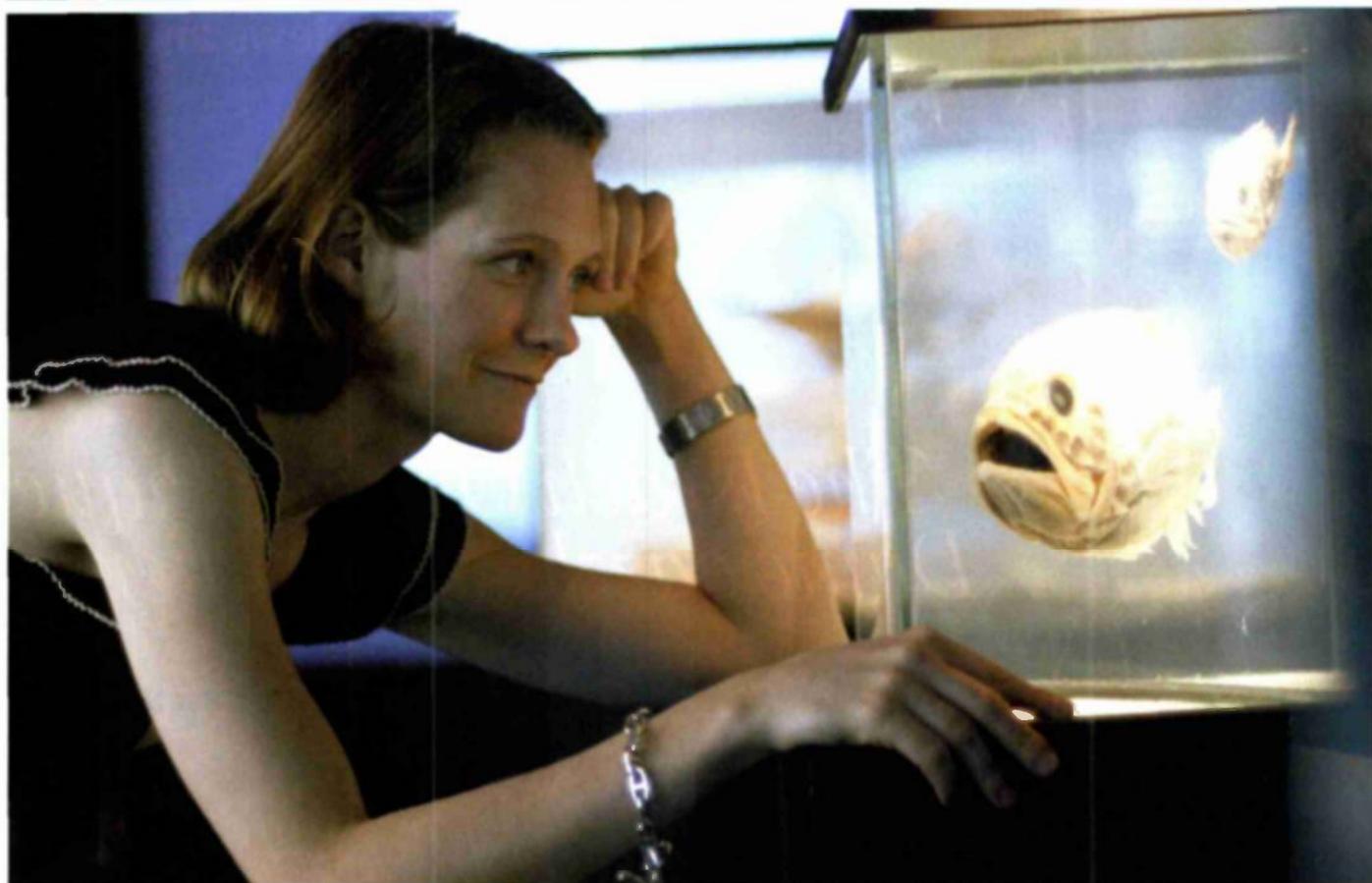


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Around Town

Under the sea



Seeing eye to eye: curator Claire Nouvian at *The Deep*

Bloomfield Science Museum's exhibit, **The Deep**, reveals the magnificence of undersea fauna. *Noa Rivlin* dives into the display, which is as astounding as it is educational

Just in time for summer, beachless Jerusalem is getting its own view of the sea. Specifically, the nearly bottomless pit of the sea – something like 10,000 meters deep – which unfolds in all its magnificence in "The Deep", an exhibit currently on display at the Bloomfield Science Museum. The exhibit, brought from the Natural History Museum in Paris, and opened here on the very same day it launched in London's Natural History Museum, generates a chilled, dark and hushed retreat away from the bustle, heat and blazing summer light of Jerusalem.

Sprawling across the museum's third floor, the exhibit is set in secluded darkness, dotted with shiny displays of marine life. Hundreds of underwater creatures glisten in the darkness as a delightful soundtrack,

Hundreds of marine creatures glisten in the darkness as a delightful soundtrack, composed especially for the exhibit, plays in the background – creating a unique experience

composed especially for the exhibit, plays in the background – creating a unique experience. The intricate display includes hundreds of super-sized visuals of fish, medusas and other curious sea inhabitants, divided

into various levels of natural-living depth, in an eye-boggling magnitude of colors and shapes. In "The Deep", blown-up proportions apply to the tiniest of sea creatures; at the entrance, guests are outfitted with a small

magnifying glass, with which you can scrutinize teeny-tiny fauna. On top of large-scale photos, aquariums brimming with large and small fish – all taxidermies, unfortunately – add a closer-to-real touch.

"The Deep" was curated by journalist, producer, filmmaker and undersea fauna-enthusiast, Claire Nouvian, who compiled a mesmerizing collection of photographs of deep-sea animals, primarily from American oceanographic research institutions. Nouvian first compiled her collection into a book, which was then translated into this internationally acclaimed exhibit.

While "The Deep" is a pleasure for kids, it's an equally refreshing experience for adults. All the photos and aquariums are fitted with thorough explanations – in English, Hebrew and Arabic – allowing for schoolchildren, their parents and – yes, even childless grown-ups – to explore this magnificent world, making this spectacle equally attractive and educational.

Bloomfield Science Museum
The Hebrew University, Givat Ram, Jerusalem (02-654-4888), www.mada.org.il. Mon-Thu 10:00-18:00, Fri 10:00-14:00, Sat 10:00-16:00, Sun closed. "The Deep" is on view through Aug 31