



SOCIAL ART AWARD 2025

PLANETARY HEALING: BLUE TRIBES FOR OCEAN HEALTH

PRESS RELEASE

Blue Futures Symposium I

Dialogues for Ocean Health and Collective Imagination

Berlin, 10.7.2025. Held on **July 9**, the first edition of the *Blue Futures Symposium* brought together artists, researchers, and cultural practitioners to explore the role of social art in planetary healing. Organized by the **Institute for Art and Innovation (IFAI)**, the online gathering was part of the Social Art Award 2025 framework under the theme "*Planetary Healing: Blue Tribes for Ocean Health*."

This 90-minute live dialogue served as a vibrant forum for sharing visionary practices and strategies for ocean stewardship and artistic intervention. It was moderated by **Nicole Loeser**, IFAI Director and **Dr. R. M. Sanchez-Camus**, social artist and director of *Applied Live Art Studio* (London). Both emphasized the arts as vehicles of community-building and systemic change in response to ecological breakdown.

Amber Desprets, designer and futurist based in Dublin, introduced *The Future of Water Awareness Game*, a speculative foresight tool using 112 insight cards to stimulate collective imagination and problem-solving. Desprets, 3rd prize winner of the Social Art Award 2025, emphasized how interactive formats can foster environmental literacy and emotional engagement with ocean futures. The game will be released in seven languages in 2025.

Anoosh Werner, environmental artist and co-founder of *Aquatopia*, shared her interdisciplinary work at the nexus of water, ritual, and public engagement. She presented *Aquatopia on Tour*, winner of the Social Art Award 2025. It is a performative intervention exploring water as a spiritual and life-giving force, as well as *plapla! plastic and plankton*, a traveling whale sculpture made of plastic waste. Her projects combine education, performance, and environmental activism to encourage new relationships between people and the aquatic world.

Participants also contributed reflections drawn from their practices, e.g. connecting policy work in Ethiopia and India with narrative-based approaches to environmental engagement. Their statements highlighted the necessity of plural voices in the design of sustainable futures.

Together, the speakers outlined the need for a new cultural ecosystem—one that recognizes oceans as living entities, values emotional intelligence, and mobilizes imagination as a strategic tool in planetary care. The symposium affirmed that regeneration begins not only with technical solutions, but with storytelling, collaboration, and artistic courage.

Next Dates:

The next **Blue Futures Symposium II** will be held on **July 16, 2025**, bringing forward new artistic voices and project insights.

The **Social Art Award 2025 publication** will launch in **September 2025**, featuring 100 selected works and a full archive of parallel activities including symposia, exhibitions, and co-creative initiatives under the theme *Planetary Healing – Blue Tribes for Ocean Health*.

Organizer

The Institute for Art and Innovation (IFAI) strongly credits the arts to enhance our humanity, to stimulate us to action, and to connect people from around the world to each other. The organization is specialized in the facilitation of interventions and collaborations at the intersection of art, science, technology and innovation to co-create thought-provoking visions and to drive impact. Its interdisciplinary projects together with a global network provide intelligent, innovative strategies, enriching ideation and research, reaching new audiences, transferring knowledge and fostering tangible results. The Institute is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization based in Berlin, Germany. The Social Art Award was initiated in 2017. This year's award is supported by Bitbasel Miami, Goethe-Institut, Synthezia Switzerland, Pianocean, the Futuring Alliance and more partners will join, reflecting a diverse network dedicated to advancing social and environmental impact through art.

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