

Linda Hanekom, with Gideon and Life  
Dlamimni

*Kaleidoscope Alchemy*

(2023)

Recycled windshield glass, Perspex, Aluminium, Steel, M1, Stainless Steel, bolts, nuts, OSB board and vermiculite concrete.

Inspired by the entrance to the Science Campus library, in the GJ Gerwel building, this work is about development, gaining insight and vision. Like a book that is taking flight into another dimension, the recycled windshield glass panels form the focus, infusing new life into the old, discarded material.

The changing dynamics of the 26 panels guides the viewer's eyes to multiple directions. Several of the facets contain metals such as steel and lead, which is rich in symbolising alchemical processes of heat and

melting, but more so, of the desire to change mundane 'stuff' and ordinary work rituals into the gold of dreams.

Like the Gerwel library, which will soon be filled with books, data of the sciences and cultural heritage, this artwork speaks of hidden knowledges to be uncovered. It's complex construction of triangles with vertical 'pins', which seem to move through the glass, is layered with abstract patterns of grids upon grids. Detailed planning, calculation and contemplation are hinged and connected like a forest of research.

The composition is intended to bring light into the space – a space that was previously only heavy concrete and a path to-and-from work.

The patterns of light that filter through glass facets onto the concrete suggest a kaleidoscopic place of wonder and imagination. One of the artist's aims is to inspire the viewer to consider the metamorphosis of weighty burdens into renewed perspectives: to develop perceptions that bestows becoming not only 'what' but 'how' we choose to exist to illuminate the way forward.