

airborne^e

beyond the vertical garden

the invention of the rotating air garden

the gravity defying living art works of

Lloyd Godman

Lloyd Godman is one of a new breed of environmental artists whose work is directly influencing 'green' building design" "Godman's installations are the result of a unique blend of botanical science, environmental awareness and artistic expression. All three elements are intrinsic to the practical realisation of his polymathic vision".

John Power - Editor of Facility Management Magazine Aug 2011



Art and the built environment

Art and the built environment cannot be viewed in isolation from each other. The functionality of our finest public and private spaces has always rested on solid aesthetic and spiritual principles; our greatest buildings either showcase challenging artworks or incorporate artistic designs into their very fabric, reminding us that buildings without art are mere shelters. Artist Lloyd Godman is at the forefront of a modern trend to bring an appreciation of the natural world into our structural domains. Buildings do not rest 'above' or 'outside' a landscape, separated from the surrounding environment. On the contrary, structures interact with the natural world as objects that cast shadows, consume resources and provide rich habitats for life. Godman's living, plant-based artworks reinforce the necessary connectedness of buildings and the wider environment. Not only do these artworks convey powerful messages and philosophies of sustainable and ethical physical interaction, but they also reach out beyond ideas to become part of the actual structure – as physical objects, Godman's artworks are purifiers of the air as well as the soul, suppliers of colour as well as calmness, and filters of water as well as the human spirit.

John Power October 2012

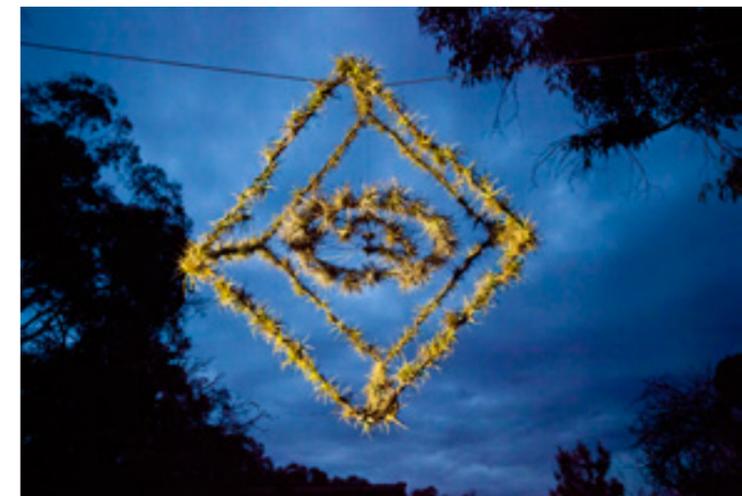


Atmocycle I - Incinerator Gallery - Moonee Ponds 2012

Link from this image to a Youtube video



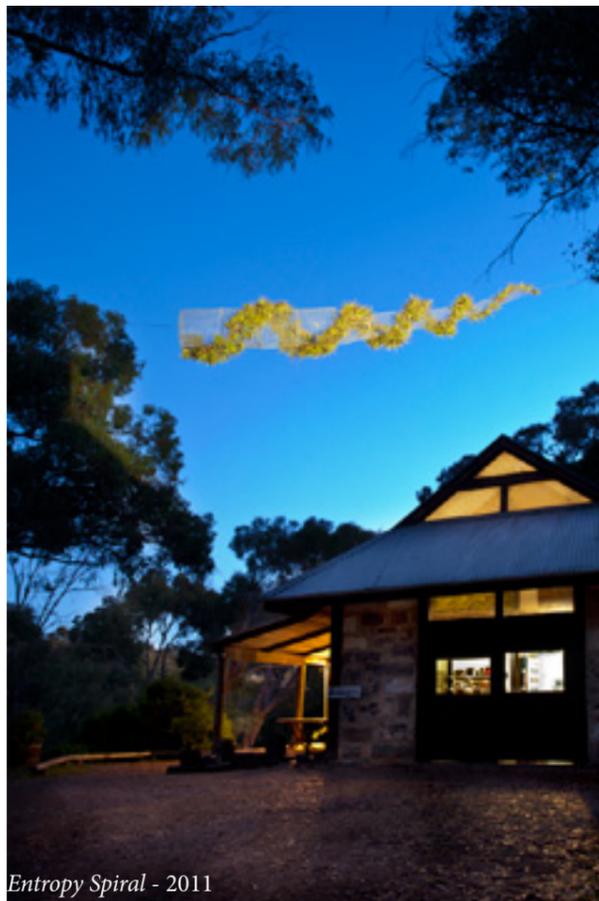
Nature reclaims the Helix - 2012



beyond the vertical garden

Worldwide, vertical gardens have become a green city fashion item, a practical symbol of how nature and culture might coexist. Various installations from France, England, USA, Italy, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand attempt to green the urban environment, but sadly, issues of infrastructure and maintenance often grow larger than the installation itself.

Since 1995 Lloyd Godman has been experimenting with air plants and is seen as the world's leading artist in this area. During 2011-12 he invented the suspended rotating air garden which allowed plants to break their earthly confines and "fly" in space. The plants Godman works with have no soil or roots and need little water making them ideal for vertical gardens or beyond this concept in suspended and rotating forms. Typically a traditional vertical garden weighs 30 - 40 kg a square meter and requires constant water reticulation, whereas the structures Godman works with 2-3 kg a square meter and often no watering system at all. They grow very slowly and require little maintenance in a biannual basis he terms as super sustainability, where excess growth is trimmed to maintain the form and in turn offers a new resource to create further living art works.



Entropy Spiral - 2011



Entropy Rotation I - 2011

[Link from this image to a Youtube video](#)



Atmocycle I - 2012



ART as active solution

Like Joseph Beuys, "7,000 Oaks", the work moves beyond ART as environmental comment towards ART as active solution. But further to this, the materialization of a rotating air garden challenges and dislocates our perceptions of plants: no soil, a few roots that often grow upward, no water system, suspension and motion. These works are a practical metaphoric reference point for the lateral thinking needed to solve our current environmental problems.

Since 1996, Godman has been studying and working with living plants as art and in particular Bromeliads and the Genus Tillandsia (air plants). Through a CAM cycle these plants photosynthesis at night, taking in carbon and releasing oxygen, which allows them to close their stomata during the heat of the day to conserve water, in fact if the climate demands, they can close the stomata for weeks or even months. Because of this adaptive process, they grow very slowly, but over years they produce a resource to create further living sculptures. In fact many of the plants that adorn the new work have been harvested from earlier living plant sculptures.

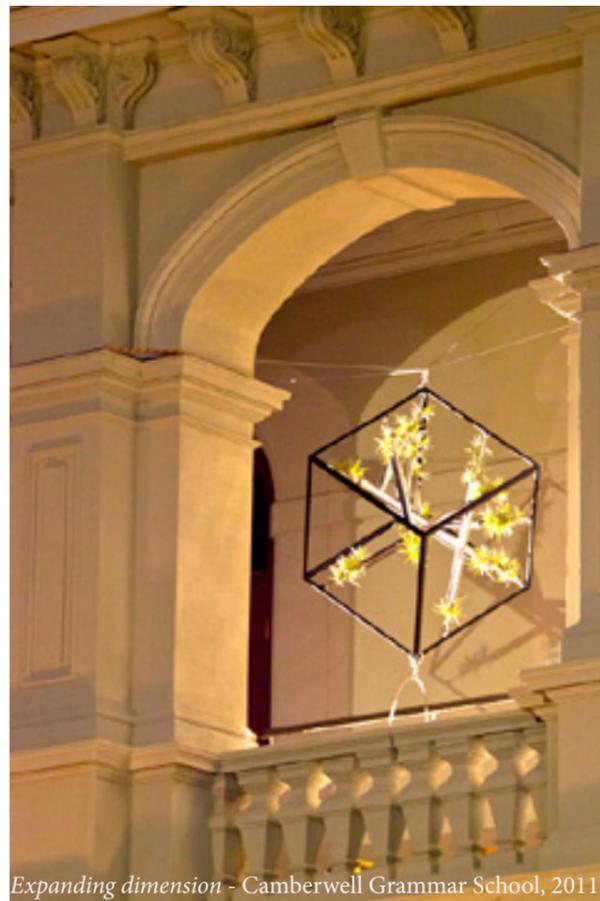
[Link from this image to a Youtube video](#)



Double Pyramid Power - 2012



Shadow dance wall 1 - 2011



Expanding dimension - Camberwell Grammar School, 2011



super sustainable ART

“it is highly unusual for an artist to forge new aesthetic, philosophical and architectural directions through his work; Godman, however, has managed to use his diminutive plants to convey global concepts, and in the process participate in a new wave of appreciation for plants in the built environment”.

John Power

Editor of Facility Management Magazine 2011

Plants as public art

“Lloyd Godman is the only artist in Australia and possibly the world, who uses living plants to make super-sustainable sculpture. Previously a photographer, his 20-year preoccupation with photosynthesis grew from his study of light, and his hybrid photography/plant works led into his current activity – creating art from living bromeliads, a primitive plant which lives on air. He is now devising public art using air-plants suspended above streets and rivers. The plants continue to grow, very slowly, creating more growth which can be used in new works”.

Stephanie Britton

Editor Artlink Magazine 2012

Lloyd Godman has an extensive exhibition and art project record dating back to the early 1980s. His more traditional work spans from 1983-4 with the acclaimed *Last River Song* Project based on the loss of the Clutha River due to Hydro development, to *Entropy* a creative media photo project exploring the colours of the natural environment's regeneration after the Black Saturday Fire of 2009.

Through 3 decades he has maintained a focused interest in environmental issues in his art practice: now with the concept of the rotating air garden, his 4th decade of creating promises to write a new chapter of art, environment and architecture.

He has exhibited plant works at:

Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia, USA,
Burringa Gallery Victoria Australia
Incinerator Gallery Moonee Valley Victoria Australia
SCOPE galleries Warrnambool Victoria Australia
Flannery Centre Bathurst NSW Australia
L'Arbre de Vie / Chateau Blacon, France
Blue Oyster Gallery Dunedin N.Z.
Temple Gallery Dunedin N.Z.



Expanding dimension- Camberwell Grammar School, 2011

