

# Waves of Change Festival 2023

5-27 August

# GUIDE

Presented by



In collaboration with



# ABOUT THE WAVES OF CHANGE FESTIVAL

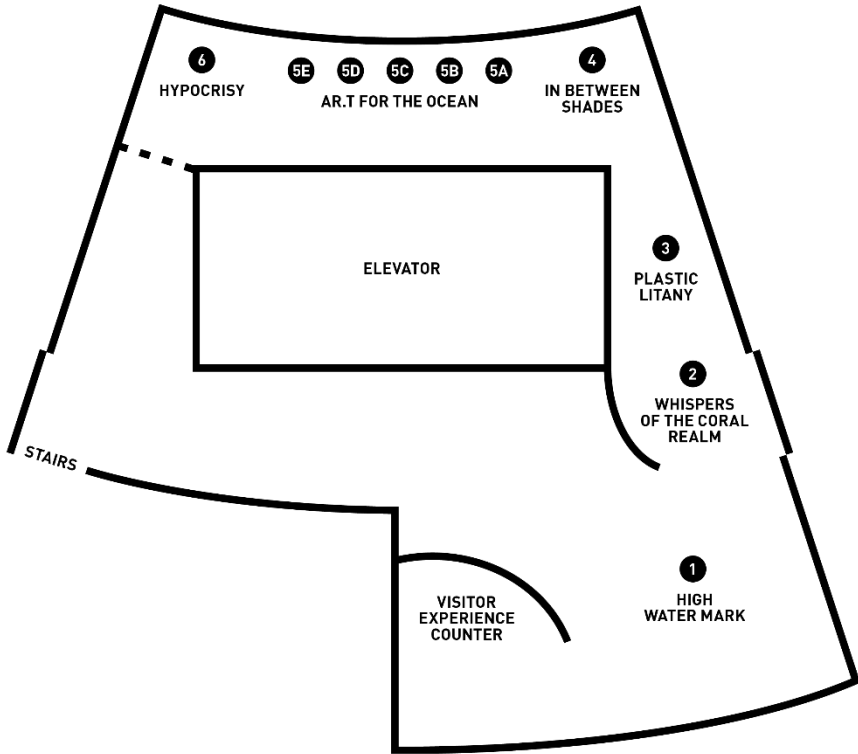
The *Waves of Change Festival* is an annual celebration of the big blue to inspire love, care and action for the ocean! Featuring thought provoking art, a selection of stunning films, and talks by experts in their field, visitors of all ages will enjoy this safe space to learn, reflect and explore opportunities for change. From 5 to 27 August, we invite everyone to join us in finding out more about the ocean's amazing marine life and hearing from inspiring young people working in this space.

## ABOUT THE ARTWORKS

With over 70% of the Earth's surface covered by water, marine ecosystems play a vital role in regulating the planet's climate and atmosphere, absorbing vast amounts of carbon dioxide, and producing oxygen that sustains life on land. Today, this world is under threat from human activities that mar its beauty and disturb the balance of the oceans we depend on.

*Waves of Change Festival 2023* presents the work of artists and ocean lovers, ranging from sculptures and augmented reality art, to audio experiences and interactive multimedia works that highlight the tension between human progress and ocean protection. The artists juxtapose vibrant depictions of marine life against the blight that plastic pollution and climate change have caused. By confronting us with the man-made challenges the ocean faces, these artworks encourage us to consider what we can do as individuals to protect and save this planet that we call home.

# GALLERY MAP



1. **Hamish Betts**, *High Water Mark*, 2023
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**Hamish Betts (b. 1975)**

*High Water Mark*

2023

Kayak, Fibreglass, Plastic, Wires

*High Water Mark* is a large-scale whale sculpture with the Singapore skyline resting on its back. On closer inspection it becomes apparent that the whale's belly and the entire cityscape are sculpted from single use plastics and other materials reclaimed from marine, household and commercial waste. By repurposing non-biodegradable waste materials to form an ever-growing city weighing upon the whale, this sculpture reflects the vulnerability of the symbiotic relationship between human progress and the environment, exploring the tension that exists between waste, upcycling and humanity's impact on the planet.



## **StarD Studio**

*Whispers of the Coral Realm*

2023

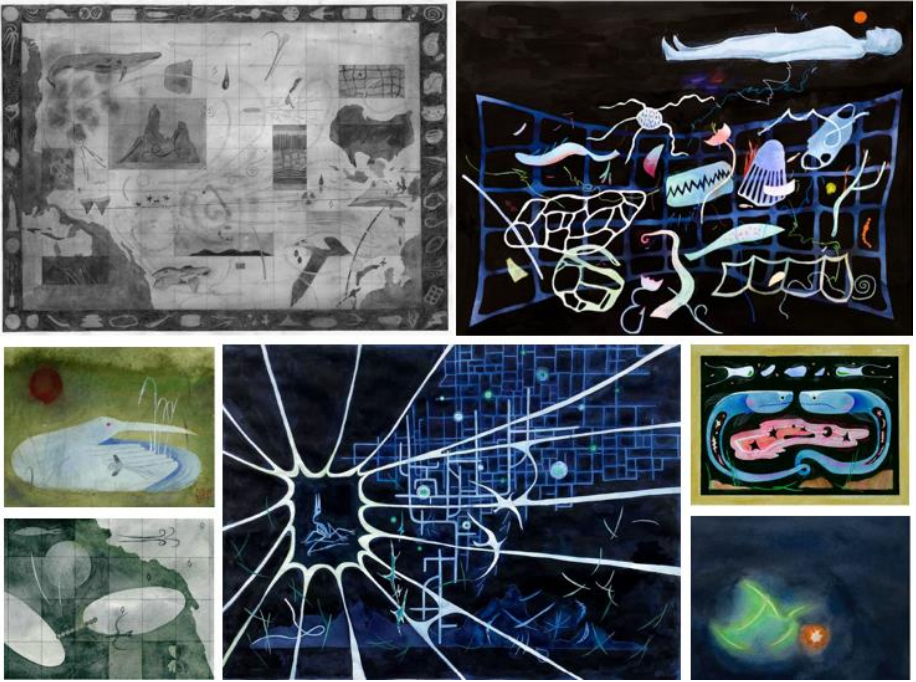
Projection, plinth made of plastic chips

Audiovisual 1min 30sec

*Whispers of the Coral Realm* features a vibrant data-generated projection and audioscape that captures the dynamic sounds and pulsing vitality of life underwater through an interplay of light, colour and form. In stark contrast, this life-filled experience stands beside a plinth made of non-biodegradable plastic waste – waste that threatens to silence the ocean’s reefs.

While celebrating seas full of life, this artwork marks a moment in time where the ocean is facing the serious consequences of plastic pollution and calls on viewers to take action to protect and preserve marine environments before we are faced with silent seas.

Audio courtesy of Dr. Timothy A C Lamont, Maine Biologist at Lancaster Environment Centre



**Sun Woo Yoon (b. 2001)**

*Plastic Litany*

2023

Watercolour, ink, graphite, print on photo rag paper

*Plastic Litany* is a set of 7 prints that explore maps, diagrams and glimpses of marine life among plastic. These paintings mythologise the ocean we live alongside today, offering a new perspective on the documentation and storytelling of the current state of the seas through its depictions of mutated fish, bioaccumulation in sea birds, odd kinships between plastics and organic matter and more.

Accompanying the paintings is a limited-edition zine that invites readers to continue reflecting on the themes of *Plastic Litany* and prompts them to rethink their personal relationship with the ocean and its many inhabitants.



**Ho Yi Dan (b. 1999)**

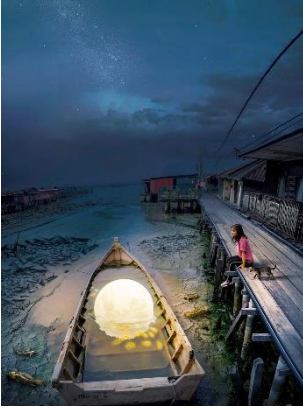
*In Between Shades*

2023

Monitor, 3D printed plastic, servo motors, beads, Leap Motion Controller

*In Between Shades* is an interactive sculpture that confronts us with the reality of the decline of coral reefs due to the impacts of climate change. Using 3D printed corals lit from below by a screen, this artwork evokes a pale, unhealthy reef that has undergone coral bleaching – a process where corals lose their vibrant colours as they expel the algae living in their tissues. It reflects the current state of our climate crisis – at risk, but still reversible.

By hovering your hand on the sensor in front of the artwork, you can revive the corals momentarily. This symbolic act shows how corals can recover from the bleaching process with human intervention and highlights the importance of individual action in safeguarding the ocean's delicate ecosystems.



## AR.T for the Ocean

*AR.T for the Ocean* features prints of five award-winning augmented reality artworks from an open call by non-profit organisation The MeshMinds Foundation and ocean advocacy community Coastal Natives for World Oceans Day 2023. Using the Artive AR platform, artists from the Asia Pacific region were invited to create digital artworks that highlight the importance and beauty of the ocean to inspire and catalyse positive action for the planet.

For the best viewing experience, scan the artworks using the free Artive app which can be downloaded from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) on your smartphone.





**YongL (b. 1995)**

*What if the Ocean Vanished?*

2023

Originally a photograph taken at Penang Island during low tide, the work has been edited to transform it into an evening scene that invites viewers to consider the consequences of neglecting the planet's most precious resource. The artwork portrays a dried-up ocean leaving behind a barren and desolate landscape, with dying fish serving as a stark reminder of the fragile balance that is upheld by marine ecosystems. With the moon's connection to the tides symbolising its interdependence with nature, the wooden boat carries the surviving marine life, while the moon represents a last hope to save what remains of the ocean.



**Hello Jayne (b. 1992)**

*The Silence*

2023

*The Silence* is a powerful reminder of what we stand to lose. Showcasing the gradual and devastating effects of climate change and plastic pollution on marine life and coral reefs, the artwork serves as a poignant reminder of the immediate action required by us to protect the ocean and preserve its beauty and diversity for future generations.



**Jamela Law (b. 1992)**

*Stranger of the Sea*

2023

*Stranger of the Sea* draws inspiration from *L'Inconnue de la Seine* (The Stranger of the Seine), a death mask of an unknown young woman which was cast in white plaster and sold across Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In this artwork, the ocean's beauty is depicted through the death mask of a sea goddess, composed of various marine animal skeletons and coral reefs, ironically highlighting the ecosystem's fragility.

The skeletons act as *memento mori* for endangered marine species threatened by human activities such as overfishing and pollution. Their carefully arranged layout is the artist's way of honouring their memory and keeping their spirits close to our hearts and minds.



**Roger Ng Wei Lun (b. 2001)**

*Once Upon a Time Under the Sea*

2023

*Once Upon a Time Under the Sea* depicts a speculative tale of an underwater guardian responsible for creating all of nature's fishes. On the surface, it highlights the natural beauty of the ocean and its once-vibrant marine life, but once the augmented reality overlay is activated, it reveals how the ocean has been destroyed by human intervention through overfishing, pollution and unsustainable marine tourism. The artwork aims to provoke a re-evaluation of humanity's tendency to control and exploit the fragile natural world.



**Reem Chalak (b. 2000)**

*Madness Behind The Beauty*

2023

*Madness Behind The Beauty* showcases a stunning underwater world and its inhabitants surrounding a beautiful mermaid who seems to hold the secrets of the ocean. Once the augmented reality overlay is activated, however, it shows the scene taking a dramatic turn as pollution invades the ocean, tainting its enchanting beauty as plastic bags, water bottles and other debris contaminate the sea, making it a struggle for marine life to survive.



**Sofiya Shukhova (b. 1993)**

*Hypocrisy*

2023

Wooden masks, paint, discarded fishing gear

Assembled from masks made by Balinese mask-makers and abandoned fishing gear, this smiling face hides a litany of plastic beneath. This sculpture asks us to question what our actions will leave behind for future generations.

*Hypocrisy* is a reminder of the continued loss of our cultural and natural heritage through gentrification and the by-products created by our unstoppable desire for consumption. Both a warning and call to action, the artwork compels us to re-evaluate the choices we make and the roles we play in actively addressing significant environmental issues.

Special thanks to Kharisma Purbo for their support in the creation of *Hypocrisy*

# FESTIVAL PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS AT ARTSCIENCE CINEMA

## AUDIO EXPERIENCE

### **Blind Diving: Barracuda Point**

4.15pm daily from 7 – 25 August 2023 | Free Admission

Originally created for individuals with vision loss, *Blind Diving* is an immersive audio adventure created by Singapore audio communication studio Artwave in collaboration with the ocean advocacy community Coastal Natives. Inspired by the true account of a diver, this audio experience sets out to explore Barracuda Point in Sipadan – Malaysia's only oceanic island – and to dive with thousands of barracudas.

## FILM SCREENINGS

Daily, 7 – 25 August 2023 | Free Admission

*Waves of Change Festival 2023* showcases 9 feature films and 8 short films from children's classic *Finding Nemo* to the latest environmental films like *Deep Rising* narrated by Jason Momoa. Join us in ArtScience Cinema to learn about the ocean, the crises it faces, and find out how we can protect it.

## TALKS

Opening Weekend: 5 – 6 August 2023

Closing Weekend: 26 – 27 August 2023

Free Admission with Registration | [Click here to register](#)

Hear from Singapore-based marine conservationists and inspiring young people working to advocate for and protect the oceans through 15 talks across the opening and closing weekends of the *Waves of Change Festival*.

Find out more about the *Waves of Change Festival 2023* programmes [here](#).