



## MARIKA OSMOTHERLY

*Lightness of Being*

EXHIBITION DATES 30 January - 16 February 2013



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA



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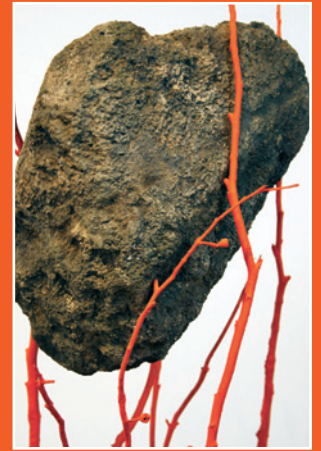
**TOP and ABOVE**  
**Marika Osmotherly** *Lightness of Being* installation views at the University Gallery, January 2013

My thesis focusses on the metaphysical question of whether or not 'being' or 'existence' (our human life as we live it on this earth) can carry metaphorical weight, giving life serious meaning. In other words, how do we balance the weight (significance, importance) of our existence with the lightness (fragility, transience) that is present simultaneously? This question prompted an investigation into the existential, conceptual and literal notions of weight and lightness and the way these notions impact on our life. It has also initiated an essentially philosophical approach to the research involving the exploration of theories of phenomenology and the sublime in the hope of finding a resolution to this question through their application within the field of contemporary sculpture.

The aim of my studio practice is to communicate the metaphysical notion of human significance or lack thereof through combining fragile allusions to the human form (mainly in the shape of twigs) with large, heavy structures in the form of rocks and boulders. The sculptural works will essentially provide a physical expression of the notions of lightness and weight by which we might measure our existential significance. To reflect Nietzsche's theory of eternal recurrence repetition is integrated in the work. Photography is used as a major supportive medium, especially to communicate notions of the sublime.

This thesis does not attempt to answer the question of 'the meaning of life' but should be considered an expression of the philosophical exploration of our own existential fragility.

- *Marika Osmotherly, January 2013*



**ABOVE and BACK COVER**  
**Marika Osmotherly**  
*Lightness of Being*  
 installation views at the  
 University Gallery, January 2013

**FRONT COVER**  
**Marika Osmotherly**  
*Heft* (detail)  
 2012  
 digital photograph  
 2.8 x 3.7m

**MARIKA  
 OSMOTHERLY**

*Lightness of Being*