

## Artist Bio

Simone Eisler is a Brisbane and Sunshine Coast based artist and has exhibited her work internationally in the Philippines, Indonesia, New York, Belgium and Paris and within Australia. Her diverse hybrid practice explores the relationship between the body and Nature. She is interested in the concepts of physical transformation, sexuality, species evolution and biodiversity within the overarching notion of a changing technological, and natural world.

Her work is focused on space, time, form and structure and she moves from large scale sculptural multimedia installations through performative photographic works to individual sculptural objects that reference the notion of a life lost or an anthropomorphic presence and which are symbolically transformed or become new hybrid forms.

The installations are structured around the concept of the garden, which provides a strong metaphor for the artist's exploration of transformation and also allows her to investigate the garden's ability to enchant, reconnect and reengage people with the creative forces of Nature. Her 'gardens' are populated with the skins, bones, shells and scales of dead creatures as well as metals and minerals which become new futuristic landscapes and other worlds filled with hybrid creatures and plant forms.

Within these adaptive environments she inserts her own darkened body in a series of performative photographic gestures reminiscent of an earlier earthly garden but also of ancient forest ritual. Finally her own body is transformed, armoured and hybridized as the garden transforms into a darkened and fecund theatre.

Her individual sculptural works use organic materials such as animal skulls and horns, fish scales, and fish, snake and eel skins. With these works Eisler plays with the possibility of land-dwellers being equipped to take to the sea, and diurnal creatures becoming nocturnal. Her work creates new life forms that are ambiguously terrestrial, avian and amphibious including human forms spawning fish scale skins and animal skulls bearing protective armour.

Recent objects, made after a residency on the island of Gozo in Malta, continue her interest in the relationship between human and animal and the play with surface and materials, but also explore forms that have a more distant link to the human body through the use of shapes linked to worn clothing and the veil.

Eisler's practice also covers drawing, painting, video and sound and she is well known for a wide range of public art works. During the last eight years she has received numerous commissions from private, local Council and State Government clients to respond to a variety of indoor gallery and site-specific outdoor environments. Significant public commissions across Queensland include 175 Eagle Street, Prince Charles Hospital, Rocks Riverside Park, Sandgate Foreshore Parklands and Federation Park, Toowoomba.

In 2000 she was awarded a internship as part of the State Governments Young People and Public Art Mentorship program. In 2008 Eisler was selected along with Fiona Foley for an Expert Reference Group to review the Queensland Governments Art Built-n Policy.

In 2009 she was commissioned to develop her major new installation The Armoured Forest for the Arc Biennial of Art in Brisbane. In 2007 her installation Anima Requiem – A Funerary Garden toured to Belgium, Paris and Melbourne. In 2010 Simone's solo exhibition New Skin – Old Ceremony was exhibited at Spiro Grace Art Rooms. In 2011 her work featured in Nature Interrupted. Contemporary Australian Sculpture at the Redland Art Gallery. She is a finalist in the Churchie Emerging Art Award at Griffith University Art Gallery. Future public commissions for 2011 include the Berlin Laughter Project at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.