

Artistic Residency

Call for applications

Tara Coral expedition 2026-2027

For the last twenty years, expedition after expedition, the Tara Ocean Foundation has continuously worked to advance scientific knowledge of the planet's largest and most important ecosystem - the Ocean.

Alongside scientific research, the expeditions have welcomed over 50 artists from various disciplines on board for residencies since 2003. Aboard the *Tara* schooner, resident artists observe and reinterpret the richness of the Ocean, scientific research, and daily life at sea.

Convinced of the power of artists to raise awareness in new and meaningful ways about Ocean-related challenges, the Foundation co-produced The Great Expedition in 2024 — a major retrospective exhibition at Le Centquatre-Paris, showcasing the work of past resident artists. The Foundation remains committed to amplifying their voices through exhibitions, conferences, and other cultural initiatives.

Tara will leave Lorient, its home port, in December 2025 for a new expedition.

The *Tara Coral* expedition

Coral reefs cover around 300,000 km² — barely 0.1% of the Ocean's surface — yet they are home to nearly 30% of all marine biodiversity. These living structures are among the richest and most productive ecosystems on the planet. Essential to both marine and human balance, they harbor exceptional biodiversity and protect coastlines from erosion.

And yet, coral reefs around the world are under serious threat from climate change. Ocean acidification and rising temperatures are causing widespread coral bleaching events, jeopardizing the survival of these vital ecosystems.

In 2016-2018, the *Tara Pacific* expedition studied the ability of coral reefs to adapt to global warming. Ten years later, the new *Tara Coral* expedition will continue this work and, in partnership with numerous local and international organisations, will sample ten sites in six countries to help understand why coral reefs are particularly resilient in this corner of the Ocean.

Art for the Ocean

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Expedition Itinerary

The expedition will run from May 2026 to the end of 2027, focusing particularly on the following territories: Indonesia (Raja Ampat, Nusa Laut, Lombok), the Philippines (Mindoro, Palawan), Malaysia (Pulau Tenggul, Pulau Mengalum), Papua New Guinea (Kimbe Bay), Palau (north) and India (Andaman Islands).

It will cross the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans via Panama and the Republic of Kiribati before arriving in Japan.

Throughout the expedition, artists will rotate on board for an average duration of 35 days, corresponding to the sampling periods on the various coral reefs being studied. The sampling processes on coral reefs rely heavily on underwater diving.

These periods are defined based on the scientific expedition's needs and constraints and cannot be shortened or extended.

Precise embarkation dates will be shared with the selected artists after the selection process. Therefore, applicants must indicate their availability and preferred periods in their application.



A Unique Residency with Scientists and Sailors

More than just a floating residency, the “Art for the Ocean” program offers artists the opportunity to immerse themselves in a collective of passionate individuals committed to Ocean protection.

Life on board the *Tara* schooner is built around community living and shared tasks (watches, cleaning, etc.), which are fundamental aspects of daily life. Sailors, scientists, on-board correspondents, and artists share all spaces, including the cabins (double occupancy). The artist does not have a dedicated studio space but is encouraged to assist and even participate in scientific work as well as the boat's operations.

This human adventure, at the heart of the *Tara* project, fosters rich and inspiring exchanges between crew members with diverse backgrounds.



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Eligibility Criteria and Selection

The call for applications is open to artists of all nationalities, professionally active, and who have not previously participated in an artist residency aboard the *Tara* schooner. There is no age limit. A selection committee, composed of qualified members from the artistic and cultural worlds, will review all applications and select the residency awardees.

As part of an effort to include local artists and minimize the carbon footprint of the residencies, the jury will give particular attention to applications from artists residents or natives of the countries crossed by the expedition. Applications may be submitted in English or French.

A demonstrated commitment to the Ocean, the environment, and a genuine interest in scientific work will also be considered assets in the selection process.

All artistic mediums are accepted, and the committee will prioritize diversity in the types of media.

Selection committee

The selection committee will be chaired by agnès b. and composed of the following members:

- Charles Carmignac
Director of the Carmignac Foundation
 - Hervé Chandès
Art curator
 - Stéphane Durand
Editor of the collection Science-Nature-Society at Actes Sud Publishing
 - Hélène Guenin
Director of the Yves Klein Foundation
 - Adèle Fremolle
Director of the Villa Kujoyama
 - Paola Furla
Science director of the *Tara Coral* expedition
 - Jean de Loisy
Art critic and curator
 - Frank Madlener
Director of the Institute for research and coordination in Acoustics/music (IRCAM)
 - Shinji Nanzuka and Michiko Horie
Founder and Exhibition project manager of the Nanzuka Underground Gallery, respectively
 - Lucille Reyboz et Yusuke Nakanishi
Co-founders and co-directors of KYOTOGRAPHIE Kyoto International Photography festival
- The jury members will pay particular attention to the following criteria:
- The artist's involvement in a professional artistic practice (previously completed projects, support from a gallery or studio, partnerships with dissemination networks, past residencies, etc.) ;
 - The artistic quality of the proposed project ;
 - Alignment with the Foundation's values and understanding of the issues surrounding the coral research expedition ;
 - Originality and the ability to propose innovative approaches, themes, or perspectives ;
 - Feasibility of the project ;
 - The artist's ability to integrate into collective life on board alongside sailors and scientists.

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Terms of the Residency

The residency includes:

- Welcome on board and full board for the artist during the residency
- Presentation of the artist's project through a video shared on-site and on social media + an online article
- A research and production grant of €2,000 tax included ;
- Promotion of the residency through an exhibition and/or publication at the end of the expedition.

The residency does not include:

- Travel expenses for joining *Tara* (round trip), which are the responsibility of the artist.



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Timeline

November 2, 2025, at 11:59 pm

Deadline for application submissions

From November 2 to November 20, 2025

Verification of file completeness and pre-selection

Responses to unsuccessful applicants on November 21

Selection phase

From November 24, 2025

Review of pre-selected applications
by the jury members

Week of December 8, 2025

Jury meeting

*Responses to selected and non-selected candidates
during the week of December 15*

Validation Phase

From January 5 to January 8, 2026

Final interviews with artists

*Announcement of results to winners and
waitlisted candidates on 9 January 2026*

From January 12, 2026

Public Announcement of Winners

May 2026 - November 2027

Residency Period



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How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via an online form.
If you encounter any issues, please contact us by email:
artfortheocean@fondationtaraocean.org

Any incomplete application will automatically result in a negative response.

Before filling out the online form, please gather the following documents (in PDF format):

- **A letter of intent** (maximum 1 page), specifying the preferred destination (if any)
- **A CV**
- **A portfolio**
- **A description of the project** the applicant wishes to develop during the residency (maximum 5 pages), including technical details (protocol, equipment, materials...) and budget (production cost estimates). Mention any potential or confirmed partnerships
- **At least 2 visuals** illustrating the project
- **Recommendation letters** in PDF format (maximum 5, in French and/or English)
- A schedule of **availability** between May 2026 and November 2027

Please note that only applications submitted in English or French will be considered.

You can submit your application
by clicking on the link below:

**I submit my
application**

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The *Tara* schooner

Built in 1989, *Antarctica* (the original name of the schooner) was initially designed for Jean-Louis Étienne, by naval architects Bouvet and Petit, and engineer Michel Franco. After a few years, the 36-meter, two-mast schooner was taken over by Sir Peter Blake, a renowned sailor and champion.

After a career in competitive sailing, Blake became passionate about environmental protection, and *Antarctica* was renamed *Seamaster*. The “Blake Expeditions” were launched in 1999, focused on water quality issues. The adventure came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of Sir Peter Blake in 2001, following a pirate attack in Brazil.

The schooner was eventually renamed *Tara* in 2003, following a proposal by agnès b. and Étienne Bourgois to continue the commitment of Sir Peter Blake and Pippa Blake toward the protection and understanding of our Ocean planet. This schooner was born from a dream: to revive long-term expeditions in the wake of the great explorers of the past, who also welcomed artists aboard their ships.

For more information : [Visit our website](#)



**Let's defend life.
Let's protect the Ocean.**

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explore and share

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