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TO PROTECT THE MEDITERRANEAN

ART4SEA

Octubre 9, 2025



The Queen of the Corals – Davide Galbiati (Italy). Installed in Cala Giaccone, Ustica – an allegorical sculpture of the fusion between humankind and nature, depicting a

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collected on the project's official website, following the Ustica Sommersa event (10–12 Septiembre). These artworks will continue to spread the message of marine ecosystem protection. Squares, walls of public buildings, coastlines and seabeds: ART4SEA has brought the ocean to life through contemporary art.

The initiative, which is co-funded by the European Union under Creative Europe – Call CREA-CULT-2022-COOP and officially endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the 'Ocean Decade'), coordinated by UNESCO – promotes interdisciplinary collaboration between artists, creatives, digital technology experts and marine biologists. A consortium of seven European partners, including DAN Europe, coordinated the project, which addressed issues such as marine biodiversity, climate change and the blue economy.

ART4SEA's main objective is to inspire a more sustainable relationship with the ocean by encouraging people to change their approach and take action, both individually and collectively. The initiative has also encouraged island communities to get involved in creating a new Mediterranean ocean literacy.

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Trajectories – Giacomo Rizzo (Italy).
Installed in Xwejni Bay, Gozo – an underwater sculpture representing a symbolic vessel that preserves the memories of Earth and welcomes new life. © ART4SEA

creative heart of the project. Twenty-four international artists, selected through a European call, were hosted on the islands during 2024. They spent time exploring the urban and natural landscapes, diving into the marine environment and engaging with local communities. These first-hand experiences, acting as true social and artistic labs, allowed the artists to delve into the history, traditions and environmental traits of each island. The knowledge and inspiration they gained from this training was then transformed into works of art that now remain as a permanent heritage.

Murals and mosaics tell stories of everyday life, underwater

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... a cultural and environmental heritage that

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The first creations came to life on the island of Gozo (Malta), and those in Alonissos (Greece) followed. Murals, mosaics, sculptures and digital installations have become an integral part of the cultural identity of the islands, found in urban, coastal and marine landscapes. The final event in Ustica (Italy) was the three-day multidisciplinary event Ustica Sommersa, which combined performing arts, dance, urban art and natural sciences. ART4SEA's artistic journey across the three islands concluded with this event.

The artworks were all created using environmentally friendly materials, incorporating recycled and waste elements such as steel, recycled glass and non-polluting debris. These included underwater sculptures and installations as well as mosaics and murals. It is a symbolic choice that highlights the urgent need for new sustainable practices.



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through an expressive and engaging medium, thanks to the involvement of local communities and the interaction between visual arts, digital disciplines and scientific research. Gozo, Alonissos and Ustica are now open-air and underwater museums too. A legacy that will be felt over time and that will encourage everyone to take care of the Mediterranean together.

Although it has no permanent artworks, Vlora, a city in Albania, hosted the launch of a virtual ART4SEA exhibition in Julio. An immersive experience on the seafront, visitors were able to enjoy the digital artworks that had previously been presented in Gozo and Alonissos. The event allowed people to connect art, science and the community in a new way. Visitors could explore the Mediterranean in a virtual world.

“ART4SEA’s creations are more than just art; they’re catalysts for cultural transformation,” says Fabio Figurella, the EU Project Coordinator for DAN Europe, a partner of the Consortium. “They bridge the gap between people and the beauty and vulnerability of our oceans, motivating communities and travellers to join the fight to safeguard them. They reveal in a tangible and profound way what is at stake beneath the surface, prompting conservation action.”

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Mediterranean Islands – Ustica, Alonissos, and Gozo – to transform scientific data into accessible physical and digital artworks. These

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fostering a deeper, emotional connection to the ocean and inspiring real change toward conservation <https://art4sea.eu/>
[\[https://art4sea.eu/\]](https://art4sea.eu/)

About DAN Europe: DAN Europe (Divers Alert Network Europe) is an international non-profit medical and research organisation dedicated to diver health and safety. Since 1983, DAN Europe has offered medical assistance, scientific research, education, and safety initiatives, while also advocating for environmental responsibility and sustainable diving practices.
<https://www.daneurope.org/en/home>
[\[https://www.daneurope.org/en/home\]](https://www.daneurope.org/en/home)

DAN Europe is a proud member of the ART4SEA consortium, promoting diving safety within this multidisciplinary marine initiative.

About ART4SEA Consortium: The ART4SEA consortium gathers seven high-profile European partners selected for their multidisciplinary expertise and strong experience in the marine and cultural sectors. This cross-sectoral partnership ensures an innovative and sustainable approach to the preservation and valorisation of underwater cultural heritage, with a shared focus on the marine environment. ART4SEA develops advanced

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Underwater sculptures

Trajectories – Giacomo Rizzo (Italy). Installed in Xwejni Bay, Gozo – an underwater sculpture representing a symbolic vessel that preserves the memories of Earth and welcomes new life.

Aetas – Micol Cornali (Italy). Installed in Agios Dimitrios Bay, Alonissos – an underwater sculpture merging “myth” and “waste” to raise awareness of ocean pollution.

The Queen of the Corals – Davide Galbiati (Italy). Installed in Cala Giaccone, Ustica – an allegorical sculpture of the fusion between humankind and nature, depicting a reclining female figure among the corals, inviting us to rediscover listening to and caring for the ocean.

Artworks on land

Two Waves – Matlakas (Riccardo Attanasio) (Italy–UK) in Gozo. A circular mosaic symbolising the fragile balance between the vital force of the sea and human impact.

Calypso – THEIC (Camilo Nuñez) (Uruguay / Portugal) in Gozo. A large-scale mural. The legend of Calypso becomes a warning about the sea’s role as a climate actor.

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celebrating the scuba explorer, transformed and reborn through an

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and the transformative potential of waste.

Beneath the Surface – Mariana Duarte Santos (Portugal) in

Ustica. A large-scale mural. By enlarging marine algae on a wall, the work makes the invisible visible. It reminds us that the sea is everywhere and must be protected.

Guardians – Silvia Gadda (Italy) in Ustica. A large-scale mural. A figure immersed in sea foam and Posidonia oceanica celebrates the bond between humans and the sea. The work invites reflection and action to preserve the ocean's balance.

Mermaids Do Take Care of the Ocean – Amanda Arrou-Tea (Spain)

in Ustica. A large-scale mural. A mermaid, guardian of the sea, cradles a vulnerable coral: a visual call to action reminding us of the fragility of marine life and our responsibility.

Digital Artworks

Bread and Circuses – Anne Fehres (The Netherlands) in Gozo. A satirical audiovisual installation. In the near future, an influencer teaches how to bake bread with contaminated seawater. A critique of human impact on the Mediterranean and superficial sustainability narratives.

Pelagia – Sara Bonaventura (Italy) in Gozo. Video art. An essay-film in Maltese weaving matriarchal mythologies and geology. The jellyfish *Pelagia noctiluca* becomes the emblem of resilience and

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...ing. Some data used to generate this summary, were visual and soundscapes, reflecting on human impact.

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**Pinna opens their house for us tonight – Ioulia Marouda (Greece) in Alonissos.**

3D VR animation. A visual and sound ode to the endangered bivalve *Pinna nobilis*. The work imagines its restoration through resonance, combining 3D scans and hydrophone recordings.

Evening Chorus – Leon Butler (Ireland) in Alonissos. Sound art.

Transforms the sound of sea urchins into an interactive soundscape. The piece invites us to listen to the acoustic biodiversity of marine life and its hidden ecology.

Through the current – Timaeus (The Netherlands) in Alonissos.

3D animation. Intertwines a pirate ballad with the island's ecological regeneration. Contrasts exploitation and renewal, celebrating the marine life thriving in the Marine Protected Area.

Liquid Tiles – Carlos Izquierdo (Spagna) in Ustica. Interactive sound-and-ceramic installation. A digital audio-visual experiment transforming recordings of the island into visual patterns inspired by majolica tiles. The installation merges sound and generative code, reflecting the acoustic richness of the sea and local culture.**Wake Up to Disappear – Natalia Wilk (Poland) in Ustica.**

Underwater video performance. Explores the sense of belonging to the ocean through underwater dance. Inspired by hydrofeminist theory, it presents the human body as an extension of the sea, vulnerable and in constant transformation.

Ustica VR – Simon Duflo (France) in Ustica. 360° VR short film. A freediving journey blending wonder and awareness, inviting us to

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