

# CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY COLLECTION RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Jorg Schmeisser

*Rosedale Beach 2002*

*Donated by the artist Jorg Schmeisser, 2009*



CAIRNS  
REGIONAL  
GALLERY

Jorg Schmeisser was born in Germany in 1942 commencing art studies at the Hamburg Fine Art Academy in 1962. He graduated as an art teacher and became an assistant to Paul Wunderlich, a well-respected German artist/art educator before a scholarship took him to Japan to teach [from 1969-72]. He later returned to Hamburg where he taught from 1972-73. In 1965, a potent early influence began with Schmeisser first extensive trip – through the Middle East from Egypt to Syria, to Lebanon, to Jordan and to Israel. His interest in archaeology led him to join an excavation team from the University of Missouri as a recorder of new-found artefacts. By drawing for archaeological surveys Schmeisser disciplined his art, forcing himself to record forms and profiles objectively, without artistic reinterpretation..

Since 1976 Schmeisser has held a vast number of exhibitions and academic posts through the world. His detailed etchings, meticulous in their execution, testify to the thoroughness of his training, talents and observations. Schmeisser has held over 130 solo exhibitions between 1969 and 2006 in Japan, US, Europe and Australia.

During 2004 discussions also took place over the potential development of a print-based exhibition focusing on the etching works of Jorg Schmeisser, which, after further discussion was later scheduled into the forward program for 2007. With printmaking being such a versatile medium adopted quite heavily throughout the region, it was vital to explore this option. A trip throughout the region a several years before [during the 1980] was to be Schmeisser's first experience with the humid environment of Far North Queensland, a region he found fascinating particularly the rustic heritage of inland townships like Mareeba, Herberton and Chillagoe and the vast landscapes that the region offered from mountainous ranges with hidden waterfalls to the meandering waterways of Cape York Peninsula. One particular focus of this time in the North was the documentation of the Sugar Cane Season [with emphasis on burn-off time].

The exhibition developed for Cairns Regional Gallery *Elsewhere: A Journal of Etchings* by Jorg Schmeisser in 2007, highlighted a selection of works, which were produced at different times and in different places since the artist commenced printmaking and teaching 36 years ago. The exhibition played on the notion of travel, a concept hidden deep within the roots of Far North Queensland's itinerant social environment, having played host to many domestic and international travellers alike since settlement. Places covered included the urban sprawl and fascinating architecture of Venice and Hamburg, the haunting remains of Angkor, the icy vastness of the Antarctic, and travels throughout Australia [including Far North Queensland, Arnhem Land, the Snowy Mountains, and the Kimberley's].

*Rosedale Beach, 2002* is a hard-ground etching that retains the detail and intricacy of any of Schmeisser's printwork to-date. Similar in composition and colouration to his larger diary prints, particularly *Diary and Shells* [1978], *Rosedale Beach* symbolises the artist's experience with coastal Australia.

This etching will make a great addition to the Gallery's growing collection of prints and will sit alongside works such as Sidney Nolan's *Sea Anemone* [1948], a number of etching prints by Ron McBurnie as well as others. The Gallery currently holds one work in the Collection by Jorg Schmeisser titled *Starfish, 1994*.



Jorg Schmeisser, *Rosedale Beach*, 2002

## GALLERY OPENING HOURS:

10.00am - 5.00pm Monday – Saturday

1.00pm – 5.00pm Sunday and Public Holidays

Gallery admission: Adults \$5.00

Children up to 16 years are free

Cnr Abbott & Shields Sts, Cairns. Tel 4046 4800

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