

# Meta(plastic)

## extinctions at sea

Artists:

Joan Caronil  
Maria Asimakopoulou

Curated by:

Nikoletta Gourgouli  
Maria Asimakopoulou

31.05.2024 -  
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## Introduction

Posthumanism and Metahumanism meet and juxtapose ideas and theories about life, technological power and the direction towards the “other” as a formless entity away from boundaries and limitations.

As part of the 2024 Metahuman Futures Forum, the exhibition aims to initiate discussions that will add to the conference’s critical topics and bring the words into rich imagery, inspired by the power of nature. In the context of denial and ending of human overexploitation and dynasty towards other species and nature, the art installation “Ocean’s Soul Reconstitution” and collaboration between two artists, represents two sides; the deprivation of the natural world and its ruins left from the human “epidemic”, and the beauty of the ocean life that will rise afar from human denialism and destruction and move towards new shapes and formations.

The exhibition is Inspired by the power of water and the urgency for protecting natural resources and ending natural exploitation. Human domination comes to an end with the exhaustion of resources. The urge to protect the environment is stronger than ever, and sincere actions are all-important in order to end this human dominance over the world.

The 3rd Metahuman Futures Forum meets two contemporary local artists, Joan Caronil and Maria Asimakopoulou who work together for this project, while using different materials and techniques. Some materials are natural and others synthetic, (plastic, paper, metal, glass, cords, plankton, sea life like seaweeds, phytoplankton etc.) also with some painted parts, making an installation full of sea life and inner light. The use of light is primary for both artists as a means of radiating life itself.

Thank you to the artists.

Nikoletta Gourgouli  
(Curator)  
(Doctoral researcher, *B.A. & M.A* in Arts)

University of the Aegean, Cultural  
Technology and Communication



## Ocean's Soul Reconstitution- art installation



*Figure 1. Detail from the art installation created by Joan Caronil*



*Figure 2. Details from the art installation, created by Maria Asimakopoulou*

*Through the artists words:*

The exhibition is inspired by the ocean and the sea life, through their lavish captivating flowing-waters and waves. We express ideas of movement and survival through the breath-oxygenation by marine phytoplankton and technological alluring cnidaria. We use recycling and upcycling human wastes, microplastics, and drifted items. All together they express an intricate poetry of awareness and the need to change to progress beyond social established limits. These works are created as eco-friendly as possible, with the aim to inspire and create awareness of the consequences of our actions and moving towards better and more sustainable ways of living. Basic biological chains are being dramatically endangered by human wastes, such as water-pollution by chemicals, the spread of microplastics in the oceans, wastes in the coasts, the bad use of technology, etc. This exhibition aims to alternative ways of the use of materials used by humans and show their countless transformations.

*About the artists:*

**Joan Caronil** is a multidisciplinary Artist & Biologist. His works focus on the human perception of nature and biodiversity. Most of his pieces are centered on the human and nature, while discussing cultural-folk aesthetics together with the performance arts & digital research field.

**Maria Asimakopoulou** is an Art curator graduated at the Cultural Technology and Communication school of the University of the Aegean, in Greece. As an Artist her work is mainly based on the love and use of natural materials, showing a deep interest on paper creations and compositions that explore the study of interpolations of sensations between space, time, and persons within a non-verbal communication with nature and the environment.

*Curatorial team and organisers:*

*Organiser:* **Prof. Evi D. Sampanikou** is Professor of Visual Culture and Art History at the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication at the University of the Aegean. She has also studied Archaeology and English Literature. She has previously taught at the University of Thrace – Greece and has been collaborating with the Hellenic Open University for years. She focused her initial research on post-Byzantine painting and Renaissance art theory, and later, on photography, new media art, comics & graphic novels, and, also, issues of cultural management.

*Curator:* **Nikoletta Gourgouli** is a Doctoral Researcher in the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication of the University of the Aegean, in the field of the Arts, focusing on the posthuman theory and fashion and the visual arts. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's in the arts field from the Athens School of Fine Arts and the Edinburgh Napier University School of Arts and Creative Industries. Her research and artistic work focus on the representation of the figure and study on the formless “other” as a means to reconfigure fashion and the arts through the posthuman lens.

*Curator:* **Maria Asimakopoulou** is an Art curator graduated from the Cultural Technology and Communication Department of the University of the Aegean.

Exhibition organisers:

Evi Sampanikou on behalf of the Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Mytilene

Part of the 3rd Metahuman Futures Forum, Bodynet-Khorós Forum 6

Curatorial team

Texts and exhibition catalogue/design concept

Nikoletta (Nikolitsa) Gourgouli

Exhibition staging

Maria Asimakopoulou



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