

Anya has consolidated a series of processes for recycling a material practice. In the gallery is an irrigation system, helping to germinate seeds through handmade paper and milk paint.

For anyone who's seen Anya's earlier paper-pulp-and-resin sculptures, *Scrub* might seem like a departure. Often when Anya would talk about these older sculptures though, it would be about the research involved in making a recyclable alternative for the resin. Anya has spent a lot of time trying to reconcile having a material practice with the heavy feeling that surrounds the waste produced by this kind of art, slowly moving towards have an environmentally lighter art practice. When trying to hold these slightly contradicting priorities at the same time, the process of research and planning becomes so important. There feels like a weight, or obligation to be as thorough as possible.

The material properties of the object & the processes involved in making it are developed with the goal of not perpetuating waste. As well as the irrigation system, Anya has built a paper making station and water filtration system out of individual components that are (as much as possible), able to be re-processed, replaced, repaired or composted. This work comes off the back of so-many-months of research and tests. What's there on the 5<sup>th</sup> won't be a final iteration, but one stage of an ongoing practice of processing and reprocessing.

I was lucky enough to see some of the production involved. Perhaps sharing some of these processes will show the level of care and consistency Anya brings to works. I've made a table documenting some of the research Anya has done so far, as much as I could fit on a page.

#### Plant selection

Including seeds was a way for Anya to move beyond negating damage, trying to have restorative and beneficial aspect to the work. The plants used are ground layer plants and grasses, indigenous to this region. Research based on pre-clearing maps of the broad vegetation groups of this area. Anya tested germinating these seeds with different combinations of paper, milk paint and types of pigment. From there, Anya figures out which seeds would germinate best during this process (listed on the back of this page). Some seeds didn't respond during the trials with paper that included plant fibres in paper, apparently a lot of indigenous plants prefer acidic soil. The soil used is a combination of riverbed sand and coconut coir.

#### Paper making process

The paper is made using recycled drawings from Anya's mum's workplace. The drawings are soaked and softened. Instead of blending (which cuts the fibres), Anya uses a cement mixer with rocks in it to *smoosh* the paper fibres. This mimics some of the larger industrial paper making machines and comes off the back of a few failed attempts to source a Hollander beater. When the pulp is *smooshed*, it's transported to a bathtub outside. In a large vat of water beside the bathtub, Anya has built a box mould and deckle (a paper making tool). The mould is lowered into the water, pulp added on top of a layer of interfacing felt, agitated by hand and then removed from the water. The mould is removed and the layer of thin pulp is left to dry. (Some of these terms and tools are probably unknown, a google image search might be quicker than a written description, sorry).

#### Reducing water wasted in the paper making process

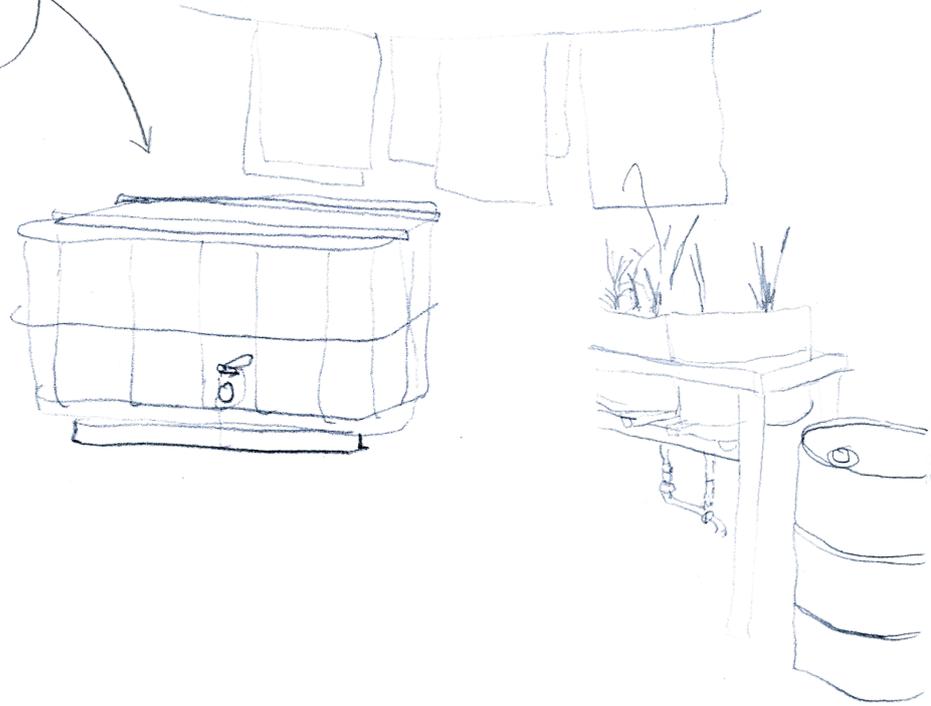
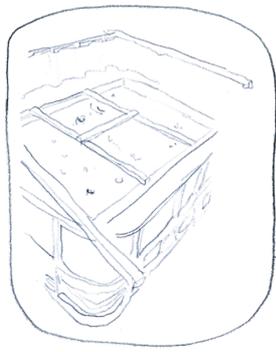
Paper making is a water intensive process. Anya built a filtration system to try and reuse water. It wasn't wholly successful but definitely worth mentioning. Two big vats are propped up above pipes. Water is filtered through the vats, through the root systems of some sedges and a type of rush plant, through small rocks, coarse sand, finer sand, then charcoal. Later on, these grasses would be collected to supplement some of the lomandra fibres in the paper.

#### Germinating seeds

Anya germinated the seeds through smoke treatment and hot water treatment. For smoke treatment, Anya placed a seed container in the BBQ above smouldering leaves and grasses. When the seeds were coated in some kind of 'smoke chemical' they were ready for planting. The seeds that required hot water treatment were soaked overnight, swelling like rice or very full ticks

If you'd like to take some scrub home with you at the end of the exhibition please talk to Anya or Outer Space

Text by Sarah Poulgrain



## SCRUB

### ANYA SWAN

5.4.19 - 18.4.19

Diagram of Anya's paper making equipment: water vat, interfacing felt hanging on the line, top view of mould and deckle with paper pulp inside. On the right, water filtration system with sedges and rush plants on top. Seeds used in the work include....

<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Climbing saltbush
<i>Gompholobium foliolosum</i>	Glory pea
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Native cornflower
<i>Chrysopogon fallax</i>	Golden beard grass
<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>	Black speargrass
<i>Swainsona galegifolia</i>	Smooth darling pea
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>	Narrowleaf daisy
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Strawflower
<i>Carex Appressa</i>	Tall sedges
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	Barbed wire grass
<i>Indigofera linifolia</i>	Narrow leafed indigo
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping grass
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Tussock grass
<i>Pultenaea petiolaris</i>	Woolly bush pea

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