

繡出自然意趣

EMBROIDERING NATURE'S BEAUTY

TEXT | 吳玟蒨 PHOTO | Meredith Woolnough

澳洲藝術家Meredith Woolnough將原本屬於東方的刺繡，結合自然萬物的靈感，幻化成為美麗而優雅的藝術品，創造繡品的新生命。

Australian artist Meredith Woolnough creates beautiful and delicate embroidered works inspired by nature to bring new life to a traditional art form.

1

刺繡，織出新意

刺繡在東方的歷史已長達二到三千年，是民間的傳統技藝之一，圖案多象徵吉祥意象，如龍、鳳、鴛鴦或孔雀等，直到漢朝透過絲路西傳，這門技藝從此流傳至遠方。隨著現代人對刺繡的重新定義，傳統刺繡有了新面貌，更貼近生活。澳洲藝術家Meredith Woolnough別出心裁，以珊瑚、貝類、葉脈等大自然生態為靈感，將圖案繡於可溶於水的布料上，花紋細緻而精密，待水溶化了布料，原來精緻的圖紋便成了鏤空的藝術品。像是2017年完成的作品The New Neighbours就採用了400多件獨立的刺繡拼湊而成，模仿蘑菇珊瑚(Discosoma)的姿態，呼籲人們關心海洋生態。喜愛葉脈題材的她，更花了數個月織成了直徑超過一公尺的作品Scribbly Gum Leaf，靈感來自於風乾後的膠樹葉子，自然蜷曲的模樣，栩栩如生。

OLD ART FORM, NEW MEANING

In eastern cultures, embroidery has a history of 2,000 to 3,000 years. Many of the motifs originally produced were associated with blessing and good fortune. With the opening up of the Silk Road, this traditional art form spread far and wide. In modern times, artists, such as Meredith Woolnough, have been redefining embroidery. Inspired by shapes in Nature, such as those of coral, shells, and leaf veins, she stitches thread onto water soluble fabric. Once the fabric has dissolved, what remains is an art work that seems to float in air. For example, her work *The New Neighbours* consists of 400 individual embroidered pieces to imitate mushroom corals (Discosoma), calling attention to the plight of coral reefs. However, leaf veins have been her preferred subject. She spent several months completing Scribbly Gum Leaf, which measures about one meter in diameter. The inspiration for this lifelike work was the natural curling of gum tree leaves when air-dried.

1 藝術家Meredith Woolnough擅長將動植物化為刺繡作品，模擬萬物姿態。

Artist Meredith Woolnough is known for turning animals and plants into embroidery works to represent all things in the universe.

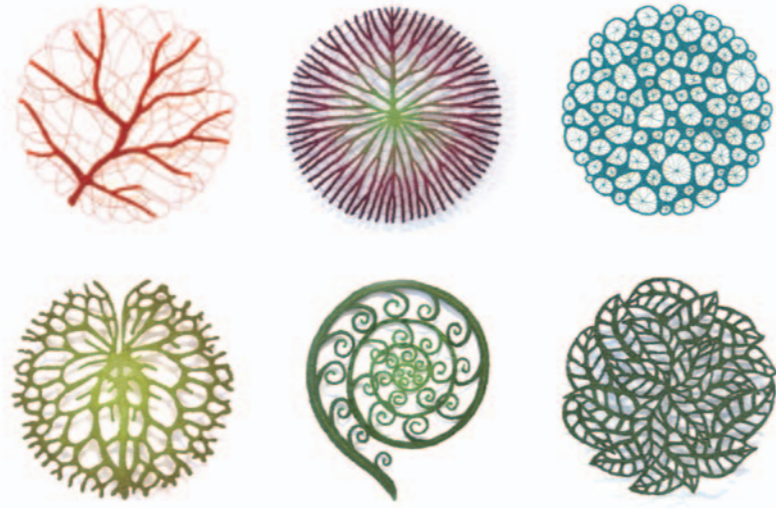
芸術家メリディス・ウールナフは動植物を刺繡作品に変化させることを得意としており、万物の姿を再現しています。

2 豔紅的The New Neighbours一作，以400多件獨立繡品織就徜徉在海底的蘑菇珊瑚。

In the bright red *The New Neighbours*, more than 400 separate embroidery works are put together to make the wandering mushroom corals at the bottom of the sea.

ザ・ニュー・ネイバースという真紅の作品は、400以上の独立した刺繡を海底でのんびりと生きるウミキノコにまとめたものです。

2



優游自然萬物間

Woolnough在大學時就已一頭栽進了紡織世界中，於2005年獲取紡織科系學位，畢業後，她投入中學教職，並趁著閒暇時間繼續藝術創作。然而，作為一名全職教師，Woolnough並沒有太多時間留給創作，因此在2011年時，她下定決心辭去教師的工作，並且搬到Newcastle這個沿海小鎮，開始她全新的身分——全職藝術家。對她而言，這無疑是人生中最恐懼、最艱難的挑戰，但Woolnough表示，這同時也是她最滿意的決定。

對Woolnough來說，大自然如同湧泉一般帶給她源源不絕的靈感，因為住處鄰近海邊和叢林，她熱愛觀察自然中的萬物，小到一片葉子的顏色，或是動植物製成標本後的細密紋理，都是她創作的來源。她有時會潛到海底，觀看珊瑚礁群的美麗，並將這景象刻在腦海中，再挑選色彩斑斕的絲線，一針一針地織在布料上，成為獨特的藝術品。目前，她的作品透過展覽的形式，從居住地Newcastle出發，曾到過雪梨、墨爾本、美國等地展出，將大自然的美以刺繡方式保存下來，並展現在世人眼前。

1-2 深淺有致地將圖案繡在水溶布上，家用的縫紉機是Woolnough靈巧的幫手。

Carefully embroidering the patterns on water soluble fabric, household sewing machines are Woolnough's versatile assistant.

高低が一致した図案を水溶性シートの上に刺繍していきます。家庭用ミシンはウールナフの器用なアシスタントです。

✕ 中華航空每日皆有航班從桃園飛往雪梨。

China Airlines flies every day from Taoyuan to Sydney.

チャイナ エアラインは台北(桃園) - シドニー間を毎日運航しています。



OBSERVING HER SURROUNDINGS

By the time she was in college, Woolnough had already entered the world of embroidery. In 2005, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a major in textiles and became a junior high school teacher. During her free time, she continued to produce art works. However, teaching full-time made it difficult to focus on the creative process. Therefore, in 2011, she decided to leave her job and move to the small coastal town of Newcastle to become a full-time artist. For her, this was one of the most frightening and difficult challenges of her life. However, she says that it was also one of her best decisions.

Nature provides Woolnough with an endless source of inspiration. Near her home is both ocean and forest. She loves spending time observing Nature such as the colors and lines of leaves, plants, and animals. These are the sources of her creations. She sometimes dives to the ocean floor to admire the beauty of coral reefs, etching what she sees in her mind to embroider onto fabric one stitch at a time with threads of different colors. To date, her works have been exhibited in Australia, as well as in the US.

愛收集膠樹葉子的Woolnough將它繡成為一幅巨大壁掛作品，勾勒出細緻的葉脈紋理。

With a passion for collecting gum leaves, Woolnough also turns them into a gigantic wall artwork with detailed leaf veins.

ゴムの木の葉を集めるのが好きなウールナフは、集めた葉を巨大な壁かけの刺繡作品に仕上げ、細かい葉脈を描き出しています。