



Image credit: Mark Dion, *Fisheries* (2016) © Simon Vogel

OPEN CALL

COAL PRIZE 2022 - OCEANS

CALL FOR ENTRIES OPEN TILL 1ST MARCH 2022

A landscape without a stable character or limit, in perpetual movement, a place where everything changes yet where nothing really changes, both quite concrete and almost abstract, the ocean seems to overflow its geographical definition to designate a sensitive, deeply intimate experience yet widely shared. An experience that conjures up what Romain Rolland called “oceanic feeling”, this emotion which annihilates temporality and space, and which immerses us in a great whole.

This feeling of being just a wave in a limitless ocean is more than ever exacerbated by the ecological context, the issues of which are still often beyond our perception and transcend our human scales of space and time. Among these imperceptible phenomena that are well underway, **the transformation of the oceans in the face of climate change and the collapse of biodiversity** constitutes a real challenge both for taking action and for raising awareness of sometimes elusive processes. Warming of the oceans, rising water levels, acidification and deoxygenation of the seas, overexploitation of fishery resources, plastic pollution, degradation of marine habitats, proliferation

of invasive species ... The ocean is succumbing to multiple threats.

The ocean is, however, the basis of the global phenomena that makes our planet habitable. It regulates the water cycle, weather movements, and stabilizes the climate by absorbing more than half of humanity's CO2 emissions. It constitutes the largest ecosystem on the planet, so vast that it covers three quarters of the Earth's surface, so deep that it contains 97% of the available water and 99% of the living spaces on earth by volume, home to a unique flora and fauna, in the very place where life first emerged.

Cradle of organic life, it is also that of economic and commercial life, sheltering the majority of humans in its coastal areas and supporting three billion of them, who depend directly on marine biodiversity to meet their needs. **The sharing of its resources and its spaces has made the ocean a major diplomatic and geopolitical issue,** which connects humans as much as it opposes them: between international cooperation and naval

battles, both a reservoir of solutions for the future (energy, materials, etc.) and limitless site of exploitation (extractions, nuclear tests, etc.), the cornerstone of free trade, crisscrossed on all sides and yet still so little known since we have explored less than 5% of its extent.

It is precisely its mystery that fascinates, cultural heritage as much as natural and breeding ground for the imagination, below and beyond the surface and the horizon, where the world begins and where the earth ends, where our mythologies take root, from floating worlds to submerged cities, where the journey begins and where exile ends, in the heart of island worlds and with fantasized sea creatures, where the world of yesterday and that of tomorrow is emerging, whether it was before the flood or after the apocalypse.

The ocean is our geographic, dreamlike and political horizon. While the United Nations proclaimed the Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, **the COAL Prize 2022 invites artists from around the world** to explore these submerged universes to make them accessible to as many people as possible; to reveal what is playing out in the belly of the ocean, from its abyss twenty thousand leagues under the sea to its surface, to give to see and feel what is still unknown; and to imagine new concrete actions to rekindle resilience with the water worlds.

Created in 2010 by the COAL association, the COAL Prize has in ten years become a vehicle for the identification, promotion and dissemination of artists all over the world who dare to imagine and experiment, to transform territories, lifestyles, organizations and production methods. Together, they contribute to making changes visible, in building a new collective narrative, a new imaginary world, a common heritage, a positive, optimistic and necessary framework, to help everyone find the means and the motivation to implement necessary changes for a shared and livable Earth.

The COAL - Culture & Diversity Student Prize, launched in 2019 by COAL and the Culture & Diversity Foundation is open to the students of French arts and culture schools.

[> Click here to see the Student Prize open call](#)

CALENDAR

Launch of open call: 1st December 2021

Application deadline: 1st March 2022

Award ceremony: 8th June 2022

ABOUT THE PRIZE

Every year, ten projects are shortlisted by a committee of professionals among the projects received through the international open call. One winning project will be chosen by a jury composed of representatives of partner organizations and personalities in art and ecology.

In addition, all applications considered by COAL and the selection committee will become part of a network of artists and projects may be solicited or promoted for opportunities and actions carried out by COAL and its partners.

JURY 2022

Bruno David, President of the National Museum of Natural History

Mark Dion, Artist

Catherine Dobler, Founder of the L'Accolade Foundation

Marc Feldman, General Administrator of the Orchestre National de Bretagne

Christine Germain-Donnat, Director of the Museum of Hunting and Nature

Hélène Guenin, Director of MAMAC, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nice

Elsa Guillaume, Artist, Winner of the 2015 Ocean COAL Prize

Olivier Lerude, Senior Official for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Culture

Léo Marin, Director of Galerie Eric Mouchet and Curator of The Possible Island

Anne-Marie Melster, Co-founder and Managing Director of ARTPORT_making waves

Charlotte Meunier, President of the Nature Reserves of France

Romain Troublé, Managing Director of the Tara Océan Foundation.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Raphaël Abrille, Secretary-general of the Museum of Hunting and Nature ; **Loïc Fel**, Co-founder of COAL, doctor of philosophy specialized in ecology and aesthetics ; **Lauranne Germond**, Co-founder of COAL and exhibition curator ; **Boris Masseron**, Surfrider Foundation ; **Clément Willemin**, co-founder of COAL and landscaper ; **Christopher Yggdre**, artistic director of the L'Accolade Foundation ; A representative of the **Ministry of Culture**.

CRITERIA

Applicants will be judged on the following criteria: artistic value, relevance (understanding of the theme - OCEANS), originality (the ability to introduce new approaches, themes, and points of view), pedagogy (ability to get a message across and raise awareness), social and participative approaches (engagement, testimony,

efficiency, societal dynamics), eco-design and feasibility. The COAL Prize supports artistic projects in progress. Its award is not intended to cover all production costs of the project but should be considered as an aid to its development.

PARTNERS 2021

The COAL Prize is supported by the European Union through the ACT – Art Climate Transition network, the Ministry of Ecology, the Ministry of Culture, the Museum of Hunting and Nature, the François Sommer Foundation, the L'Accolade Foundation and the National Orchestra of Brittany.

The François Sommer Foundation was founded in 1966 by François and Jacqueline Sommer, pioneers in the implementation of a humanist ecology. Faithful to the commitments of its founders, it works towards the respectful use of natural resources, for sharing the wealth of natural, artistic and cultural heritage and for the protection of a biodiversity in which mankind find its proper place.

L'Accolade Foundation's main goal is to support, promote and encourage artistic creation. It pays special attention to creations, approaches, projects, and actions that are carried by artists in connection with the themes of water, the environment, the fragility of the living and feminism. It also aims to enhance and promote the heritage, that is to say the legacy of women who have had historical or artistic importance.

The National Orchestra of Brittany, based in Rennes, aims to move beyond traditional concert venues to explore new musical and artistic territories. In 2022, the ONB is launching the Ponant project, which brings together artists and scientists to raise public awareness through the arts of environmental issues and to sponsor original works related to the ocean and nature.

AWARD

The winner of the COAL Prize will be awarded 10,000 euros and benefits from an (optional) residence run by the Museum of Hunting and Nature at the Belval Domaine, property of the François Sommer Foundation.

The Belval estate is located in the commune of Belval-Bois-des-Dames, in the French Ardennes. It spans an enclosed forested area of nearly 1000 hectares and is traversed by meadows and 40 hectares of ponds. A veritable observatory of rural life and wildlife, each year it welcomes selected artists who contribute to the representation of their vision of Man's relationship to his natural environment. Testament to the Foundation's commitment in supporting contemporary artistic creation, the residency at the Belval estate contributes to the dissemination of the artists' works to a wide audience. The combined knowledge of the scientific

and educational teams of the Museum of Hunting and Nature and those of the Belval estate will also be available as a resource for the artists. We invite you to consult its charter on COALs website.

> [Click here to see the residency charter](#)

APPLICATION

The application should include the following documents in a single PDF saved as SURNAME_Name_2022_Project-title, and not exceeding 30 Mb:

- The completed application form, download it **[HERE](#)**
- A detailed description of the proposed project, describing its artistic dimension, its relevance to the theme OCEANS, including a note on the technical feasibility of the project and a budget estimation
- At least two visuals illustrating the project
- A CV and a portfolio

All applications are to be submitted by March 1st, 2022 at 11:59 pm at the latest via the COAL server: **upload.projetcoal.org**

By entering this competition, applicants expressly authorize the COAL organization and its partners to publish, reproduce and display in public all or part of the elements of their entry for any purpose linked to the promotion and communication of COAL and its partners, via all platforms and media, in all countries, for the legal duration of the copyright if they are nominated. Entries submitted but not selected will remain in the archives of the COAL organization. They will, however, remain the property of their authors. Participation in this open call entails the full acceptance of these conditions.

COAL

COAL, an association created in France in 2008 by professionals of contemporary art, ecology and research, has become the leading French actor in the expanding crossover between art and ecology, most notably through the COAL Prize, international cooperation actions and more than fifty exhibitions and territorial cultural projects.

CONTACT

COAL

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