

alex white —

celebrating national tree day



My work explores the unique character of the Tasmanian pencil pine, an endemic tree that stands as a testament to resilience and interconnectedness. While initially appearing as bushy vegetation, their true essence is revealed as they mature and die, shedding their outer growth to expose the distinctive, pencil-like silhouette.

This transformation highlights a powerful sense of individuality that emerges with age. Unlike most trees that grow from seed, pencil pines emerge from beneath the earth as clones, spreading through a hidden network beneath the humus layer. This subterranean connection fosters a sense of community which imbues them with a social dimension, suggesting a silent, cooperative existence.

I'm drawn to the dynamic interplay within these colonies. Young, vibrant saplings push through the earth, finding their place among ancient, stoic pillars that have weathered countless seasons. They stand as living relics, their stark, gnarled, bleached forms creating contrast with the verdant youth surrounding them.