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Its feet were tied, with a silken thread of my own hands weaving

Sangeeta Sandrasegar 2010

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Museum of Contemporary Art Australia
Sydney, Australia

This diaphanous installation, a series of suspended opalescent organza panels by the Melbourne-based artist [Sangeeta Sandrasegar](#), is emblematic of the artist's preoccupation with the challenges of cultural difference in the context of diaspora. On close inspection, some of the panels reveal depictions of Australian floral motifs rendered in delicate embroidery. The flowers adorn dimly traced feet in the manner of henna decoration of hands and feet of women on the subcontinent. The feet and legs float in mid-air, adrift from the rest of the body which is absent. On other panels the outlines of Australian trees can be seen; and on one, the ripples of sand and sea. The artist has commented that for her, the panels 'evoke the colours of this country... [in] the ghost-like softness of certain hours...'. In Sandrasegar's work, the juxtaposition of materials and techniques

associated with traditional female pursuits, together with the ambivalence implied by the title, results in a poetic reflection on place and the vulnerabilities that can be experienced by women in an age of increased global migration. The title is taken from a poem by the English Romantic poet John Keats (1795-1821). The artist also drew inspiration from the William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) poem 'Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven', published in 1899 in Yates' third volume of poetry, 'The Wind Among the Reeds': "Had I the heavens? embroidered cloths, / Enwrought with golden and silver light, / The blue and the dim and the dark cloths / Of night and light and the half light, / I would spread the cloths under your feet: / But I, being poor, have only my dreams; / I have spread my dreams under your feet; / Tread softly because you tread on my dreams."

Details

Title: Its feet were tied, with a silken thread of my own hands weaving

Creator: [Sangeeta Sandrasegar](#)

Creator Lifespan: 1977

Creator Nationality: Australian

Creator Gender: Female

Creator Birth Place: Brisbane, Australia

Date Created: 2010

Physical Dimensions: w100 x h150 cm

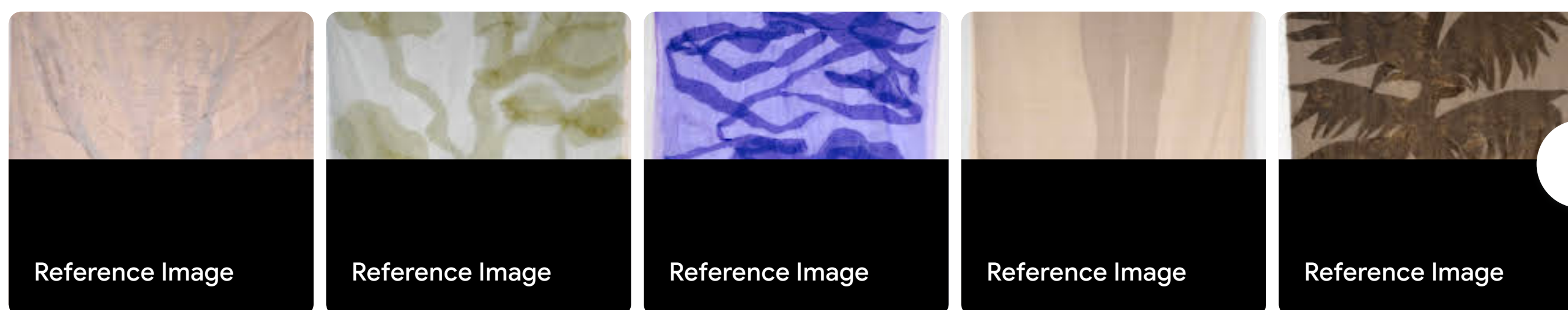
Type: Installation


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External Link: [Museum of Contemporary Art Australia](#)

Medium: nylon organza, cotton thread, glass beads. 8 panels, each 150 x 100 cm

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