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D3082 | Woman Art Venice

NET | Mandy Barker & CNR – Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice

27th November 2020 – 28th February 2021

Venice, Domus Civica, San Polo 3082

A new exhibition at D3082: the Venetian "street gallery" presents NET | Mandy Barker & CNR - Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice.

A project of denunciation and a call for action against plastic pollution in the seas, through the photographs of Mandy Barker and the presentation of the innovative project coordinated by the CNR: a system to map, remove and recycle fishing nets abandoned or lost on the seabed

(Venice, November 25th) **D3082 | Woman Art Venice** is thrilled to announce a new exhibition project, arising from the synergy between art, scientific research, denunciation and positive action for the protection of the marine environment, which sees women at the forefront: the British photographer, **Mandy Barker** and a research team - almost entirely female – **of the Institute of Marine Sciences, CNR – National Research Council.**

From Friday 27th November until 28th February, D3082 hosts **NET | Mandy Barker & CNR – Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice.**

In her photographs **Mandy Barker** bears witness to the **unnatural journey of marine plastic waste**, visionary scenarios of the invasion of debris into the oceans. Images that at first are harmonious, but which reveal themselves to be disturbing once the theme comes into focus.

Her work, with a strong emotional impact, amplifies the value of the project coordinated by the research institute **CNR - Institute of Marine Sciences, Venice** and developed in collaboration with Laguna Project s.n.c, Blue World Institute, Sintol S.r.l., Techeprojects S.r.l.s., hereby present. **marGnetis is co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** and it is a a multi-level solutions aim to



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monitor, map, remove and recycle marine litter from the seafloor. Mainly focusing on fishing nets, a type of debris that is difficult to treat, dangerous for organisms.

Art and scientific research unite and enrich each other with their languages, sharing a single message: the invitation to shared awareness and collective action, with a proposal to adopt good practices, for the resolution of an urgent and unavoidable problem. In line with these intentions, the **exhibition set is entirely made of eco-sustainable materials.**

D3082, committed to the enhancement of artistic research and women artists' work, has taken up this message to ensure that it is **always open and accessible** so as not to undermine the emergency of this topic and the value of art in social communication, especially at this time of closure.

Mandy Barker, an award-winning international photographer, works closely with scientists and ocean missions around the world. Her images stem **from a strong contradiction: the initial aesthetic attraction and subsequent message of awareness**, stimulating an emotional response in the viewer. In the selection of images on display, **the remains of fishing nets and plastic filaments** replace -with disconcerting naturalness- the life of the oceans, representing a death sentence for the flora and fauna of the seas.

As shown by the images and confirmed by CNR research, abandoned fishing equipment, accidentally lost or deliberately thrown into the sea by fishermen, represent a high percentage of the plastic debris present in the seabed.

With this disturbing vision and the invitation to act, Mandy Barker's work resonates with the project developed by the marGnet project team composed of **Fantina Madricardo, Michol Ghezzi, Francesca De Pascalis, Nicoletta Nesto, Vanessa Moschino, Aleksandra Kruss, Debora Bellafiore, William Mc Kiver, Jelena Basta, Valentina Zambretti** together with **Gianclaudio Faussonne, Riccardo Fiorin, Federico Riccato** and **Giacomo Cipolato**.



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marGnet uses a fast methodology for large-scale monitoring of the seabed, using acoustic mapping, in search of so-called "ghost nets". Tracking started in 2019 on **two pilot sites in the northern Adriatic Sea**: in the **Venice Lagoon**, in the **archipelago of Cres-Lošinj** in Croatia.

An essential part of this project is the transformation of recovered materials, with the aim of improving the economic and environmental sustainability and the efficiency of the recycling process. A portable prototype of marGnet transforms the plastic material into certified marine fuel at a low cost.

The purpose is to promote a change also in the fishermen's behavior, towards good practices while developing, at the same time, a circular economy.

Mandy Barker (b. 1964, UK) is an international award-winning photographer whose work involving marine plastic debris over the past 10 years has received global recognition. Working with scientists she aims to raise awareness about plastic pollution in the world's oceans whilst highlighting the harmful effect on marine life and ultimately ourselves.

Barker's work has been published in over 40 countries including National Geographic, Time, The Guardian, Smithsonian, and The Explorer's Journal and the The New Scientist. She regularly takes part in interviews with the BBC, ITV, Greenpeace, Vice, and CNN and her work has been exhibited world-wide from the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the Science and Technology Park in Hong Kong, the United Nations headquarters in New York, and at over 30 different photo festivals.

Barker was shortlisted for the Prix Pictet Award SPACE 2017, and nominated for The Deutsche Börse Foundation Photography Prize 2018, and the Magnum Foundation Fund. She is also a recipient of the 2018 National Geographic Society Grant for Research and Exploration. In 2019 she took part in a research expedition alongside scientists to the uninhabited Henderson Island which is isolated in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean, to create new work to show the world what now exists at one of the remotest places on earth - raising awareness of the ever increasing issue of marine plastic with the aim of ultimately leading to action.

Useful information

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Dates: 27th November 2020– 28th February 2021
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