

## LESSON 1 | OUR OCEAN

*Wherever you live, your future depends on the Ocean and the future of the Ocean depends on you*

Hi everyone, my name is Anne de Carbuccia and very often people describe me as an environmental artist. Probably because I try as much as possible, through my art, to give a voice to our planet, which right now badly needs it!

I've been traveling the world for a very long time documenting the extraordinary diversity of our planet but also pointing out what we are losing and unfortunately what we have already lost. It's been quite an adventure and an incredible experience. Sometimes it's been sad, but it's always been worth it.

I'm from Corsica which is an island in the Mediterranean, so I've always been very close to the Ocean and I've seen with my own eyes how much it has changed over the years. It's actually pretty dramatic and shocking and that's why I decided to make this short documentary One Ocean to actually show people not only what is happening but also how much our life depends on the Ocean and especially how much the Ocean's future depends on us.

Before you watch the film, I am going to talk to you about some of the stories behind the images you will see and the messages they carry for the Ocean....

One of my main projects over the past years has been this series that I call TimeShrines. I've been creating installations all over the planet mostly in nature and I always integrate two symbols within the installation.

An hourglass like this one, it's one of our most ancient ways of calculating time....and this... is my other symbol: most people call it a skull...right...but actually its ancient name is Vanity. A vanity is a very very very ancient symbol ...artists have actually used it for hundreds and hundreds of years ...and you may be surprised to find out that it's not a symbol of death, it's more of a symbol of choice.....It's here to remind us that yes of course we all are mortal but each and every one of us has a choice every day in our lives .. we can choose between having a productive and positive life or having a superficial and vain life and that choice whoever we are, wherever we come from ... no one can take that away from us. That choice only belongs to us.

A lot of the footage you will see in the film was made during the TimeShrine project and one of the main scopes of this body of work is to show how everything is connected or interconnected. How there is a ripple effect in every action we take. That's why I called the film One Ocean, because it's one big Ocean really not several Oceans and actually if you throw a bottle in the Ocean on one side of the planet it will end up on the other side of the world. So, even though the Ocean is huge and some of you may have actually never seen it .....it is fragile... and we are affecting it. But if we understood it better, we could fix it and that's why I want to tell you a little bit more about our Ocean and how Humanities wellbeing really depends on a healthy Ocean.

## LIWA, DUSK | RUB' AL KAHLI

You may be a little surprised by this first image which is so distant from the Ocean....

I created this installation in the desert of Rub'al Kali in the Middle east. We used to call it the empty Quarter and it connects 4 different countries Saudi Arabia, The Emirates, Oman, and Yemen. In all my installations I try and portray the duality of the era we are living in. Which is so complex. The first impression you may get from this picture is the extraordinary beauty of the Desert. It's such a romantic location, so many artists before me have depicted it. Our sand Ocean, a legendary place...and yet today desertification is one of our biggest challenges. Scientific Research says that 2 billion people already experience high water stress, and it is estimated that by 2040 one in four of the world's children under 18 will be living in an area of extreme high water stress. That's 600 million children...My own symbolic way of showing you this is with the very large bone that is kind of protecting the installation. I found it in the middle of the desert, it's a camel pelvis but in a way, it almost looks like angel wings....

So, what does this image have to do with the Ocean? Well, most of the rain that our planet receives originates from the evaporation of Ocean water. That's what creates a lot of our clouds. So, our climate and where and when rain falls depends on a healthy Ocean. Basically, without ocean water Earth would just be another lifeless planet.

The Ocean is also our greatest ally as it absorbs a lot more of our Carbon dioxide than it releases. It's probably our most important CO2 deposit and as you may know that's the biggest cause of global warming and its terrible consequences.

So, in more than one way the Ocean is what makes the Earth habitable. As we just saw it's an important water resource and believe it or not 50 to 80% of our planet's oxygen is produced by the Ocean. Isn't it incredible? That's basically every second breath you take! The Ocean is really what maintains the best conditions for life on earth and it is believed that the most ancient life on earth started in the Ocean. In a way the Ocean is where we all come from.

## PREGNANT BULL SHARKS | MEXICO

This is my pregnant bull shark installation. They are pretty incredible animals, aren't they? These bull sharks were all females and pregnant. They come back here every year at this specific location in Playa del Carmen, Mexico to get ready and give birth in the neighboring mangroves. That's how I was able to know that they would be there...It' was one of the most incredible experiences I ever had, those sharks are huge and are sentient beings, they can actually sense your heartbeat form very far way. They can get a sense of how you feel before they actually see you. And they are very curious. They definitely had never seen anybody creating an installation under water and that's how I got this image because they came very very close to see what I was doing.

Sharks have existed for over 450 million years at least; they are a very ancient species. And as we know now the most ancient form of life on earth almost certainly comes from the Ocean and that explains why there is such an important biodiversity in the Ocean. Actually, it hosts 80% of our planet's biodiversity. Today a lot of these species from the biggest to the smallest are at risk of extinction because of overfishing, climate change, invasive species and pollution. Just to give you an example an average of 190 of our beautiful sharks, those perfect animals, are killed every minute... for the simple reason that some of us humans want to eat their fins....

## LADY | WEST PAPUA

When I discovered this place in the Indonesian Part of the Coral Triangle it looked like a Mermaid Garden! I couldn't believe my eyes. The Ocean definitely makes us dream. It has inspired so many of our cultures....and it certainly inspires me! My mermaid garden was not very deep but the currents were really strong. It was actually quite difficult to get this shot because I kept on flying over the installation. I was pushed constantly by the currents. But this was such a happy moment for me. I felt a very strong connection to this place. Researchers actually have a name for this, they call it the blue gym effect.

Studies have actually proven that living or being close to the Ocean has a very positive effect on our heart, on our wellbeing, and our health. There is a very strong interconnectivity between Humans and the Ocean. Of course, we depend on the Ocean to feed us, and it provides countless jobs, but it's also where we can find solutions to protect our health. There is so much that still needs to be discovered in the deep sea-floor. The extreme conditions down there permit organisms to develop very specific substances which have already been found and used to develop medicine. I mean to fight really serious illnesses like Cancer or Alzheimer. Lately Scientist have discovered that a certain strain of bacteria found in the deepest of the Ocean floor could help fight pandemics like COVID 19.

## ALSO PLASTIC |ARABIAN SEA

When I encountered this very remote island, I felt like I had arrived at the tip of the planet. I was travelling on a boat in the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman, the closest coast was the Musandam Peninsula. I found all sorts of organic elements to compose my installation. If you look to the left of the image, you can see the skeleton of a strange fish. I had never seen such a developed skeleton for a fish, and it was in really good condition!! To this day I still haven't really figured out what it was. So if anyone of you knows, please let me know. Unfortunately, I also found a lot of plastic on the beach. There is no human life for miles away...it was all very well-traveled plastic...probably arriving from the other side of the planet.

Look at the rock formations as you can see have incredible shapes. They look like pyramids! It really gives you a good idea of how much our coasts and geological structure, the structure of our planet is shaped by the Ocean. Today because of the growing risks of sea level rise we can already observe faster changes on our coasts and in small island States. To the point that some communities have already started to move and have to find new countries to live in.

We often don't realize that 70% of our planet is covered by the Ocean. Actually, one could say our Earth is one big Ocean. What's shocking is that we still don't know much about it.

Us humans have always had this dream of exploring and going to other planets.

And today we probably know more about the Moon or even Mars.

We only have maps of less than 30% of the Ocean floor... all the rest still has to be explored, studied and understood. Can you imagine all the important resources that may still be down there....

It's incredible to think that we just don't know much about what is the defining physical feature of our planet.

So, time to watch One Ocean and get a better sense of how incredible our water world truly is. I hope this film will make you love our Ocean even more and you will join our movement for the Ocean Generation and help us protect our Ocean planet.

Let's remember some important points:

- 1) The Earth only has one big ocean: if you throw a bottle in the ocean on one side of the planet, it will end up on the other side.
- 2) The ocean makes the Earth habitable: without ocean water, Earth would just be another lifeless planet.
- 3) The ocean has a major influence on weather and climate and absorbs a lot of our CO2.
- 4) The ocean has a great diversity of life and ecosystems and hosts 80% of our planet's biodiversity.
- 5) The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected, the ocean is a source of food jobs and medicines for hundreds of millions of people.
- 6) The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of our planet – remember the beautiful rock formations of the Arabian sea.
- 7) Desertification is one of the biggest risks we are running ... because of it every year we lose an area half the size of England.
- 8) Today probably know more about the moon or even mars. We only have maps of less than 30% of the Ocean Floor.

Last message but not less important: let's always remember what the Vanity says: we all have a choice. So, Choose the Ocean!

I hope you enjoyed One Ocean. You can find more information on our project on our website or write to us at this address:

if you want to stay connected, we would love to know more about your views and ideas you can follow us at One Planet One Future both on FB and IG.

Until next time!

