



In Marie-Therese Wisniowski's 'Mintulee of Thurrabee - The Last Rainmaker' she reflected on aboriginal rainmakers who have the ability to coax rain. Her superb mastery of dyeing techniques allowed her to coax out of a matte, woven cotton fabric the convincing illusion of wetness. The fabric's vibrancy and sheen belies its essential materiality.

Vicki Taylor created a bobbin lace hanging on a grand scale for this medium in her 2.34 metre long "Virga. Her silver raindrop beads on the diagonal threads always travel at an angle to the earth, never reaching the ground. Concept and technique were skilfully combined.

Amongst the group of wearable art pieces one that stood out was Ann Foy's exceptional costume in subtle soft shades of navy and brown. Her felted skirt of sophisticated repetitions of varied patterns and forms contrasted with her jacket made of devore etched velvet. A master of discharge dyeing, Foy achieves subtle shades that range from navy through to soft mauves and greys.

Wendy Wright, Ruth Osborn, Elizabeth Roberts, Barbara Rogers, Lynne Taylor and Chris Rose all created inspired wearables. The incredible quantity of glass bead 'raindrops' were so numerous in Ruth Osborn's beautiful ensemble that she lost count and settled for "many, many" beads in her catalogue statement. >>>

Opposite page top: WASHAWAY BLUES by Irene Manion, fabric paints on calico, mono-filament, cotton and polyester embroidery threads; machine and hand stitched, photography by the artist. Detail of EFFLORESCENCE AFTER THE RAIN by Karen Macpherson, forged steel, plastic conduit, plastic cable ties and plastic bags. Also shown, a back view of the garment AFTER DROUGHT by Lynne Taylor, fabric collage with faux chenilling, machine embroidery, beading and block printing.

This page top of left column, detail of MINTULEE OF THURRABAREE - The Last Rainmaker by Marie-Therese Wisniowski, Shibori dye patterned, discharged and collaged on cotton; beneath it is a detail of VIRGA by Vicki Taylor, 234cm(h) x 60cm (w), hand made, bobbin lace technique in linen thread, metallic and textured yarns and beads. Middle of page top, detail of RAINDROPS garment by Ruth Osborn, crinkle metallic silk lined with silk habotae; specialist threads (Madeira Glamour and Madeira Metallic) and many many beads - crystal, glass, plastic. Top of page right, BEFORE THE RAIN - COCKATOO ISLAND by Ann Foy, recycled and new silks, merino wool, silk and rayon velvet, purchased T-shirt; techniques include wet felting, needle felting, shibori dyeing, discharge dyeing and devore knitting. All images by Eardley Lancaster unless otherwise noted.