

The Sydney Morning Herald

**AUTUMN** *of the* **ARTS**

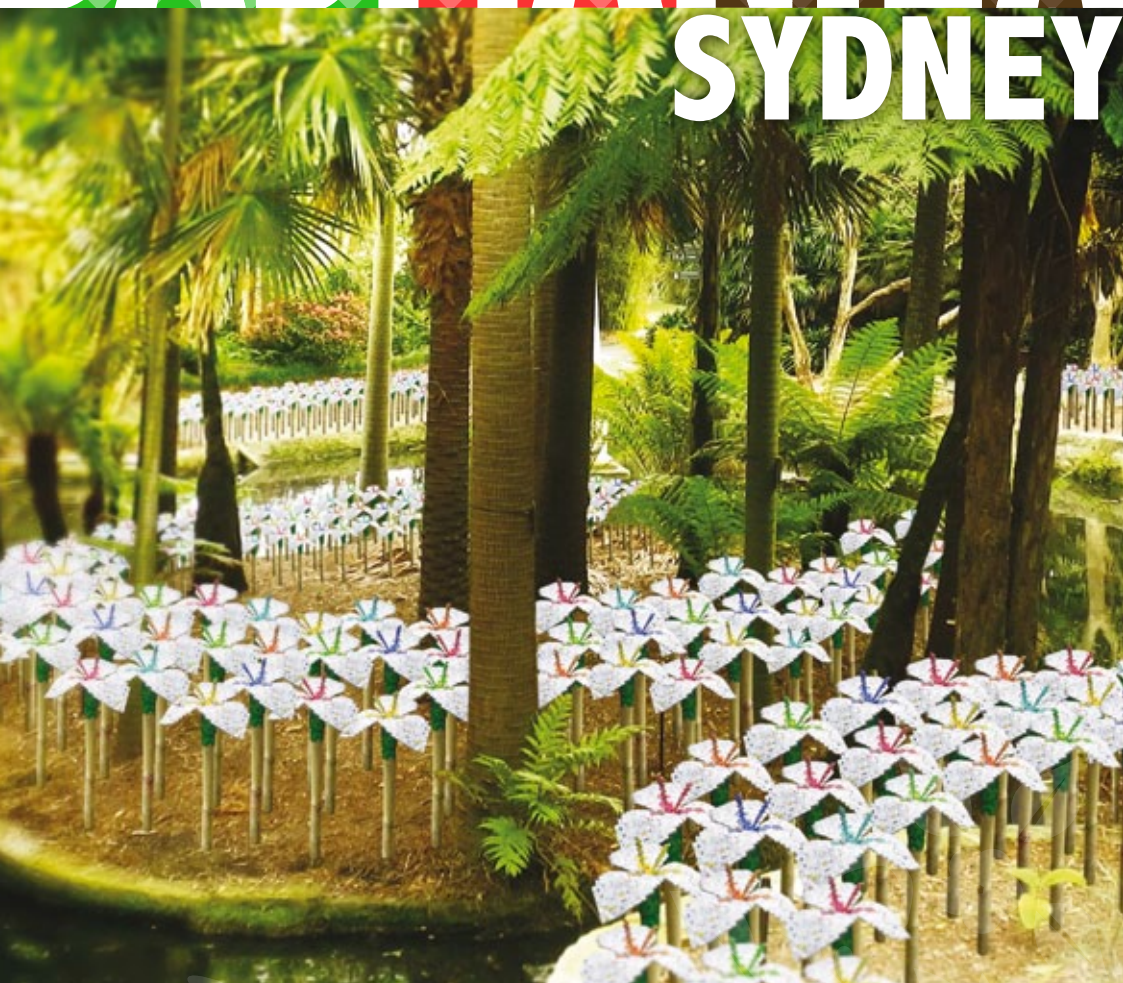
Come into the garden



The Royal  
BOTANIC GARDEN  
Sydney

 **OMNIUM® OUTREACH PROJECTS** present

# DASMANILA SYDNEY



*A public art exhibition comprising hundreds of flowers made from recycled garbage and bamboo - each handwoven by a group of women artisans from the Philippines*

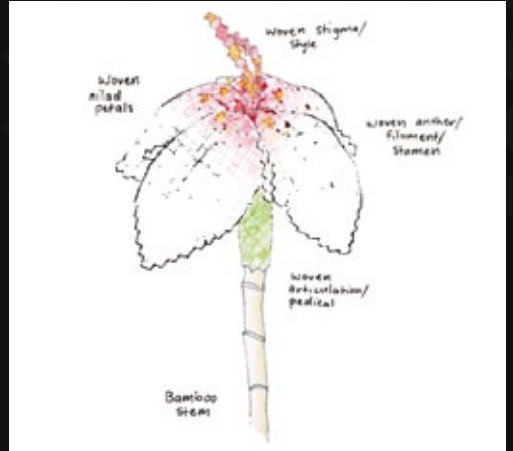


# DASMANILA CONCEPT



## RAISING AWARENESS

The *Dasmanila* installation was originally conceived by Omnium's creative team to raise awareness of issues of pollution and degradation caused by everyday discarded garbage. Through its production, this Omnium Outreach Project aims to assist the daily livelihood of women craftworkers and their families from inner-city areas of the Philippines.



## DO YOU KNOW HOW MANILA GOT ITS NAME?

Before urbanisation, the rivers and waterways that now form Manila Bay (Philippines) were adorned with flowering mangrove plants known as Nilads. As a result, the capital city was named May-Nila - a translation meaning 'there are Nilad flowers'.

Unfortunately, due to rapidly increasing urbanisation and pollution, the natural beauty that originally gave the city its name has long since disappeared. The concept of bringing back this beauty by using flowers within the installation originated from textiles students\* at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Sydney.

\*Nilad flower concept: Amanda Smyth and Natika Newing-Stern (COFA, UNSW)

# WOMEN OF DASMARIÑAS



## THE 'DASMA' WOMEN

The *Dasmanila* project involved collaboration with a group of women from Dasmariñas, in Manila, Philippines. For many years, this group of women have been making bags and purses using recycled garbage that they gather, clean and weave by hand. These unique craft objects are then sold by the women to help support their families.



## CRAFT RECOGNITION

The 'Dasma' women initially developed the final flower designs in workshops with UNSW staff in Manila. They then continued to work together from their homes to produce and construct the hundreds of flowers required for the exhibition.

The *Dasmanila* project aims to give the women and their craft greater recognition and in turn a more sustainable future. Additionally, their work contributes to the increasingly global message about the importance of preserving our environment.



# THE SYDNEY EXHIBITION

15 March - 02 May 2011



The *Dasmanila* project was formed by the Omnium Research Group at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW, as their latest Outreach Project that helps creative communities in less fortunate parts of the world. *Dasmanila* is now a travelling exhibition that has made its way from the Ayala Museum in metro Manila, Philippines, to the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Australia.

The exhibition initially aims to give a group of Filipino women artisans from Dasmariñas greater recognition of their unique skills and weaving techniques: however, this international public art project also intends to raise awareness of everyday sustainable living practices that we can all adopt to help eradicate urban pollution in our own countries.

To find out more about Omnium Outreach Projects visit:

<http://omnium.net.au/oop>



COFA  UNSW

Ayala MUSEUM



De La Salle-  
College of Saint Benilde