A Marriage of Science and Contemporary Art – working with Maria Fernanda Cardoso
Geoff Thompson, Queensland Museum
Artist of international standing
Introduced by Gary Warner who did Queensland Museum foyer screen animations
Cardoso Flea Circus (1997-2000)
Museum of Copulatory Organs, Sydney Biennale, project ongoing
Later used SEM, 3D models and 3D printer
Interested in complicated structures
Complexities of flea genitalia initiated Maria Fernanda’s interest in all sorts of animal genitalia and reproductive complexities.
Frontal and side view of the penis of the *Phallomedusa solida*, a hermaphrodite mangrove snail from Sydney Australia.
Electron microscope scans SEM of Tasmanian Harvestman Intromittent Organs
Pigment prints on cotton rag paper
31 x 24 x 4 cm mounted on tin box.
Maria Fernanda Cardoso's work table
Digital photo by Anne Zahalka 2012
Before going to install at Cockatoo Island
Maria Fernanda Cardoso asked to use one of my drawings of insect genitalia at the entrance to MOCO
Display cases at the Museum of Copulatory Organs
Installation view at Cockatoo Island building 123
Wood, perspex, built in LED lights.
180 x 180 x 90 cm and 180 x 240 x 90 cm
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Harvestman Intromittent Organs
3-D prints of UV cured resin, metal.
Displayed along with SEM scans, wet and dry harvestman specimens lent from the Australian Museum collection.
I have since advised her on focus stacking
Maria Fernanda used these techniques in a recent exhibition
Museum of Contemporary Art Art-bar
Holiday in Sydney in July – MF asked me to participate three days before leaving
I suggested using an App instead of real camera lucidas and microscopes.
Helped set up for flower dissection in same room
Wonderful smell drew people in
Kept very busy from 7-11pm
Used photo printing paper to demonstrate scraperboard technique
People spent round 30 minutes doing detailed drawings.
Big success

Many thanks to

Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Gary Warner, Caroline Fewtrell, Ally McKay and MCA staff