



Transience (detail), 2007
Undetermined Plant (Urticaceae)
Photo: Michael Marzik

From exotic floral specimens to common weeds, branches and leaves to barbed tendrils and turmeric, Tijn Meulendijks has no trouble finding inspiration or materials in the world around him. When it comes to creating his installations, nature is his muse.

Familiar forms and mediums such as plants, pigments, clay, sand and charcoal are combined, connecting beyond the surface, exposing the rawness of the object, yet subtly emphasizing its inherent design and beauty.

Much of Meulendijks organic work is based on morphology, the study of form. *“Work begins with sensing the features, structure, texture, smell and colour,”* he explains. *“The first stage towards a composition or installation is always in the field, walking, collecting, absorbing.”*

It is this full sensory approach to producing art which has enabled him to successfully explore and create a primal dialogue between himself, the materials he is engaging with, and the viewer.

In the work *Transience* Meulendijks reassembles a field of a variety of non-descript weeds, found thriving for a short while on a soon-to-be developed building site. It is the determination, yet certain impermanence of these organic tourists that continues to ‘grow’ as they reaffirm themselves on the gallery wall. Exposing the viewer, roots and all, to the fragility of this community of transient occupants and of nature itself.

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Tijn Meulendijks

Tijn Meulendijks is a Dutch born installation artist now based in Cairns. After completing his masters training in floral art in The Netherlands, Tijn moved to Australia and established himself as a contemporary floral designer.

This unique background, combined with his lifelong interest in botany has become the greatest influence in his practice. Moving beyond using flowers, Tijn’s works often feature other plant material such as branches, roots, leaves and seeds, sometimes in combination with other natural materials as sand, clay, charcoal, creating evocative ephemeral works.

Since 2003, Tijn has exhibited works both in The Netherlands and in Australia, with recent installations at the Upholstery Contemporary Arts (Cairns), Cairns Regional Gallery and Umbrella Studios (Townsville), being highly acclaimed by audiences and critics.