

# Fontanille to save the coral reef

As part of the 7th edition of the FITE, the artist Jérémy Gobé joined the Fontanille factory in order to create a monumental work which could possibly save the Great Barrier Reef.

**Par Manuel Cladière.**

Sometime, life reserves some curious coincidences. Who could have imagine that the Puy's embroidery can one day represent a solution to save the Great Barrier Reef ? And yet the project named Coral/Artefact which unit the ancestral knowledge of the Puy's embroidery with sciences could give a new breathe at the oceans oxygen sources which really need it because of the global warming.

**« The mind point identical to a coral cell »**

The project would not have been possible without the plastic artist Jérémy Gobé. This project started when « one day, I found corals at Emmaüs. I took them and I wished to continue the work of the nature by using differents materials », explains Jérémy Gobé. By searching more and more informations about coral, he contacted a lot of scientists in order to be aware about the Great Barrier Reef's problem. « This problem is underestimated, but it's the same as the Amazonian forest ».

Contacted by HS Projets, the artist is now a part of the 7th edition of the Festival International des Textiles Extra ordinaires (FITE). Its aim is to boost the ideas exchange and knowledge between art and industry. In order to make a monumental work, he get in touch with the Scop Fontanille. It's at this moment that the project took another dimension. « When I visited the Scop, I discovered the mind point in embroidery. With scientists, we realized that it was identical to a coral cell ».

The project Coral/Artefact was fully born with 2 main goals : the creation of a monumental work of 25m x 15m so that will « sensitize the public about coral's problem », and laboratory research to develop an embroidery capable to help to settle a coral colony. « Currently, we can give life to coral but it can not be fixed on the coral reef », explains Jérémy Gobé. The mind point « is perfect. It's perforate with a little relief. Corals could be fixed on it and grow, live. A lot of things show that our institution is fair », hopes the plastic artist.

But there is not only the mind point : 4 other coral's patterns are recurrent. The project is to realize the mind point and the four other patterns thanks to the Scop Fontanille 's embroidery with a thread which is reducing in the water and realize tests in order to see if corals combine and develop on this base. « It's kind of an evidence with the mind point. The substance is very favorable to a work on coral. We were not able to find out the good technique. Now I think we got it ».

Seduced by the idea, Scop Fontanille does not hesitate to join the project. A machine is only consecrated to the creation work. Supported by the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the creation's work is totally financed by the DRAC to the height of 10,000€. « The main purpose is to find other way to get money in order to make tests and see if the coral can live on the embroidery », clarify Jérémy Gobé.

**« It's kind of an evidence with the mind point »**

Coral/Artefact proves to be an important project. In order to make its creation easier, engineers decided to intervene for free and Scop Fontanille accepts to reduce its costs of 20%. Hope is now allowed thanks to this association of art and ancestral knowledge.

### **The monumental work will be exposed in Clermont-Ferrand and Paris**

Jérémy Gobé's laced coral, realized by Scop Fontanille will be presented as part of the FITE next september.

During several months, Jérémy Gobé will be inside Scop Fontanille to realize his monumental work. This work will be exposed at the museum Bargoin in Clermont-Ferrand from september 18th to decembre 31st, as part of the FITE and beyond. Artificial coral will integrate an exhibition room and will reach the outside of the museum and the Ballainvillier street. Laboratory's researches made until this point to save the coral will also be presented to the public.

But Jérémy Gobé's work will not be the only one to be exposed to the spotlights. From 26th june to 18 of september, the clermontois museum will present some historical samples of Fontanille's lace. « 150 years of samples will be exposed » smiles Rolland Arnaud, CEO of Fontanille. The company had already participate to the FITE. But this time : « Jérémy's project is more complicated. The material needed is more wide than the one we usually make. Through this project, we hope to make us known. It's a pride to be a part of this project », he says.

### **Road to Paris :**

After this clermontoise step, Jérémy Gobé's coral will join the aquarium located at la Porte dorée in Paris. It will allow him to sensitize more people about the coral preservation.

Traduit du français à l'anglais à partir de l'article de Manuel Cladière, paru dans l'Eveil de la Haute-Loire.