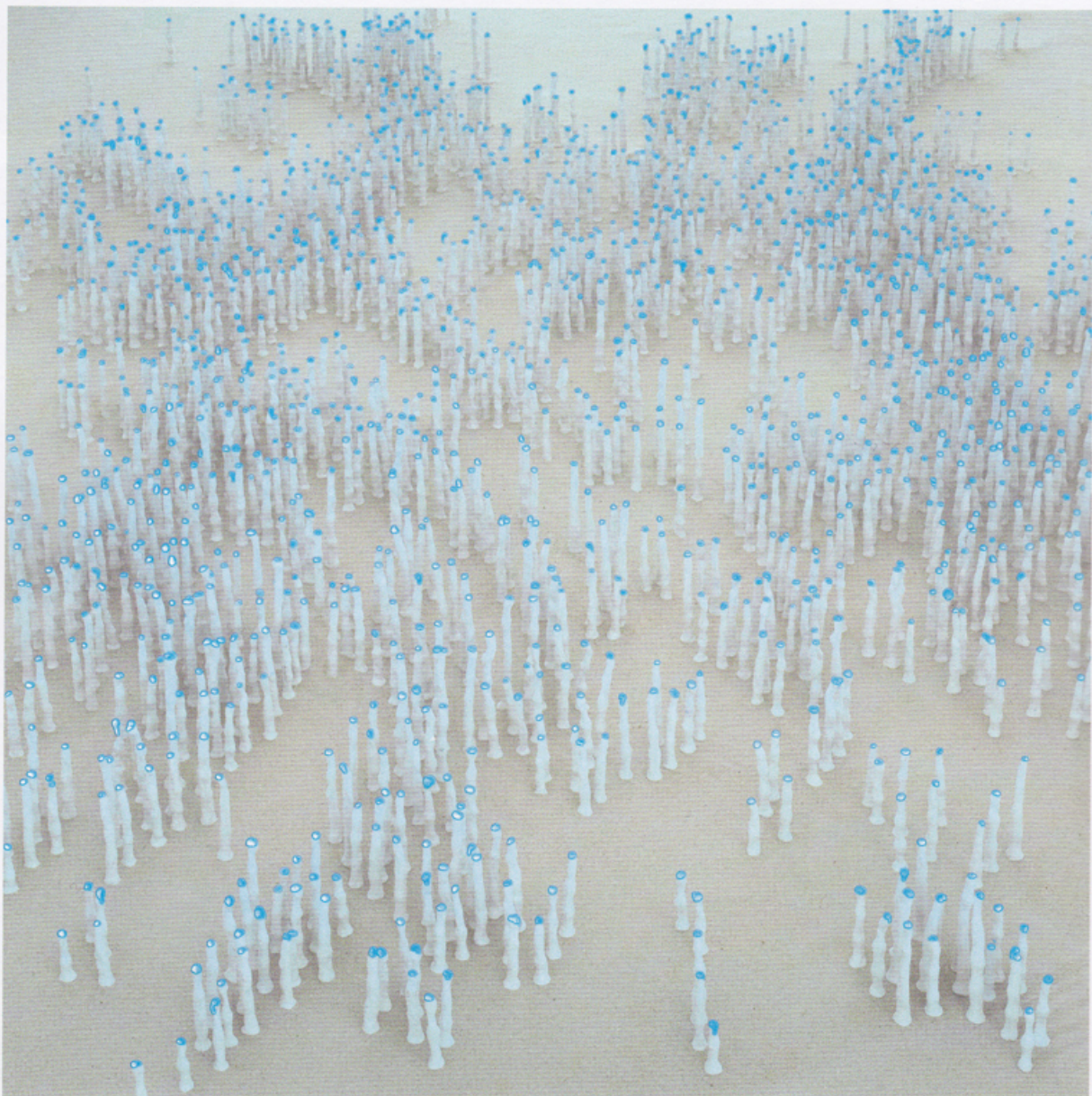


Vera Möller

Born on the Weser, Bremen, Germany, 1955. Lives and works where Western Port Bay opens into Bass Strait, Flinders. Connected to the Frisian Islands in the North Sea, Germany.





Vera Möller is captivated by the endless variety of nature. She looks closely at underwater and intertidal life, as well as fungi, moss and microorganisms invisible to the naked eye. She first trained in biology, studying the freshwater ecology of Bavaria in her native Germany before making the wide and varied landscapes of Australia her home.

Möller describes her installation *vestibulia 2019* as a kind of fiction, a composite of observed and invented parts. Like an underwater garden, the work evokes a coral reef complete with hard and soft corals, seaweed, nudibranchs and a wealth of other life. Each small sculpture reaches up as if drawing sustenance from the water column, and together offer a wonderful array of patterns and colours. Möller also leaves the white clay of many of these elegant forms unadorned, evoking the skeletal remains of coral and recent damage to the Great Barrier Reef. *vestibulia* not only celebrates the wonder of such sites but also reminds us of their vulnerability as water temperature and ocean acidity rises.

These are challenges that require our awareness, consideration and connected energy to act upon. Taking the networks of pneumatophores, or distinctive aerial roots, of mangroves as inspiration, Möller's second installation in 'Water', *cajalía 2019*, seems to pulse with a connected energy, like an abstraction of interlinked individuals, or a city seen from above. Lit by ultraviolet light, this field of glowing, blue-tipped forms also references the phenomenon of bioluminescence and the work of pioneering neurologist Santiago Ramón y Cajal. In Möller's works, curiosity and wonder fuel imagination, creativity and care. GKB

Vera Möller
vestibulia 2019 (detail)
 (opposite)
 Vera Möller
cajalía (detail) 2019