

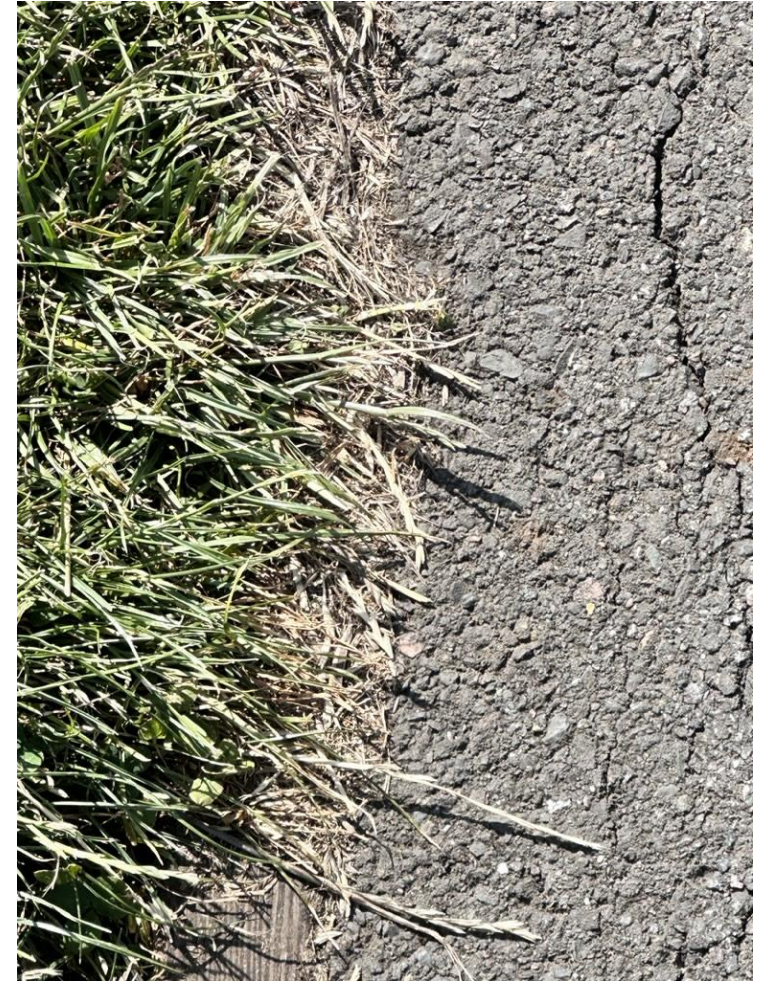
MATERIAL SELECTION

From Concept to Creation

The materials used in this project: **dead grass and wild weeds**; were deliberately chosen to reflect the themes of **natural decay, remembrance, and gentle craftsmanship**. All materials were locally sourced from **Montrose Park and its surrounding urban floral areas**, spaces I personally walk through daily. This not only ties the work to a specific, lived experience but also ensures **low environmental impact** through non-invasive collection methods.

Grass was selected for its **symbolic and structural versatility**. Different species offered varied textures and strengths, making them suitable for both soft needlework and rigid thread making. The act of hand-selecting, washing, and sun-drying each blade further embedded care and respect into the process, transforming discarded plant matter into a tactile archive. Weeds, often seen as undesirable, were recontextualized as sculptural components for a second lamp. Their raw, imperfect forms embody the **beauty of the overlooked**, while their ephemeral quality challenges traditional ideas of permanence in design.

This material choice foregrounds a **non-extractive relationship with nature**, favouring **use of what already exists**, what has been **forgotten or discarded**. It aligns with **slow design values**, sustainability, and **emotional durability**; principles essential for a future-facing design practice. The result is not just a product, but a personal and ecological tribute: a luminous reminder of fragility, resilience, and the quiet power of what we leave behind.



Why ?

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Field-grown plant resembling wild grass, discovered in an open patch near Montrose Park.

Its fine texture and dried structure made it suitable for thread experimentation



Tall wild grasses growing freely along flowerbeds near my residential zone. These were selected for their flexibility and length, ideal for weaving and hand-stitching.



Weeds found within an unmanaged floral zone. Although invasive, their structural delicacy and visual presence contribute to the narrative of overlooked natural elements.

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Assorted grass types collected from different natural environments. Each sample displays slight variation in fibre thickness, tone, and drying behavior.



Blades with higher durability, selected for their potential structural integrity in stitching and support applications.

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Selection process:

Grass blades were examined and chosen based on tensile strength and flexibility — only blades that could bend without cracking were retained.



Sanitizing step:

The grass was washed in clean water to remove surface dirt, insects, and organic residue, ensuring stability and hygiene.



Natural drying:

The grass was sun-dried to preserve its colour and structure, enhancing both its longevity and aesthetic quality.

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Wild weeds sourced from the sidewalk margins — often neglected but symbolically rich in their resilience and survival instinct.



Close-up of the chosen weed prior to collection.



Washing the weed to remove soil, ensuring clean interaction between plant and lamp base during attachment



Dried specimen after preparation