLLEN

MARIA FERNANDA CARDOSO

TO SEE A WORLD IN A GRAIN OF SAND
AND A HEAVEN IN A WILD FLOWER,
HOLD INFINITY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND,
AND ETERNITY IN AN HOUR.

WILLIAM BLAKE, AUGURIES OF INNOCENCE, 1803.

RECENT WORK

MARIA FERNANDA CARDOSO



NAKED FLORA 2013

Inspired by Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) the father of taxonomy, I developed this series of macro-photographs of Naked Flora: flowers with their petals removed, exhibiting their reproductive organs for the camera.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

The oeuvre of Maria Fernanda Cardoso has been a constant look at the various ways in which geometry is manifested in living things. Cardoso has developed powerful works from the intrinsic shapes of animals and plants, combining them in unexpected ways. Her work evolves from sculptural object to scientific research, through to plastic actions in a public scale, in series that develop over many years.

Jose Ignacio Roca , Animalario de Maria Fernanda Cardoso 2012

RELATED WORKS

MARIA FERNANDA CARDOSO

As exhibited in the collection of the Museum of Copulatory Organs for the Sydney Biennale 2012.



LOVE DARTS 2012

POLLEN IS MALE 2012



SANDSTONE POLLEN

PROPOSAL

A variety of pollen microfossils were found in Darling Harbour and were identified by palynologist Mike Macphail (whose specialty is the “study of dust”). From this evidence, he reconstructed the history of the place and its changing vegetation due to human occupation over time. (See the “Pollen Report” he prepared for the developers of the site).

Inspired by the diversity of pollen grains found in the pollen report; by the beautiful

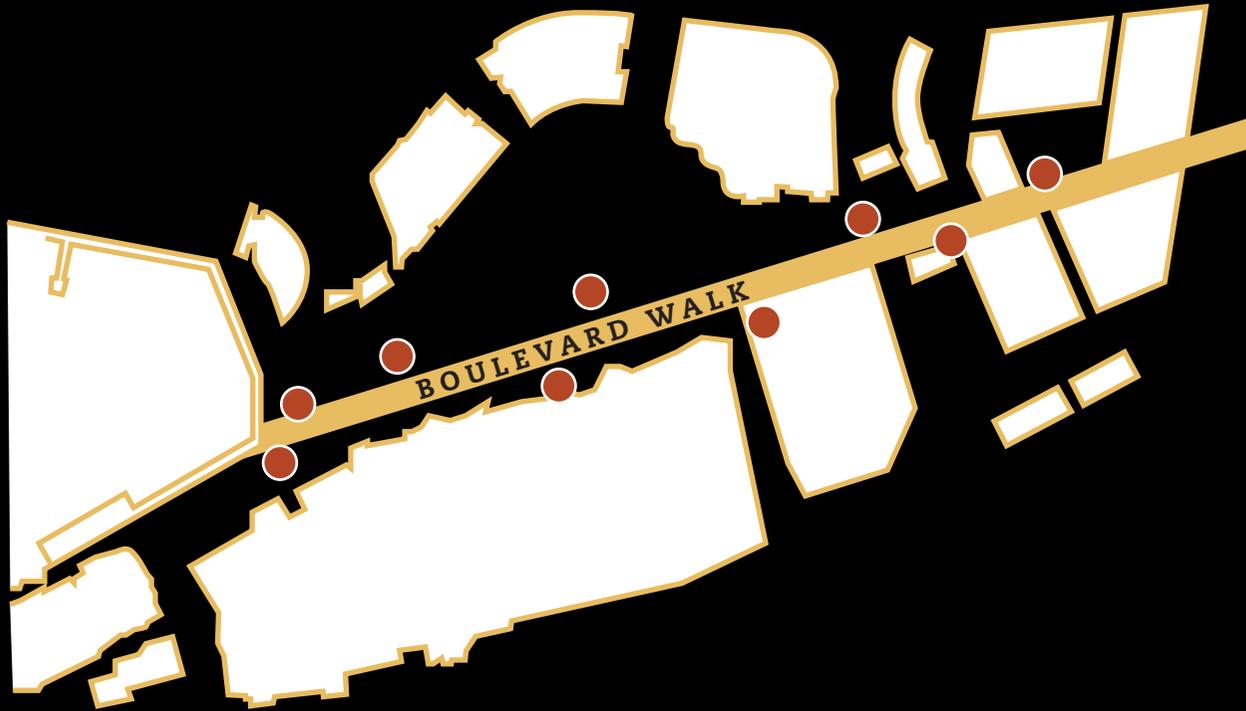
and complex pollen shapes when revealed by SEM electronic microscope scans, and lastly, inspired by mysterious neolithic stone balls found in Scotland, **I propose to carve a variety of pollen morphologies in sandstone, and place nine to twelve small to medium sized sandstone sculptures under and near a variety of tall trees along the Boulevard Walk.**

Each pollen grain will be 3-D modelled using the latest digital software, and then they will

be carved in sandstone using a computerized milling robotic arm. This technology is available in two stone masonry businesses in the Sydney area, Stone Plus and Sarkis Bros Sandstone. The 3-D modelling will be done by Matt Booth from Vert Design, with whom I have collaborated since 2008.

Beautiful sculptures are not just simply ‘beautiful’ but are “objects that talk” as scholar Barbara Maria Stratford proposes when referring to objects of art and of

Sandstone pollen sculptures scattered along the boulevard walk

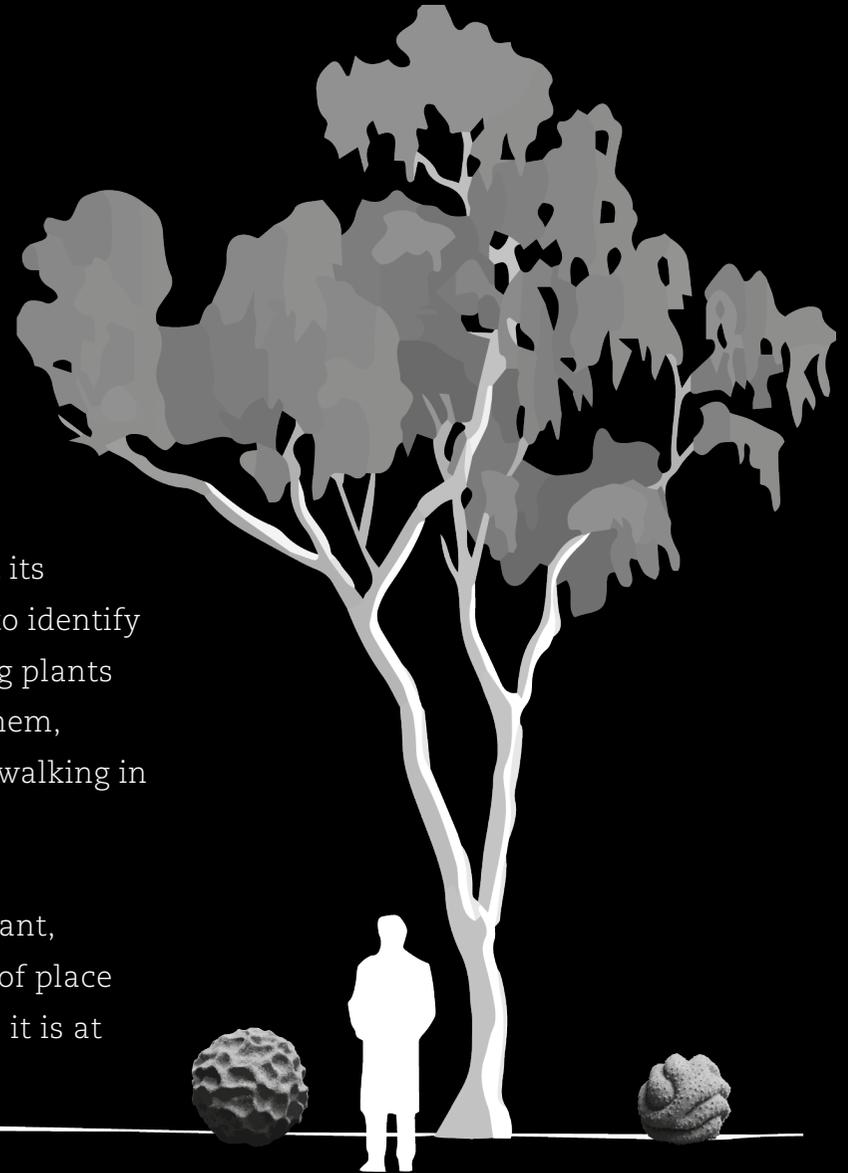


science. The **Sandstone Pollen** sculptures that I propose for the Boulevard Walk will synthesise the story of place, talk about the story of evolution, of sexual reproduction and the generation of formal beauty. Flowering plants (and their pollen) are a perfect example of what Charles Darwin refers to as “endless forms most beautiful”, which were his last words in the Origin of the Species.

The public will learn that each grain of pollen

is uniquely shaped giving each plant its identity, and a way for taxonomists to identify and classify the diversity of flowering plants on earth; they will also learn from them, about the past of the place they are walking in and discovering today.

Making the small visible and significant, **Sandstone Pollen** will tell the story of place and the story of life, as it was and as it is at Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay.





Stone

Pollen

Grains

Found at Darling Harbour

Stone

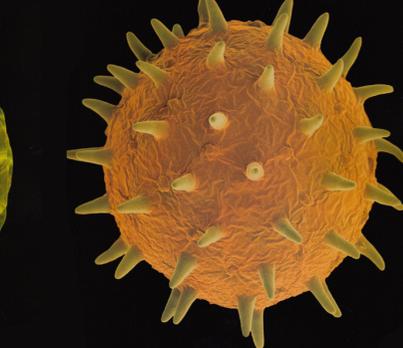
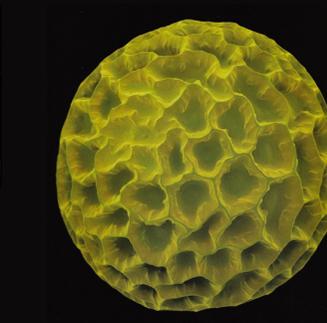
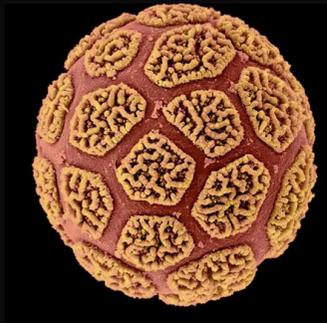
Pollen

Grains

Found at Darling Harbour



Neolithic Stone Balls



Electro-microscopic scans of pollen