

MEDITATIONS

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF WARREN HINDER

Warren Hinder has found inspiration in his own backyard in a new series of photographs entitled *Meditations in my Garden*. Living on a bush block in Katoomba in the Blue Mountains which includes a small hanging swamp covered in ferns has provided him with a fascinating and ever-changing source of subject matter—from a tiny unfurling fern to birch catkins, grasses, garden flowers and even clover growing in the lawn.

There is a contemplative quality to these works and it is not surprising to learn that Hinder has been practising meditation for many years. Hinder believes that meditation has accentuated his observations of the environment and enhanced his belief in the preciousness of the small and the ordinary.

'I am constantly amazed at the patterns and detail that unfold in the natural world. I feel very privileged to be able to experience and share this, particularly by finding things of beauty close at hand to photograph. This environment is continually changing and provides a constant source of inspiration.'





'Technically the key ingredients are taking your time and a sturdy tripod. I don't take a multitude of photographs of a single subject. I tend to take just one or two shots. This is a hang-over from my film days, but I find this practice is a good discipline for making every photograph count.'

The minute detail of the images of nature in this new series emphasizes the ephemeral and fleeting. Hinder quotes Henri Cartier-Bresson: 'Photographers deal in things which are continually vanishing and when they have vanished there is no contrivance on earth which can make them come back again. We cannot develop and print a memory.'

Hinder trained as an apprentice lithographer in the 1970s and has been taking photographs since that time with work published in Australian and US magazines.

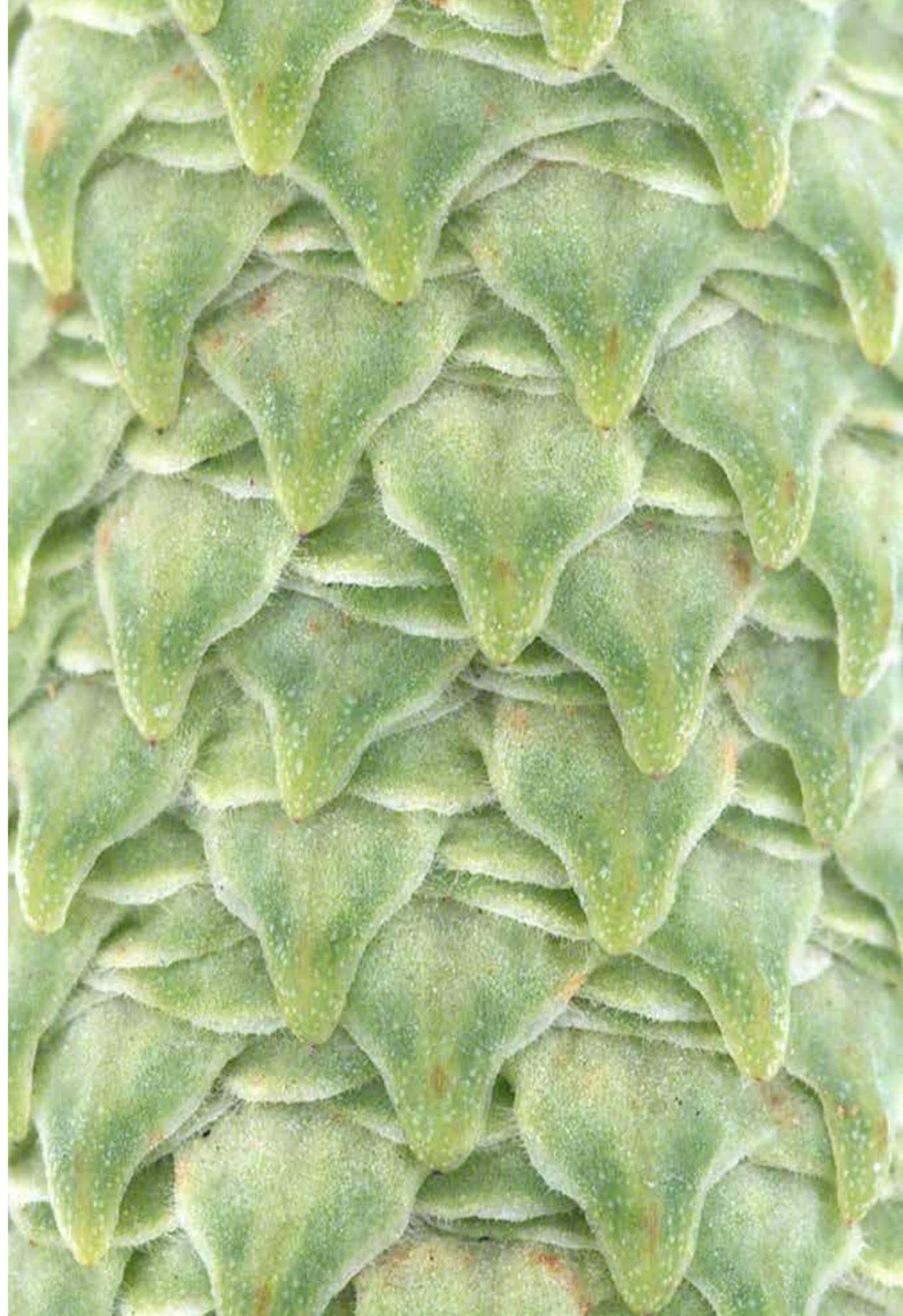


Opposite page: This photograph of the Californian poppy was taken in my backyard after a summer sun shower, accentuating the intense colour and glow of the poppy. The Rattlesnake Grass (above) has tiny seed pods which are so delicate yet so very strong. The hot summer winds could not budge them till the ripened seeds were ready to be released.



Hinder is best known as a landscape photographer and has mounted many successful exhibitions. A book of his early work entitled *Still Moments* was published in 2008.

Above: Some of the most interesting subjects in nature are often overlooked or mowed over. This Clover flower shows exquisite detail and the image of the Birch seed pod (right) reveals a beautiful symmetry at such close focus.





Opposite page: Early morning winter frosts create unique photographic opportunities with frosty ferns at Minni Ha Ha Falls in Katoomba, while below a soft new fern unfurls in my own backyard hanging swamp.

The complete series of photographs *Meditations in my Garden* may be found on Warren Hinder's website www.warrenhinder.org and his pictorial guide to walks in the Blue Mountains is on www.bluemountainwalks.com.au

