

**For immediate release**

**WE ARE OCEAN – young people, scientists and policymakers are reflecting about the conservation of the ocean**

**CONTACT**

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**Where in BERLIN:**

- Marine Regions Forum, Hotel Vienna House Andel's, Foyer
- FUTURIUM
- Schule am Berlinickeplatz
- Montessori Schule Niederbarnim, Brandenburg
- Barbara-Zürner-Oberschule Velten, Brandenburg
- CLB Berlin
- STATE STUDIO Berlin

**When:** From 30 September 2019 to 15 December 2019 (detailed calendar see p. 2-3)

**Artists:** Lisa Rave (Berlin), John Palmesino (Venice), Marc Johnson (Marseille)

**Detailed Description**

For a joint United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030): WE ARE OCEAN is an interdisciplinary art project that brings together artists, art patrons and curators, students, teachers, scientists and policymakers in Germany, Italy and France to raise awareness of the ocean's environmental status and humanity's relationship to it. Using interdisciplinary methods consisting of projections of curated art film programs, podium discussions with special formats, performances and artistic "interventions" (such as workshops) with schools presented at the Marine Regions Forum Berlin, FUTURIUM Berlin, State Studio Berlin, CLB Berlin, TBA21 Ocean Space Venice and Marine d'Endoume Marseille (pledged partners), ARTPORT\_making waves puts international contemporary art and its actors at the center and gives them a space to engage in marine conservation activities. It encourages artists to think beyond their role as aesthetic communicators, but also as integral connectors of science to society.

The project has three main phases. In Berlin and Brandenburg, ARTPORT\_making waves commissioned the artist Lisa Rave to organize targeted workshops (WIR SIND DAS MEER BERLIN funded by Fonds Soziokultur) at selected schools (Montessorischule Niederbarnim, Barbara-Zürner-Oberschule Velten, Schule am Berlinickeplatz Berlin) for students age 13 to 17 years. In the first phase of the project, the scientist Oscar Schmidt from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam and the curators Julia Moritz and Anne-Marie Melster talked about oceans, our dependence on them and the connection to the arts. As part of the workshops, students had the possibility to help produce the art film WIR SIND MEER BERLIN. This artistic initiative will lead to participatory performances, in which, in the second phase of the project, the students will enter into dialogue with the scientists and other ocean experts at the Marine Regions Forum 2019 in Berlin. The results of the workshops and dialogical exchange will be discussed with prominent thinkers such as

Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius (Alfred-Wegener-Institute), Dr. Thierry Pérez (Institut Pythéas Marseille), Markus Reymann (TBA21-Academy) and the artists Michelle-Marie Letelier and Lisa Rave. Finally the project will be presented to a wider audience at the newly opened FUTURIUM Berlin with interactive interventions on behalf of the students of the school in Berlin, a fishbowl panel discussion including the participation of Dr. Lukas Köhler (Member of the German Parliament) and Sebastian Unger (IASS Potsdam), and film screenings. The final events in Berlin will happen at the CLB Berlin and State Studio Berlin later in the year. The general public is invited to participate in the dialogues.

The aim of the project is not only to convey scientific content on the state of the oceans and the generation of knowledge, but also to stimulate rethinking and behavioral change through awareness activities.

ARTPORT\_making waves has been working for 15 years with young people, who are the citizens of the future and its largest interest group, who more than ever are demanding politicians and systems of power to take them seriously. WE ARE OCEAN brings these young people together with politicians, academics and other decision-makers to think about feasible solutions.

WE ARE OCEAN continues to promote the regular implementation of such external scholarly-artistic workshops into the curriculum of schools to provide first-hand knowledge in a creative way and to involve young people in an international process. It gives young people an active voice. As an official part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the Ocean Literacy Program of IOC-UNESCO (oceandecade.org), these voices are carried around the world.

## **CONFIRMED EVENTS IN BERLIN AND BRANDENBURG:**

### **1ST PHASE:** Workshops in schools “WIR SIND DAS MEER BERLIN”

- 06 August 2020: Workshop Montessori School Niederbarnim, Brandenburg
- 26-30 August 2019: Workshops Barbara-Zürner-High School Velten, Brandenburg
- 02, 03, 06 September 2019: Workshops school at Berlinickeplatz, Berlin

### **2ND PHASE:** Dialogue of the pupils with scientists and expert audience at the Marine Regions Forum

- 30 September 2019, 18:30-21 h / 06:30-21 pm

**INTERACTIVE INTERVENTION:** “WE ARE OCEAN\_making waves: A floating conversation on ocean awareness and action” with pupils of the Barbara-Zürner-Schule in Velten, Brandenburg plus a Film Program at the Marine Regions Forum 2019, Vienna House Andel's Hotel Berlin (closed event, journalists can accredit themselves with Sabine Letz: [sabine.letz@iass-potsdam.de](mailto:sabine.letz@iass-potsdam.de))

- 01 October 2019, 11-13 h / 11 am-1 pm: Panel discussion at the Marine Regions Forum (closed event, journalists can accredit themselves at [sabine.letz@iass-potsdam.de](mailto:sabine.letz@iass-potsdam.de))

#### **Speakers**

- Markus Reymann, Director TBA21 Academy
- Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius, Director Alfred Wegener Institute
- Dr. Thierry Pérez, Labex-OT-Med / Pythéas Institute, Marseille
- Michelle-Marie Letelier, artist, Chile / Germany
- Lisa Rave, artist, Germany
- The students Jay Pauls (Barbara-Zürner-Oberschule Velten) and Annie Dobschanski (Schule am Berlinickeplatz, Berlin)

Moderated by Anne-Marie Melster (ARTPORT\_making waves) and Dr. Manuel Rivera (IASS Potsdam)

**3RD PHASE:** The project will meet with the general public at FUTURIUM and other places

- 02 October 2019, 18-19: 30 h / 6 pm-7:30 pm: *Interactive intervention of pupils* of the school at Berlinickeplatz; Dialogue formats and curated film program at Futurium, Alexanderufer 2, 10117 Berlin (full-day film program) (open event, free admission): Participants in the Fishbowl dialogue led by Anne-Marie Melster (ARTPORT\_making waves) and Dr. Manuel Rivera (IASS Potsdam):
  - Science: Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius (Alfred Wegener Institute), Sebastian Unger (IASS Potsdam)
  - Politics: Dr. Lukas Köhler, Member of the German Parliament
  - School: Patrick Busse (Schule am Berlinickeplatz), Leonie Hoffmann (Barbara-Zürner-Oberschule Velten)
  - Culture: Markus Reymann, TBA21-Academy
- 31 October 2019, 19 h / 7 pm: *Interactive panel discussion & film program* at CLB Berlin, Prinzenstraße 84.2, 10969 Berlin
- 14 December 2019, 16 h / 4 pm: Workshop, interactive panel discussion, film program at STATE STUDIO Berlin, Hauptstr. 3, 10827 Berlin

# ARTPORT

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THESE EVENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

