



Claire Beausein

From Broome to Basel by Liz Janney/Claire Beausein

In 2012 Broome artist Claire Beausein decided to branch out and further develop her skills and knowledge with an excursion to one of the culture centres of Europe. Basel, Switzerland is on the border of France and Germany and here Beausein took up residency at the Natural History Museum. Basel is also the paper capital of Switzerland so she was well poised to make best advantage of her four-month residency.

"From Broome to Basel is a long way both physically and psychologically, I was really out of my comfort zone. There was certainly quite a bit of struggle but also lots of adventure and gaining of knowledge that will always be with me," she muses.

At the Natural History Museum Beausein worked with Scientists and some of the millions of specimens held in the Museum's 'Archives of Life' collection. Inspired by the collection she presented an exhibition of her artworks 'Still Life' which was hosted by the Museum.

Beausein also had the opportunity to work with the Basel Paper Mill, learning more about the science of papermaking. Exploring new techniques has broadened Beausein's repertoire and the resulting works with paper are freeform and textural. Featured in the exhibition 'Still Life' are the 'Shadow Reef' series, a reflection on the demise of Coral Reefs.

"As an Australian artist I decided to draw attention to the destruction of Coral Reefs brought about by many factors including pollution and global warming. This issue has wide ranging consequences and I felt it would be interesting to work with this theme in a landlocked country where people may not ordinarily think too much about it."

Claire lives in Broome and she encourage people to visit her Studio that has been purpose built as part of her residence. Call Claire on **9192 6248 or 0404 258 603** www.clairebeausein.com.au