LAWRENCE WALLEN
Ascension 1, Ascension 2, Ascension 3
2013 | Ascension, NG Project Space

The exhibition *Ascension* 1 – 3 comprised of two 5 x 1.5m charcoal drawings on paper, twenty 18 x 18cm photographs and a 20-minute video. The work was shown at the NG Project Space 23 October – 09 November. This assemblage is the product of three experiments to develop a new design practice methodology to frame ongoing interdisciplinary research on, constructions of utopia, institutional collections and individual narratives engaged in the reconstruction of nature.

*Ascension* refers to Ascension Island, a remote and desolate point in the South Atlantic that in the mid-nineteenth century was visited by botanist Joseph Banks and William Hooker on their way to Australia with Captain Cook. They came to the idea to plant the island from the stock of the Kew Gardens in London resulting in the artificial creation of a tropical cloud forest.

The photographs are of the deserted garden in Chaumoa, Nepal of a Japanese horticulturalist whom I meet in 1980 who, at the time, was introducing Japanese vegetable seed to the Himalaya. The drawings are simultaneously micro and macro representation of imagined landscapes that seek to frame and make visible the current research on a reconstruction of nature. The research and the development of a research methodology using a non-traditional strategy to visualise a complex projected research trajectory is both what the research addresses and why it is valuable to the development of both the specific project and my research trajectory as a whole.
Image of the photographs in situ
Image of the drawings in situ
Please join us at the NG Pop-up Art Gallery on Thursday night for the opening of Prof. Lawrence Wallen’s installation: Ascension.

The installation Ascension acts as a collection of influences on an unformed new series of work dealing with biodiversity, constructions of utopia, institutional collections and individual narratives engaged in the reconstruction of nature.

Ascension refers to the Ascension Island a remote and desolate point in the South Atlantic that in the mid nineteenth century was planted from the stock of the Kew Gardens in London resulting in the artificial creation of a tropical cloud forest.

The mixed media installation spatially explores the motivations, histories, narratives and found material of a project in formation.