

**Grateful thank you and acknowledgement to**

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*Head of School*  
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**Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts**

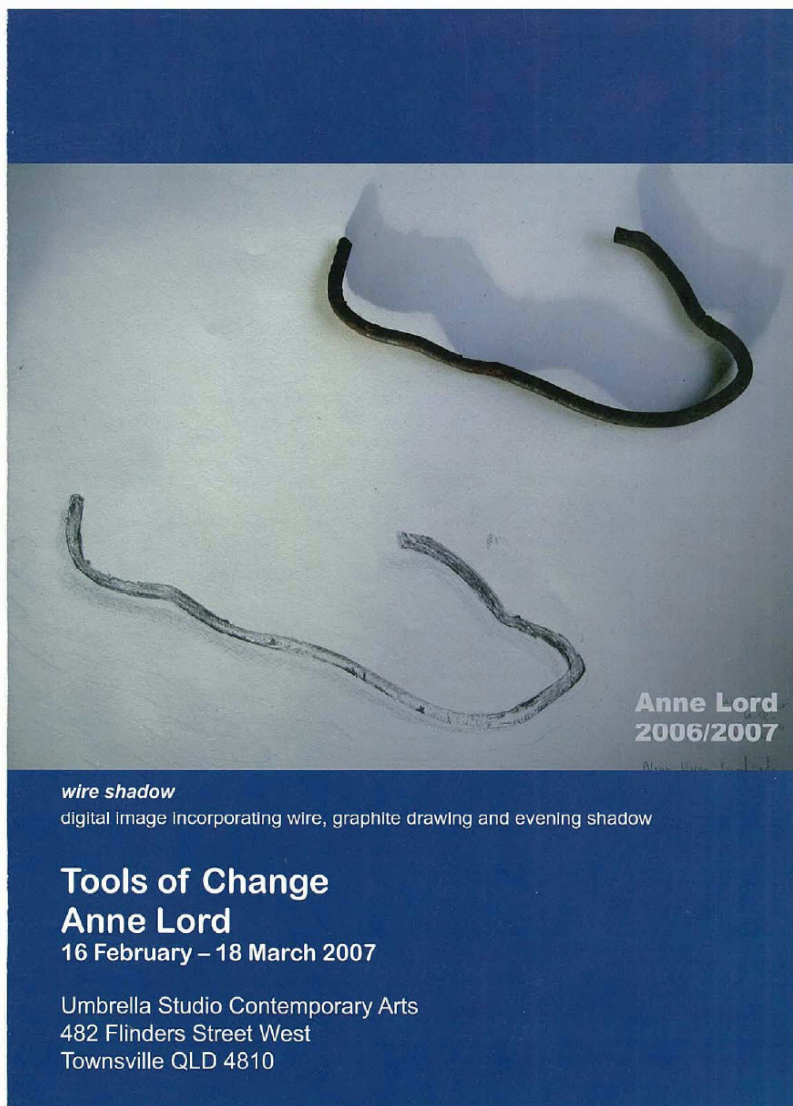
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ISBN: 978-0-86443-785-3  
James Cook University

An exhibition of work as partial fulfillment of the requirements for  
the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Visual Arts JCU

<http://www.anelord.com>



## Tools of Change

### February 2007 Artist's Statement

This exhibition is the third in a series of four about states of change. The early drawings for this exhibition are made simply with graphite in an investigation into objects that can inspire concepts about change. The objects or tools that have wood in them show relatively quick changes over time but the tools that have metal components show a weathering of material indicating a much longer time span for corrosion and integration into the surrounding environment.

The process of moving from one state to another is important for the concepts being developed. Though the tools are old and many belong to a different era of pre-power tools, they are indicative of the past and the future. The weathering visible in these tools could similarly be seen in any object we cherish. The old and neglected becomes beautiful as an icon of age and time, but it is also at risk of disappearing and never being seen or used again, in its present form.

Many images in this installation are just drawings, and in learning from Henri Magritte's images (1929) and Michel Foucault's words (1982) they are not what they seem. Foucault (1982), Magritte (1929), W J T Mitchell (1994) and James Elkins (2000) discuss the potential for text and image to be integral to the reproduction of ideas. I investigate the development of a position from twentieth century images and writings to recent arguments by Kim Machan (2006) for ephemeral and Internet art, Martha Buskirk (2005) for the contingent object in contemporary art, Gay Hawkins (2006) for 'the ethics of waste' and asking questions beyond recycling. A question, then, for many of us might be, what is important, what can be saved, recycled, neglected and 'replaced'? The bigger question in the twenty-first century is how and where will I place the object after I have finished with it?

The development to create art with a message is part of my quest to relate instruments and ideas as part of a discourse in visual and creative arts. Work about 'changing states with a concern for environmental issues' is the creative and conceptual rationale for installation work in Tools of Change at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts. Discussions with supervisors throw up important issues; Linda Ashton's Poststructuralist perspective and application of binaries, Ross Gibson's 'the idea of fragility, ephemera in long deep time' and reference to the Japanese concept Wabi-Sabi, acceptance of beauty in transience. Thai, Chinese and Indian Buddhist philosophy and religion revere the transient nature of things and impermanence.



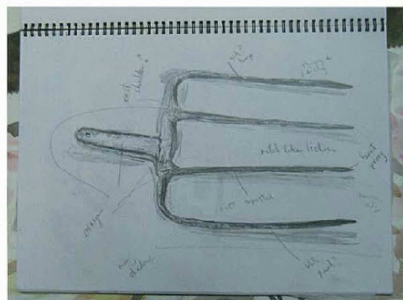
**axe-head**  
digital image incorporating  
disintegrating axe-head, graphite  
drawing and watercolour

This installation is based on previous practice involving ephemeral materials such as earth/humus and paper/cellulose. Metal and rust are new materials on which to base drawings, monotypes, prints or painting and have the potential to show deeper investigation of time-based processes.

The imagery has been developed from found or acquired items; hand made implements, rusted tools, hammerheads, pliers, nails, an axe-head and wood saws that show change processes. Some objects have been dug up in my studio garden exposing a possible foundry site. A history of the pieces is discernable in the style of the implements and in their change of state through rust and weathering. Some of them fall apart as they are moved from their positions for the drawing and documentation process. Digital photographic responses to these are employed to extend the meaning of imagery and icons of change. The application of new and old technology to capture imagery is part of the concept and practice for the artwork to leave less impact on our surroundings.

**Anne Lord**

*Visual Artist, Lecturer School of Creative Arts, PhD candidate JCU.*



**garden fork**  
digital image incorporating spine,  
graphite drawing and watercolour



**old hack saw**  
digital image incorporating old hack  
saw, graphite drawing and watercolour

# Tools of Change

**Anne Lord**

**16 February – 18 March 2007**

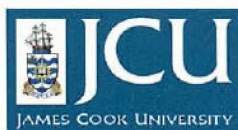
**Access Space and Vault      Installation**

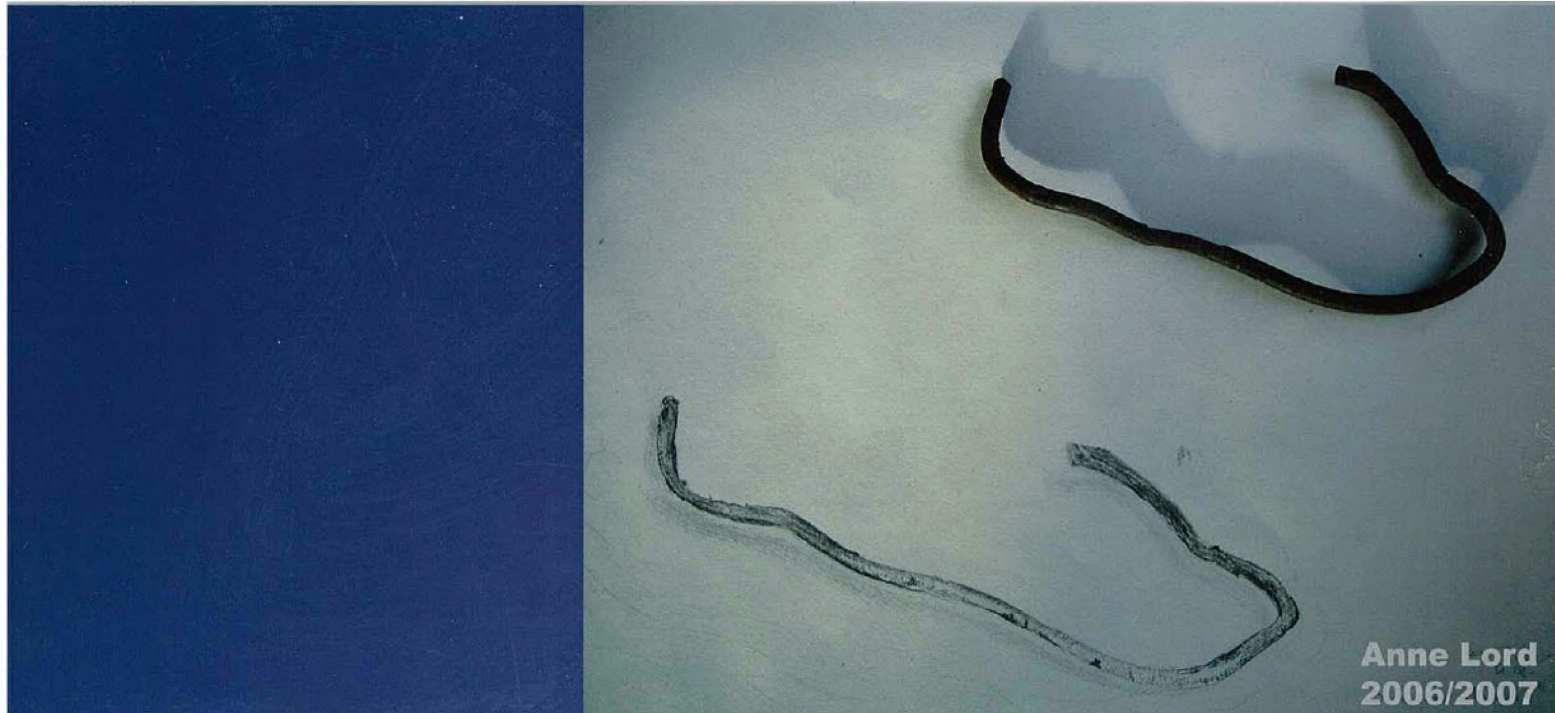
**Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts 482 Flinders St Townsville Q 4810**

[www.umbrella.org.au](http://www.umbrella.org.au)

**7.00pm Opening** by Dr Linda Ashton Senior Lecturer Visual Art School of Education JCU

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Anne Lord  
2006/2007