

artist notes for Tokyo Tea for curator Margaret Price in Japan Toni Warburton, 2002

Leptospermum: *Leptos* fine and *sperma* seed

Leptospermum is the Latin name but “tea tree” is a nice name because it comes from the early Australian settlers using the aromatic foliage of some species as tea substitutes. The idea and colour pallet I have used this time is more dry for the sedges and more white and tea tree flower like.

I love drawing and making the five sided shapes derived from the flowers and seeds of the tea tree. They remind me of the shape of the palm of the hand and feel right when they are scaled to be held. Painting the fresh greens, russets and innocent whites of the flowers and leaves, and the browns and grays of the seeds makes me feel at peace and I remember how poignant the blossoms look when I walk past them in the bush.