

SAMUEL MULCAHY: **Botanical Armour**



Amidst the ruins of a once thriving civilisation, the opportunistic genus *Tetnesteii* slowly reclaims the decimated landscape, utilising the waste of a long-gone destructive species.

With soils teeming with pollution from this brief yet devastating period, the *Tetnesteii*s have opted for a more toxic diet than their plant-based ancestors.

They care not for the numerous mistakes of that species' past, they simply want to just get on with it.

Samuel Mulcahy exhibition statement 2023

25 NOVEMBER 2023 – 28 JANUARY 2024



Above: Samuel Mulcahy, *Tetnesteii glans acinum tectum* (detail), 2022, steel, brass, aluminium, 177 x 85 x 73cm. Photo: Fulvia Mantelli

1. ***Tetnesteii riomortis***, 2018 \$9,600
steel, copper, 220 x 200 x 171cm
2. ***Tetnesteii quinque punctum***, 2023 \$700
steel, brass, copper, 44 x 35 x 15cm
3. ***Tetnesteii glans acinum tectum***, 2021 \$3,400
steel, brass, aluminium, 177 x 85 x 73cm
4. ***Tetnesteii longus aedificatió argenteum***, 2023 \$1,840
steel, brass, 95 x 72 x 28cm
5. ***Tetnesteii chalybedendron*** (1-9), 2018 each: \$240
steel, brass, copper, each: 89-103 x 22 x 22cm
6. ***Tetnesteii cor vinea***, 2023 \$3,600
steel, 175 x 175 x 35cm
7. ***Tetnesteii glans acinum lacuna***, 2022 \$3,300
steel, brass, aluminium, 160 x 80 x 74cm
8. ***Tetnesteii macula***, 2023 \$950
steel, copper, brass, 77 x 73 x 26cm
9. ***Tetnesteii immaculatum***, 2023 \$950
steel, aluminium, copper, brass, 77 x 73 x 26cm
10. ***Tetnesteii duo toni***, 2023 \$950
steel, aluminium, brass, 77 x 73 x 26cm
11. ***Tetnesteii lacunæ***, 2023 small: \$120
medium: \$140
large: \$150
extra large: \$170
steel, copper, brass,
3 x small: each 42 x 7 x 7cm
3 x medium: each 53-58 x 7 x 7cm
3 x large: each 61-70 x 8 x 8cm
2 x extra large: each 80 x 8 x 8cm

Samuel Mulcahy seeks to transmute junk into art, to give value to the undervalued and to revive abandoned refuse. He combines materials of different origins to represent the leaves, branches, and trunks of unknowable plants. Discarded copper, brass, plastic, reinforcing rods, steel, spent ammunition casings, guttering and old hot water systems have come to a bizarre and beautiful kind of life. Rust, stains, burn marks, oxidation and paint colour these works.

What lessons can be drawn from our wasting of natural resources? Can nature be reflected in the way waste materials show us natural beauty and human ugliness? By reinterpreting the function of common objects, Sam's ingenious sculptures tell us how art, nature, refuse and humour can reinterpret what we see.

Leonard Cohen Dip. T BA, October 2023



Right: Samuel Mulcahy, *Tetnesteii glans acinium lacuna* (detail), 2022, steel, brass, aluminium, 160 x 80 x 74cm.
Photo: Fulvia Mantelli

Botanical Armour is the first solo exhibition by a rising regional artist drawn to nature and its geometry and determined to only use recycled materials.

Samuel Mulcahy is based in Clayton Bay, South Australia and was mentored by the celebrated artist Annabelle Collett.

His practice spans murals, mosaics, sculpture, ephemeral installations, and performing live with painting machines that he constructs.

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery is pleased to simultaneously present *Botanical Armour* with Annabelle Collett's exhibition *ReDress*.

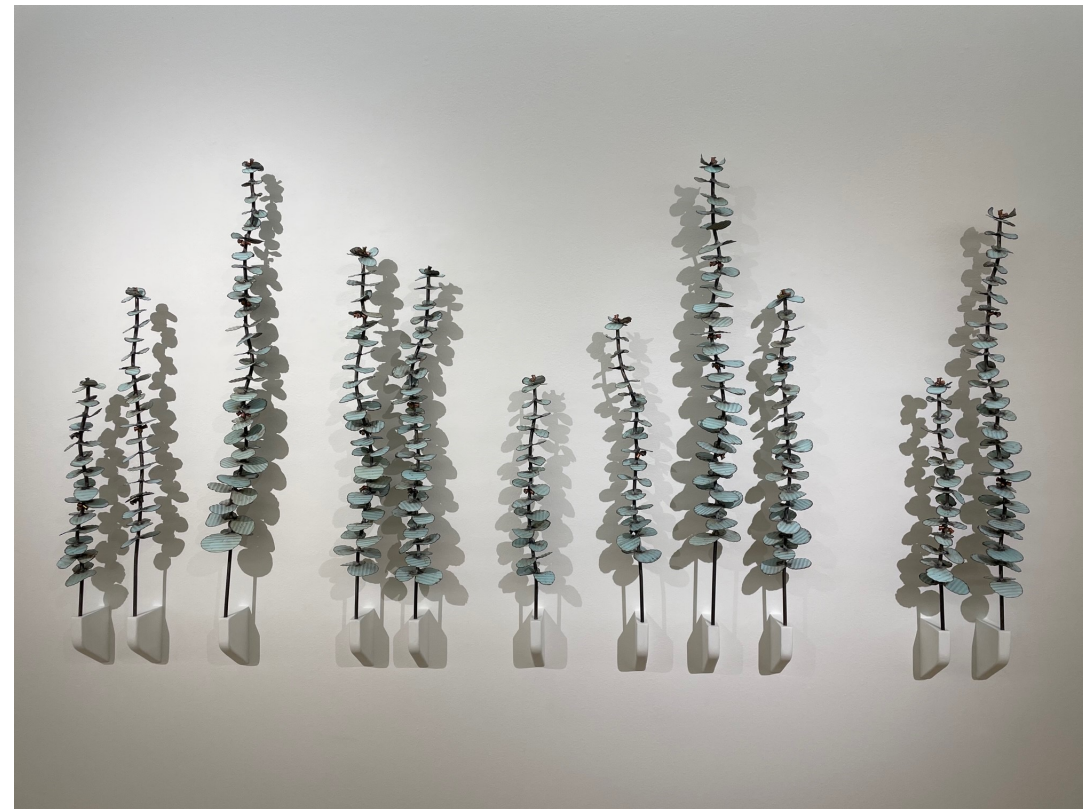
Celebratory Event

Sunday 10 December 2023

Guest Speaker: Dr Vic Waclawik

Artist and groundwater scientist

Right: Samuel Mulcahy, *Tetnesteii lacunæ* (1-11), 2023, steel, copper, brass, various dimensions.
Photo: Fulvia Mantelli



Acclaimed as one of South Australia's premier regional galleries and set in the heart of the town's arts precinct, Murray Bridge Regional Gallery is a convenient 45-minute drive from Adelaide, on beautiful Ngarrindjeri Ruwe (Country) near the banks of the majestic River Murray. The Gallery brings enriching and adventurous contemporary arts experiences to the region, with culturally and conceptually diverse projects. The exhibition program and Gallery Shop also showcase local arts practices from across the Murraylands and surrounds, ranging from seasoned to experimental artforms and by leading, mid-career and emerging artists, as well as recreational makers and young people.



T: 08 8539 1420

E: gallery@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

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