

FINDING BURIED LIGHT

A CHAT WITH BERNADETTE BOSCACCI & ROBYN SWEENEY

'The best indicator of change and teacher of creativity is nature'



Bernadette Boscacci, *Hot Burn - Habitat*, 2011, charcoal, pastel, monoprint on paper, 49 x 70cm

As artists who have collaborated and exhibited together for over 11 years, Bernadette and Robyn have a very strong connection and share very similar philosophies about their natural and social environment, which they both include in their art practices.

Their latest collaboration, *Buried Light*, an exhibition at Umbrella Studio (21 January–27 February), reflects this and has been developed over the past year through ongoing discussions about the weather, their environment and their relationships to it.

With Robyn working from her studio in Charters Towers and Bernadette in Townsville, they travelled regularly between their two homes discussing their work, sharing ideas, stories and insights, and exploring the surrounding country.

'Robyn and I are keen observers in different ways and together we can see a bigger picture, explicitly or otherwise. We are compelled to offer our perspectives in our work', said Bernadette.

Creating the works in this exhibition became an introduction to a very

different way of thinking for Robyn, enabling her to express a deeper connection with her environment without being undermined by the didactic, and allowing the viewer to interpret the work.

'It is certainly gratifying for me that the environmental concerns behind my practice have not been "submerged" by my very recent move away from a bit of surrealism to a newly found liberator abstraction', said Robyn.

The environment has had an unexpected impact on this exhibition. During their final preparations for the exhibition launch the pair discovered that frames made specifically for the exhibition had been lost in transit during the Queensland floods. Then, on the eve of Cyclone Yasi, the Umbrella Studio team rallied around to ensure that all works would be safe and secure.

'I've learnt that the best indicator of change and teacher of creativity is nature and I think we must find a balance with, and pay due respect to nature, in all its beauty and its horrors, in fair weather and foul', said Bernadette.



Robyn Sweeney, *Oil on water - wake*, 2010, Acrylics, silver leaf, graphite, shellac on canvas