

GROOTBOS

a world leader of sustainable
and responsible ecotourism

INSPIRATIONAL LOOKBOOK

a story by Evolution



Dear Michael, Sean, Tinneke and team Grootbos.

Thank you for the opportunity to transfer your narrative onto textiles.
It has been an honor to see your passion and commitment in embracing and protecting this spectacular biosphere.

Herewith a reflection on the process of creating your textiles.

How the moon aligned – a month prior to receiving the call from Grootbos to come and look at potential developments, a friend dropped off this beautiful book by Antjie Krog. The morning after Tinnéke contacted us I opened the book for the first time and discovered this poem about the Milkwood Fairies.



MILKWOOD FAIRIES

If you look carefully
you'll see them asleep
in the branches
of the Milkwood tree.

Back to back, snug in a cleft,
stretched on a leaf
they sleep but don't fall
from the Milkwood tree.

And if you look harder
you'll glimpse the moon
as it blooms and it bleeds
in the Milkwood tree

how it swells, how it shifts
from the earth as it lifts
as the fairies awake
in the Milkwood tree.

See their wings how they shake,
see how lightly they land
on the moon-white sand
under the Milkwood tree.

*Antjie Krog, Ingrid de Kock
and illustration by Fiona Moodie*



Our journey started on the 10th of February 2022

A full moon was present.

The passion and commitment of team Grootbos ignited our dream to create bespoke products that narrates the story of one man's vision, and the people he inspired to become a world leader in sustainable and responsible ecotourism.

Thank you team Grootbos for allowing us into your space.
Thank you for allowing us to apply all our textile development techniques into your space.

I has been an honor and an absolute joy to work with all of you.

Love Amanda, Xander, Megan, Khulekani and Seeng.

The Evolution Team



GARDEN LODGE

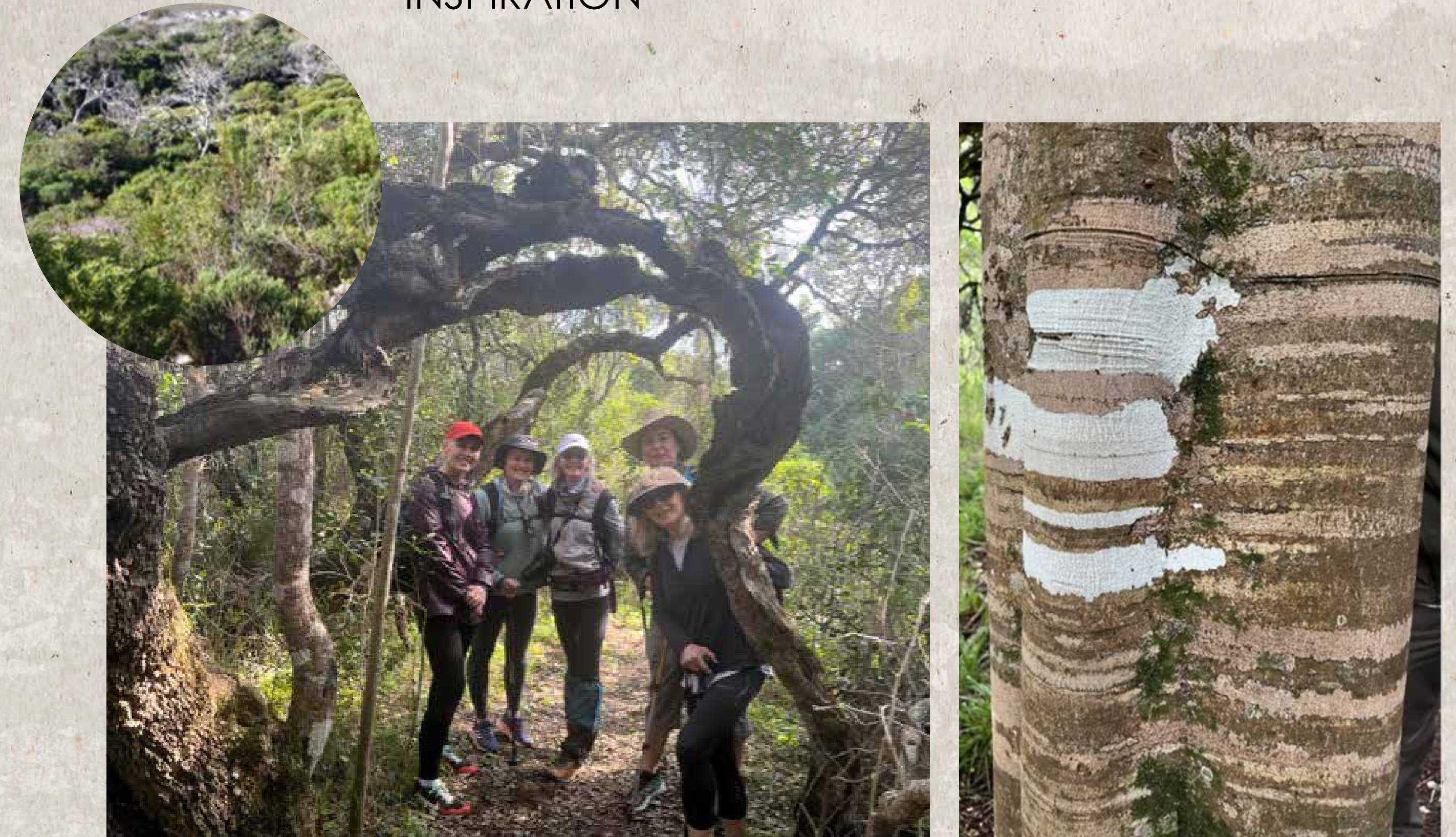


INSPIRATION

Tinke approached us at the end of January 2022 to assist with the textile development for Garden Lodge and Forest Lodge – her gentle nature and love of Grootbos resonated with our mission to create for a reason.

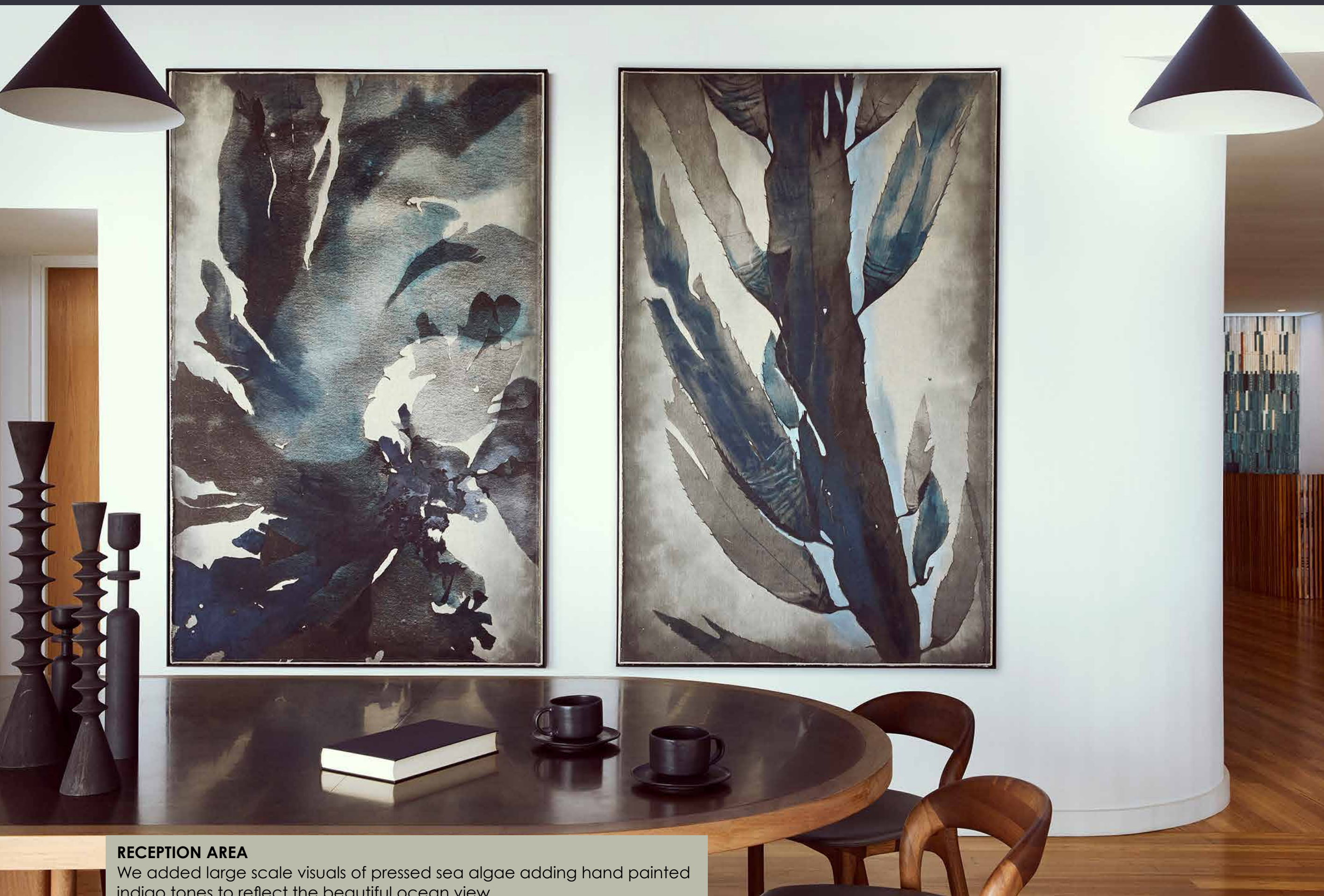


INSPIRATION



"I had to share the beauty of Grootbos with my friends and family and participated in the majestic Fynbos trail in August 2022."

This slow observation strengthened the desire to create products that make a difference and communicates the delicate relationships in this biosphere.



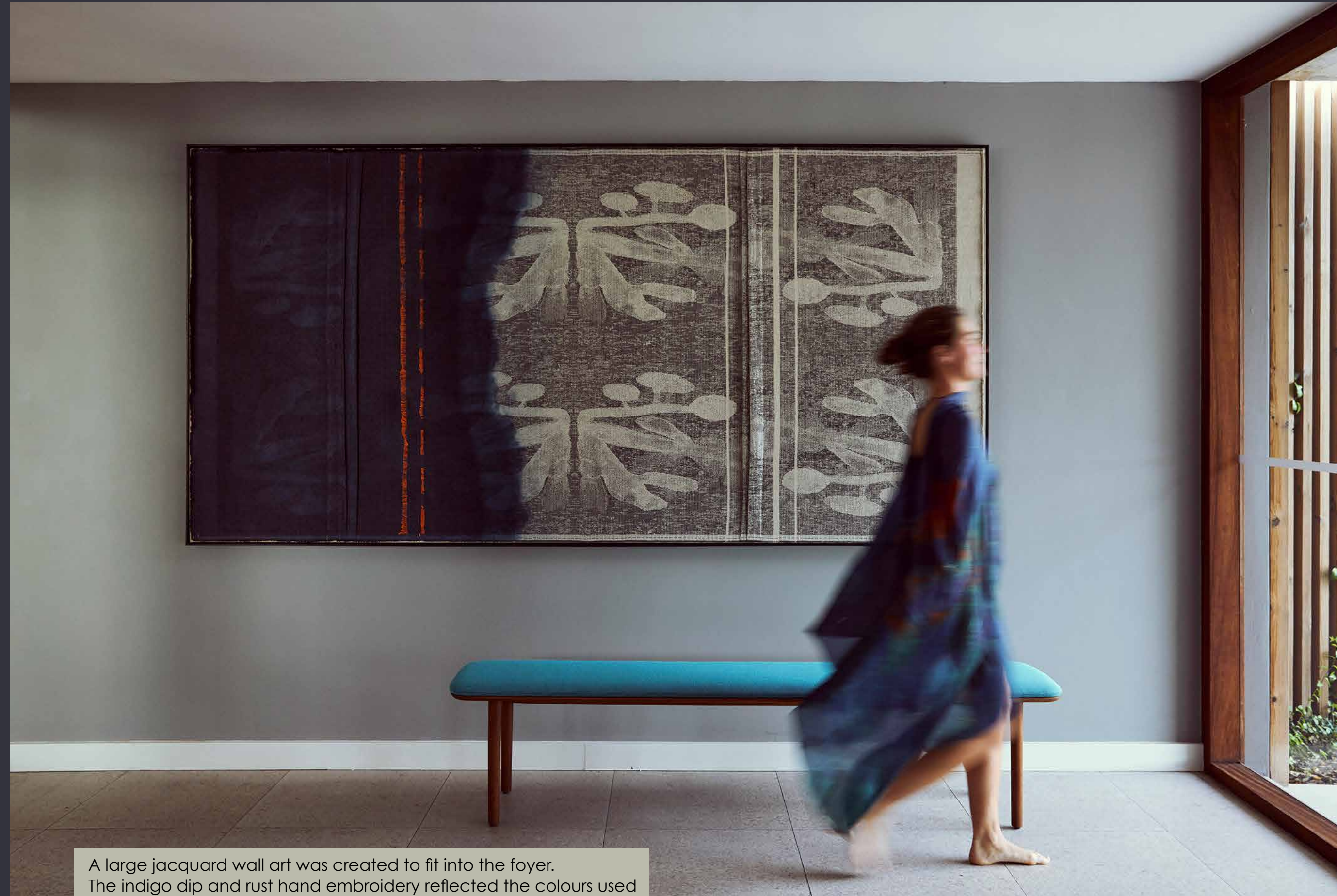
RECEPTION AREA

We added large scale visuals of pressed sea algae adding hand painted indigo tones to reflect the beautiful ocean view.
The pressed specimens come from a book published in 1910 by William Tyson.

We added textured embroidered cushions reflecting San childrens drawings dating back to 1880.

Embracing the San and Khoi heritage in the area. We added acid yellow in the embroideries to add an accent to the space.



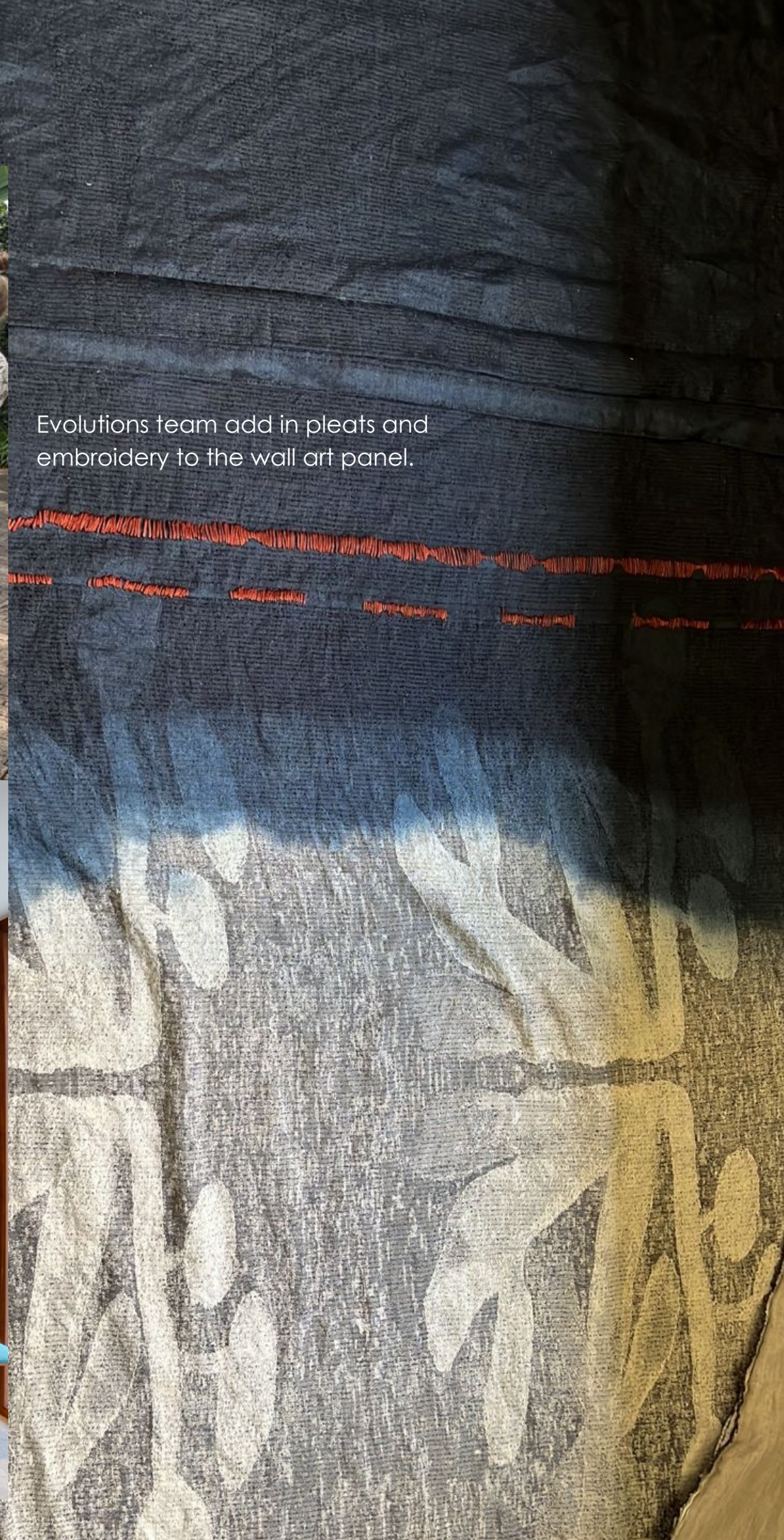


A large jacquard wall art was created to fit into the foyer. The indigo dip and rust hand embroidery reflected the colours used in tiled wall in the main reception. San drawings were mirrored in the weave of Linen, Bamboo and cotton.

THE PROCESS



Evolutions team add in pleats and embroidery to the wall art panel.

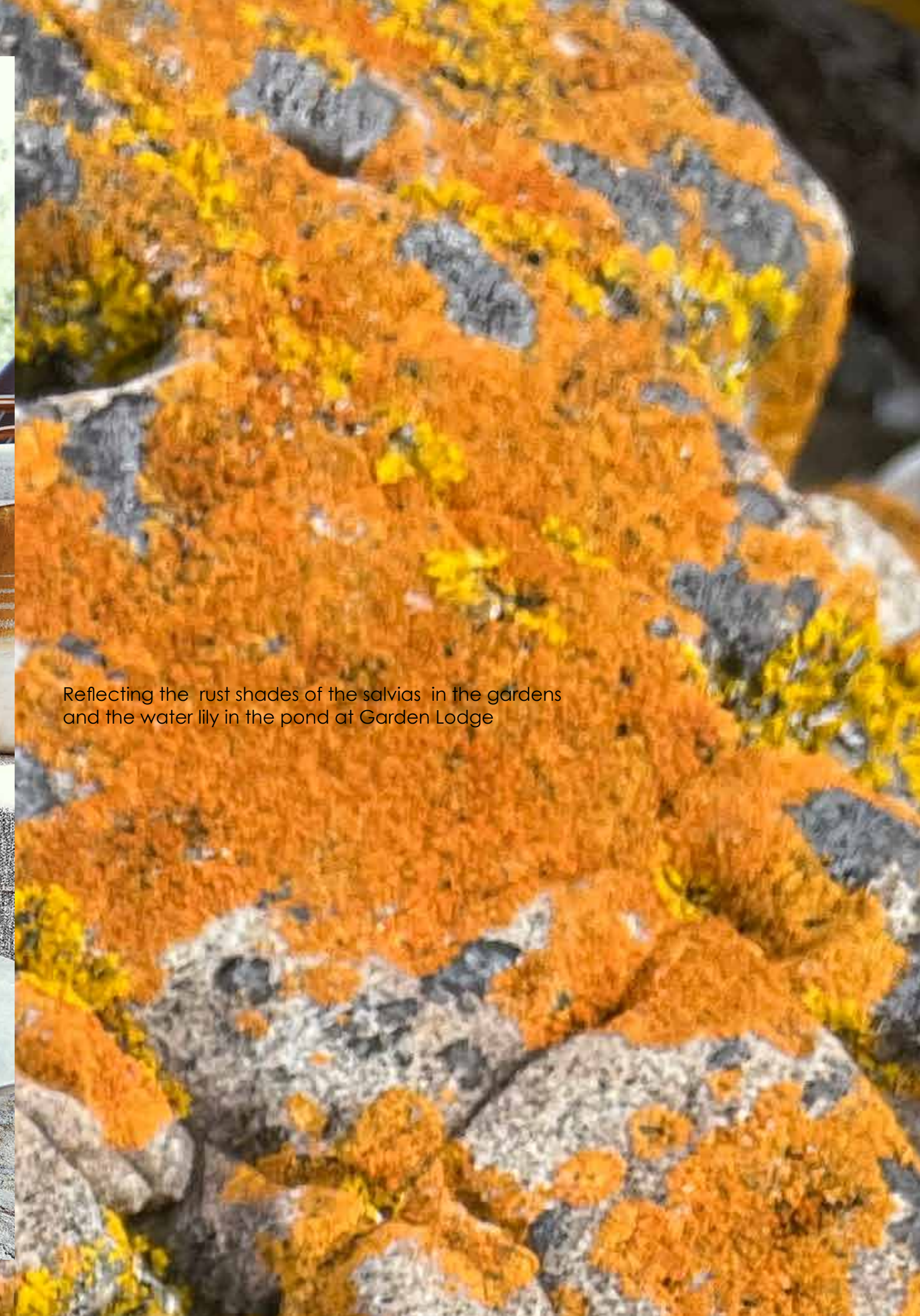


THE LOUNGE

Stripe embroidery cushions dipped in Yellow , Indigo , Antique rust and green. Reflecting colours from outside indoors.



Reflecting the rust shades of the salvias in the gardens and the water lily in the pond at Garden Lodge



MOSS ROOMS



The rooms in Garden lodge inspired by the greens and Ochres found in the Milkwood forest and fynbos



RUST ROOMS

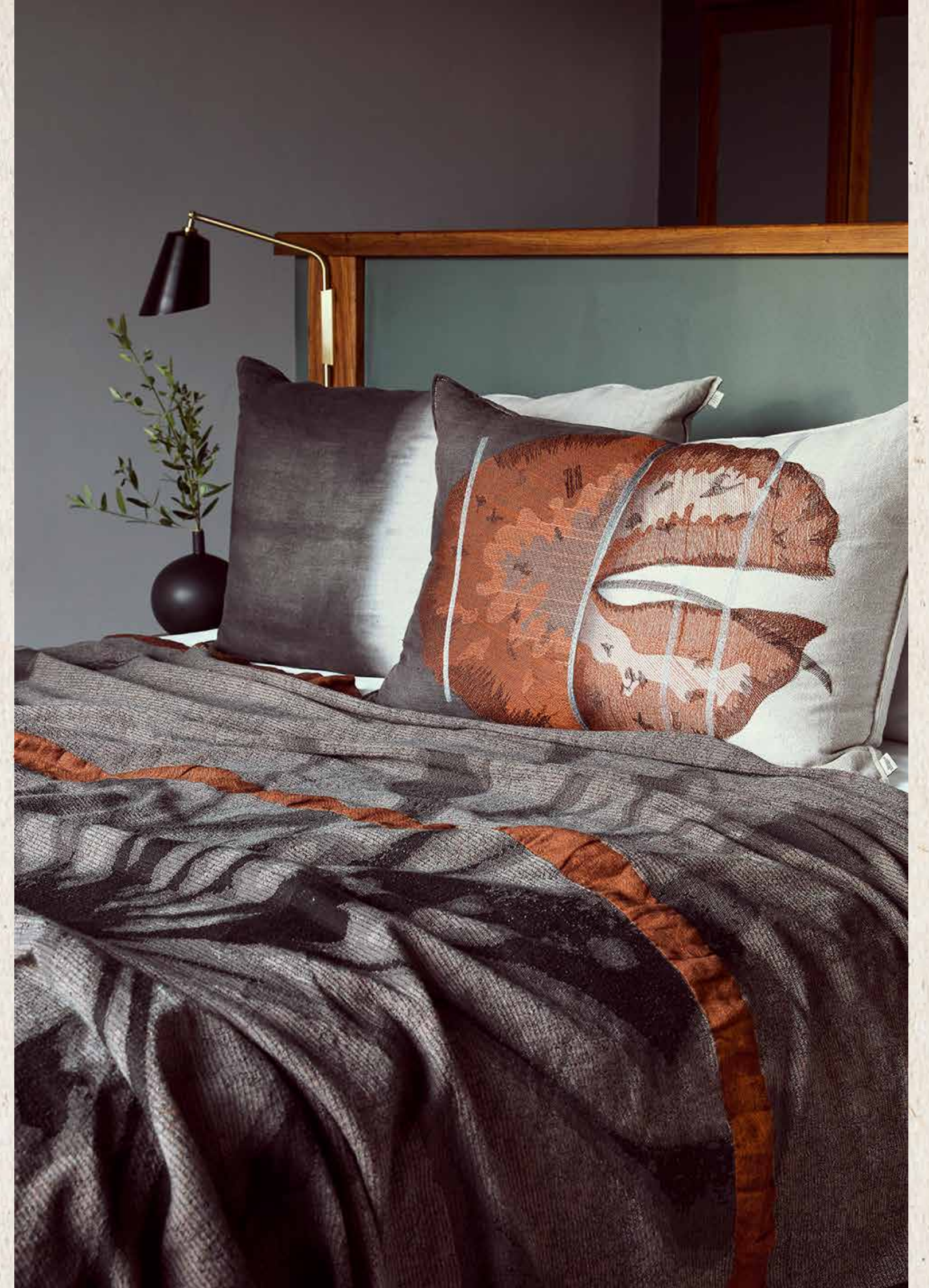


WALL ART – GARDEN LODGE.

The Pressed sea algae visual theme was continued into the rooms.

We were astounded by the beauty of these sea warriors, we felt that we needed to celebrate not only the immediate surroundings of Garden Lodge but the beauty of the Ocean and the species within her.

Hand embroidery was added to create texture.



OCRE ROOMS



Seeng works precisely with each hand-stitch detail on our wall art, all works created by her.





FOREST LODGE



Tinneke brief Colour Spectrums



INSPIRATION



INSPIRATION

Fynbos drives with the talented team of guides

Fynbos guides explaining the importance of the relationship between ants and proteas. The magic that occurs after a fire and the importance of smoke and wind in loosening the seeds.



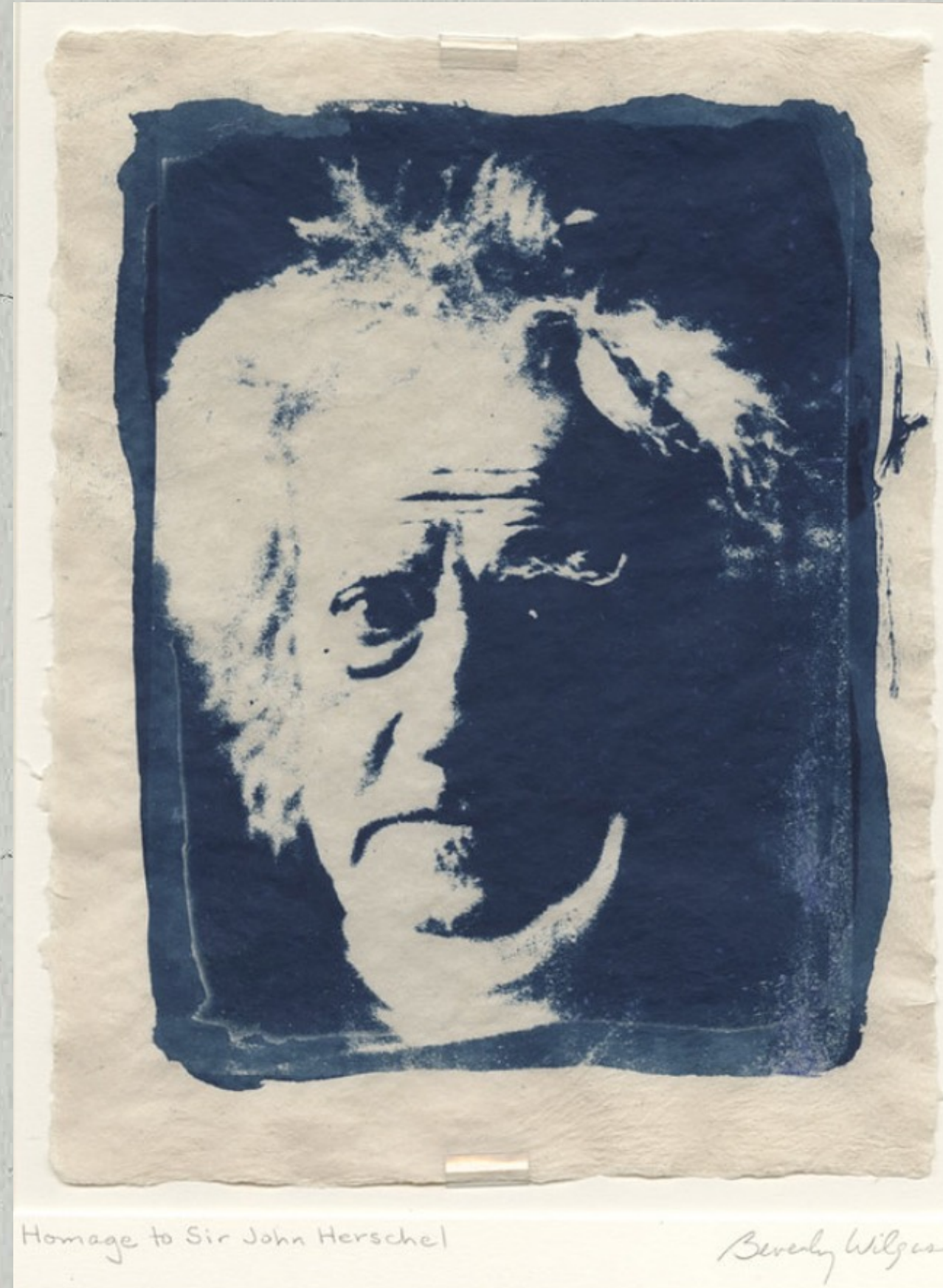
Protea Bos embroideries in bespoke colours



Each visit showed a new spectrum of colours and fynbos.



INSPIRATION



Homage to Sir John Herschel

Beverly Wilges

In 1842, Herschel invented the cyanotype. The cyanotype process uses light-sensitive iron salts produced by brushing solutions of ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide, also known as Prussian blue, onto paper, which is then dried in the dark.

English botanical artist, collector and photographer Anna Atkins was the first person to illustrate a book with photographic images.

Her nineteenth-century cyanotypes used light exposure and a simple chemical process to create impressively detailed blueprints of botanical specimens.

Initially she was trained as an English botanist and discovered photography as a means to document botanical specimens for a scientific reference book, entitled '*British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions*'.



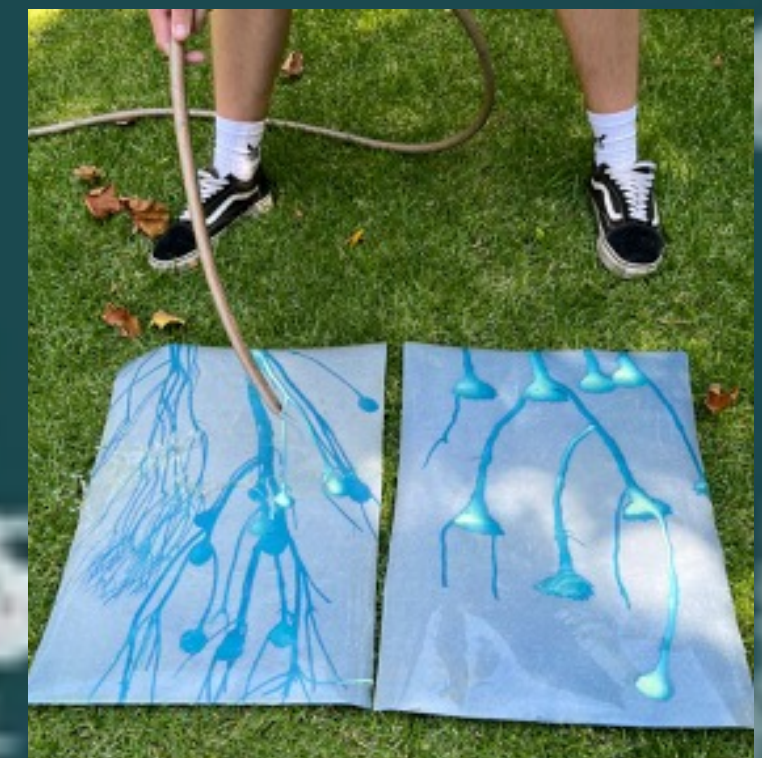
CYANOTYPE IN PROCESS

Blom bos branches were used to create Cyanotype visuals for cushions in Lounges of Forest lodge



WALL ART PANEL DESIGN PROCESS:

We used burnt proteas in our Cyanotyping process accentuating the importance of fire in Fynbos perseverance





Using dried protea branches for Cyonotypes

We further developed a Jacquard inspired by Celtis Africana clip dyed and used as ottomans in Villa 1 and the champagne lounge in Forest Lodge





The *Brunsvigia Orientalis* life span was monitored on our regular visits to Grootbos, the Cyanotype design was digitally programmed to create the jacquard throws in Forest lodge. Combining Linen, Cotton and Bamboo.



A couple of years ago Evolution won the 100% design award for our large Cyanotype panels printed by using the technique Herschel and Atkins developed in the mid 1880's.

We wanted to use this same technique to capture the *Brunsvigia Orientalis* we collected at Grootbos. Here the print process is in process: pre treated photographic paper exposed to the Sun with *Brunsvigia* specimen creating shadows.



TRACKING

There are basically two kinds of tracking, where the success of one depends on the success of the other.

The first Cognitive or outer tracking, where the spoor of the animal is identified and then followed, one step at a time until the animal is found.

The other INTUITIVE or inner tracking, where the spoor of the animal is identified and the tracker becomes the animal, moving to where the animal would have gone finding it...waiting for the tracker,

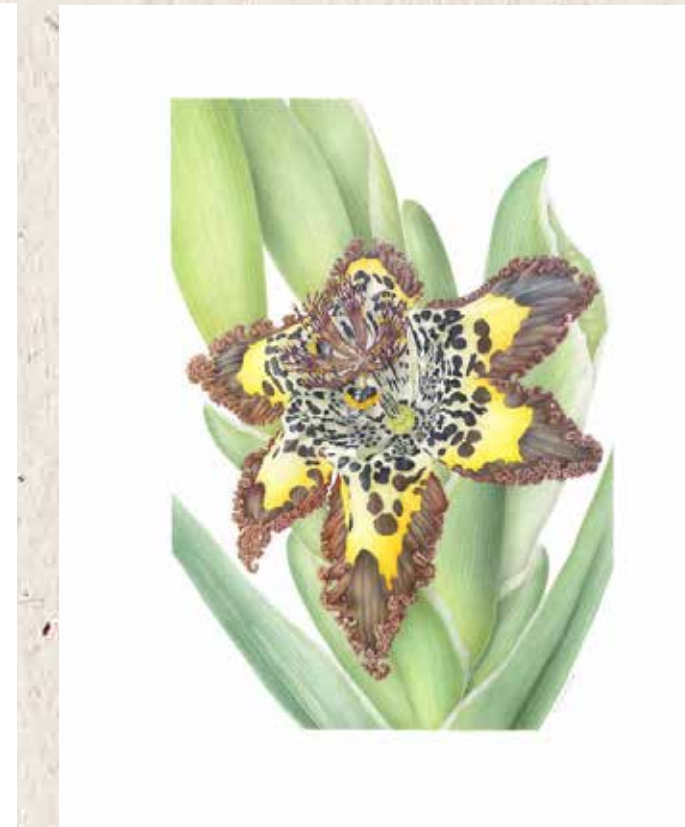
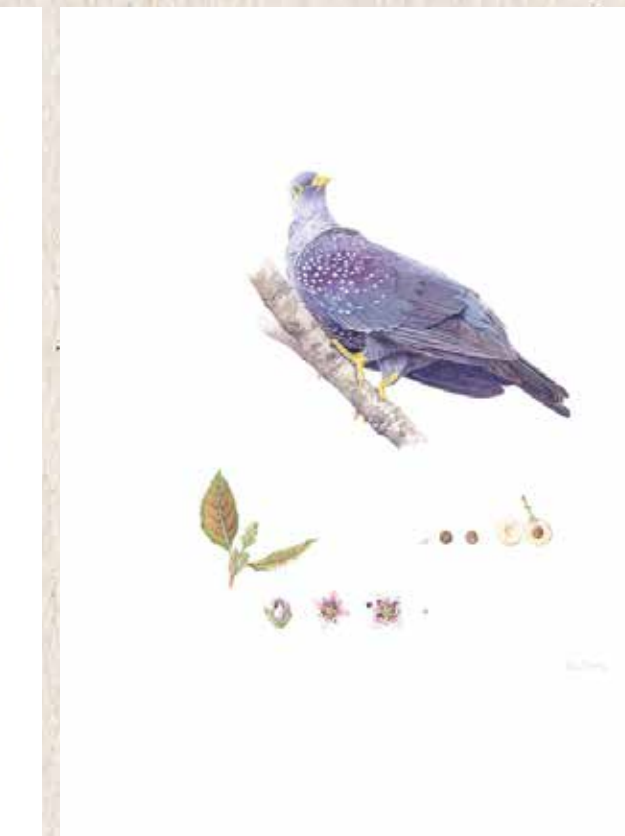
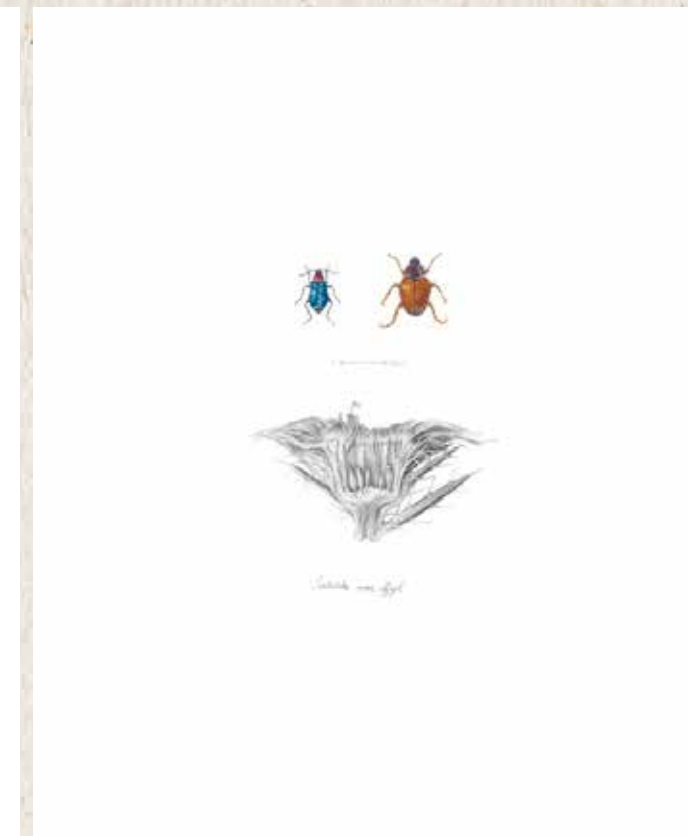
Ian Mcullem

Thank you team Grootbos for leading our tracks to you.



PROCESSES

Each room was planned with bespoke dyed Proteas silhouette embroideries and Blue print inspired cushions to compliment the Florilgeum artworks



We selected Florilgeum artworks for each room and ensured our cushions compliment this selection. Artworks selected for Navy rooms



PROCESSES



Florilegium artworks taking center stage in each living area in Forest Lodge. This selection was made for the rust rooms.



Florilegium artworks taking center stage in each living area in Forest Lodge,
Florilegium selection for teal rooms



Brunswigia Orientalis woven up as throw for Grootbos Forest Lodge





Forest Lodge Bedrooms



The bedrooms were kept tonal with sliding doors to change rooms in three different themes



ACCESORIES

Exposure to the Grootbos entemology department was a life changing experience.

To observe the magic and design of these spectacular pollinators under a microscope was the magic required to create a range of 9 guest towels reflecting some of Grootbos's Insects. This evolved into towels being created for deck chairs and waffle throws for the stores and use on single beds in the villa's. A beautiful add on to the existing assortment of bespoke Gin's, Body products, teas and champagne.





heads
rings







A poem written by my Grand mother in 1935. This might not be the Karoo but the sentiment of walk with me was even more relevant on your fynbos trail.

MATERS.

Soek vir jou 'n knapsak, soos
die een aan my sy
Kry vir jou 'n kiere en kom
wandel saam met my.
Langs die klip'rige paaië, deur
ou bokkies vasgetrap,
War goud-geel doringbome,
skelmpies an ons krap.
Verby die ou Karoobos, so
dapper en so taai,
Oor kleurvol, sterke rotse, met
bob'jaantou vasgedraai
Kom saam; tot op die toppunt
sal ek jou veilig lei,
Dan roep ons altwee hardop:
„Suid-Afrika vir my!”

Bella Traas -1936

