

*The Muehlenbeckia ladder*, Asaki Kajima

Every living thing on our planet depends on another for survival. Around the world, different species live amongst each other, interact with each other and the environments in which they live in.

Now Losing one species, that might not seem like a lot but because everything is so connected, Actually, it is a big deal.

Over 7,500 of New Zealand's native species are in danger of being lost forever.

Muehlenbeckia Astonii (Shrubby Toroaro) is the one of them, nationally endangered.

The brown colour branches are flexible, the deep root system survives in very dry conditions. There are female or inconstant males (biology bisexual). The native birds and lizards help the pollination. Their self fertilisation viability is less than 5%. They suffer from livestock, rabbits and possums, diseases and non-native grasses.

In 2000 the Department of Conservation published a plan for saving the Shrubby Toroara, its restoration project. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-plants/shrubby-toroaro-recovery-plan.pdf>

The ecosystem is very complex and delicate, if it loses balance, disturbance of genes occurs. All species have evolved to adapt to various environments in their long history. Once extinct, it's impossible for humans to revive them.

As humans, of course we are a part of this.

The Drawing from my curiosity and this exploration, I created the sculpture with Muehlenbeckia astonii (shrubby toroaro).

The form is like a ladder (for survival ) or DNA (otherwise called "twisted ladder"). I describe with that material line (time, continuation), space and balance; which we need to survive. It shows flexibility, complexity and fluidity.