

The Darwin of the Coral: How Charlie Veron's living collections came to prophesy future reef extinction

A Lecture by Professor Iain McCalman

 AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

6:15–7:30pm, Thursday, October 3rd, 2013

Linder Theater

77th Street entrance, between Central Park West and Columbus Ave

ph: Jenny Newell 212 769 5866 or Jacklyn Lacey 212 769 5888



J.E.N. 'Charlie' Veron, famed coral scientist and discoverer of over a third of the world's corals, clocked up 7,000 hours of diving from the southern temperate to the far northern tropical zones of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Living corals turned out to show startling greater variation than the 'type specimens' held in museum collections, leading Veron to develop a controversial new theory of coral evolution. In the process, he also realised that the world's corals were succumbing to the consequences of climate change.



J.E.N. Charlie Veron

In this lecture, I examine how and why Charlie Veron came to this grim realization and how he seeks to 'open the eyes of the world' through a digital form of 'collecting' that dynamically analyses and displays the state of all the corals of the world. His photographs, databases, websites and a brilliant recent book, *A Reef in Time: The Great Barrier Reef from Beginning to End*, argue that corals provide an early warning system of catastrophic global environmental changes already underway. Our planet's sixth mass extinction beckons.



Iain McCalman

Presented by:

Collecting the Future

Museums, Communities, and Climate Change