

LEA FERRIS

Polymorphae Incognita

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In Polymorphae Incognita, the natural world is neither stable nor predictable. It is a force of perpetual invention, where forms emerge, mutate and reconfigure in an endless negotiation between order and disorder. These enigmatic sculptures, with their twisting limbs, improbable balances and strange, branching anatomies, appear caught mid-evolution; embodying the restless energy of life in a constant state of becoming.

For Lea Ferris, this generative force is Mother Nature, an unknowable intelligence that connects all living things. Each sculpture possesses an internal logic, its seemingly unruly appendages reaching and counterbalancing one another in forms that are at once precarious and assured. What appears chaotic reveals a deeper coherence, suggesting that survival depends not on stability, but on the capacity to adapt.

This is the territory Ferris describes as organic intelligence or organic integrity (O.I.), a capacity for adaptation and survival embedded within the living world. It is an intelligence that precedes human systems of thought, operating through connection, responsiveness and an instinctive capacity for balance. Rather than proposing control or certainty as the basis of resilience, these forms encourage us to listen to nature's complex rhythms and find our own way of moving with the unknown.

A distinctly primal quality runs through the works, connecting them to the deep evolutionary history of the Australian continent. Ferris draws particular inspiration from the stromatolites of Western Australia, among the oldest evidence of life on Earth, and the enduring knowledge of the world's oldest continuous living cultures. These ancient histories speak to nature's extraordinary capacity to persist through change.

Each sculpture begins as an unconscious pen-and-paper doodle, one drawing among hundreds that reveals an unexpected spirit or presence. Through successive transformations into wire, steel and timber, clay and plaster, the original gesture evolves into bronze or marble. The resulting bronzes and marbles are the final manifestations of these original impulses, retaining the spontaneity of the drawing while asserting an independent sculptural presence.

Polymorphae Incognita is a celebration of nature's unruly inventiveness. These sculptures remind us that we are not separate from this intelligence, but participants in it. To survive, the works suggest, is to remain open to transformation – to find balance without stillness, and to dance with the unknown.

Lea Ferris works in Sydney, Australia and Pietrasanta, Italy (near Carrara). Her work is held in many significant collections in Australia and internationally.





Prodigiosa
bronze
76 x 64 x 50 cm
Edition of 7



Interlude
Irish green marble
49 x 42 x 42 cm



Poised
bronze on Calacatta marble base
63 x 36 x 44 cm
Edition of 7



Tremenda
bronze on Portoro marble base
60 x 45 x 40 cm
Edition of 7



Metamorfosia I (for Jeremy)
Irish green marble
39 x 27 x 22 cm



Metamorfosia II
Irish green marble
40 x 20 x 20 cm



Nike
bronze on Travertine base
76 x 18 x 16 cm
Edition of 7



Let's Dance
bronze on black Belgian marble base
23 x 18 x 9 cm
Edition of 7



Still Dancing
bronze on black marble base
20 x 13 x 9 cm
Edition of 7

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