



Art exhibition at Villa Arson



Easy to read guide

Une exposition co-produite par

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nice**

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Avec la
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Biennale
des Arts
et de
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This guide is written in easy-to-read language



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Easy to read guide

What is easy-to-read language?

Easy-to-read language is a simple way of speaking and writing.

Speaking and writing in an **easy way** helps people **to understand** what **is said** and **written** in a text.

This way information is accessible for everyone complying with article 9 and 21 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, regarding accessibility, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as access to information.

There are rules to follow in writing “easy-to-read language”.

The rules to follow are written in a book called “guidelines for easy-to-read language”.

Easy-to-read language **makes a text or article understandable.**

Easy-to-read language **benefits:**

- children
- people with intellectual disabilities
- seniors
- foreigners

Understanding a text or article

helps people:

- to learn about things they care about
- to learn about things they need
- to live well with other people
- to feel part of a group

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What is an art exhibition?

An art exhibition is an **event** or a **place** where you can **view works of art.**

Works of art can be:

- **paintings**
- **sculptures**
- **photographs**
- **videos**
- **other things made by artists.**

Artists are people who use many ways to create works, objects, sculptures, videos, or paintings.

People go to exhibitions to see these works of art. In the exhibition you can **look, listen, and learn new things.**

Sometimes there are simple explanations, drawings, or symbols

to better understand
the works.

The exhibition can be:

- **in a museum**
- **in a gallery**
- **in another place**

An exhibition is **organized**
by a **cultural organization**.

The cultural organization chooses
a curator.

The curator of an art exhibition
is the **person who chooses**
the **works** and the **artists**.

The curator is the person
who **organizes**
the **art exhibition** and
thinks about its theme.

An art exhibition is an opportunity
to have a good time together
and discover beautiful things.

At the exhibition you can go alone,
or with friends, with family,
or with the school.

What is the “**Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan**”?

The “**Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan**” is
a big art event.

This event of art is called a “**Biennale**” (biennial)
because it **is held every 2 years**.

This “Biennale” happens
in the city of Nice, in France.

The artworks by artists are shown
at the event.

The event lasts for 6 months.

During this period many people
come to Nice to visit it.

In this event you can see

11 art exhibitions

in different places around the city.

You can see the artworks:

- **in museums**
- **on the streets**
- **in art centers**

Each exhibition has a different title.

In the exhibitions you can see
very different works of art.

All the **works represent**
the **ocean** and the **sea**.

All the artworks are very different from one another.

At the Biennale **you can see videos, paintings, photos, and installations.**

Installations are artworks made with objects, images, and various materials put together in interesting ways.

This event helps people learn about the ocean with art and the 11 exhibitions.

In this guide you can find the explanation of one of the 11 exhibitions.

This exhibition is called

“Becoming Ocean: a social conversation about the Ocean”.

You can see this exhibition at

Villa Arson.

What is Villa Arson?

Villa Arson is a special **place**

that helps artists to:

- **study**
- **do research**
- **experiment with new ideas**
- **create art**
- **allow people see their works**

So Villa Arson is:

- **an art school**
- **a center for contemporary art exhibitions**
- **a library**
- **a research center**
- **a space for artists to work**

Villa Arson organizes
contemporary art exhibitions.

Contemporary art is
the **art of today**.

Exhibitions are open to artists
from all over the world.

Many exhibitions are for young artists.

Villa Arson is a place **where**
art is thought about,

**created and
shared with people.**

What is "Becoming Ocean: a social conversation about the Ocean"?

"Becoming Ocean: a social conversation about the sea"

is an **art exhibition**

at the Nice Biennale.

This art exhibition **is**

about the sea

and **our relationship**

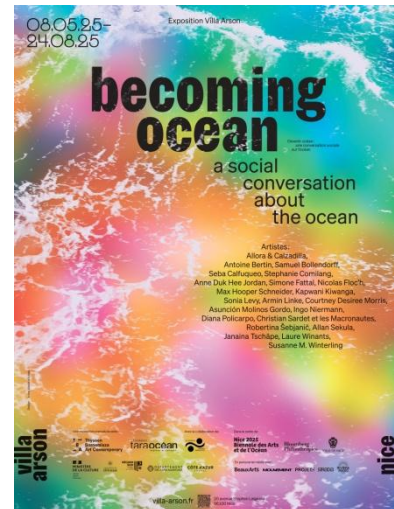
with the ocean.

The exhibition makes us think about

how we treat the sea today

and how we can better care

for it in the future.



Three **organizations** worked together

to make this exhibition:

- **Villa Arson:** an art school in France
- **TBA21** - a contemporary art foundation
- **Tara Ocean Foundation** - a foundation that protects the sea

Working together is very important
to help the sea and protect the planet.

In the exhibition you can see

works by **contemporary artists**

from around the world.

Contemporary artists are

artists who are still alive or who died recently.

The exhibition is about
contemporary art.

Contemporary art
is **the art of today**.

In the exhibition you can see:
videos, sounds,
pictures, and installations.

The exhibition is about:

- **pollution of the sea**
- **overfishing**
- **ships that travel too far**
- **damage to marine animals**
- **how all of these things hurt the ocean.**

Artists use art to:

- **tell stories**
- **show emotions**
- **make us think**
- **explain difficult problems in simple ways**

Artists do not work alone.

They also collaborate with:
scientists, politicians,
and local communities.

The exhibition wants to start
a conversation among people.

The exhibition invites us to:

- listen to the sea
- see its beauty
- understand its problems
- take action to protect it

An explanation of 4 works in the exhibition

In this guide you can find
an explanation of 4 artworks
in the exhibition.

The 4 works are:

- 1. "Pearls" by Simone Fattal**
- 2. "Sea Lovers" by Ingo Niermann**
- 3. "Petrified Petrol Pump" by Allora & Calzadilla**
- 4. "Plankton portraits" by Christian Sardet and the Macronautes**

1. "Pearls" by Simone Fattal



Simone Fattal is an artist.

She lives in Paris,
but she comes from Beirut.

Simone Fattal made this artwork.

This **artwork** is called "**Pearls**".

"Pearls" is a work made from

7 large glass spheres.

This work represents very large pearls.

Pearls are small, smooth spheres

found inside shells

that live in the sea.

Pearls are used to make necklaces.

This **artwork represents pearls.**

These "pearls" are giant.

They are spheres made of glass

and were handmade in Murano,

near Venice, in Italy.

There are **some words**
written on the spheres.

These words are a **conversation**
between a mother and a sailor.

A sailor is a person
who works at sea.
on a boat or ship.



The sentences are written in **Sabir**,
"Sabir" is **an ancient language**
that is not spoken anymore.
"Sabir" is a mixed language
that **combined many languages**,
such as Italian, French,
Spanish, and others.

"Sabir" was a language
used long ago
by sailors, pirates
and **merchants** in the Mediterranean Sea.

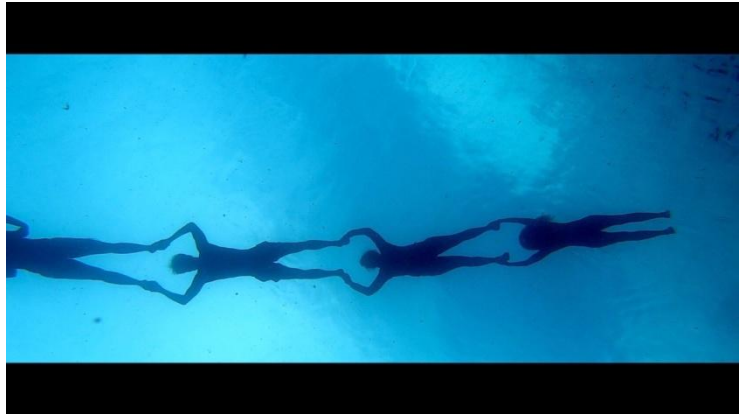
Merchants are people
who sell items.

Pirates are people
who take objects
from other people
without permission.

This work represents:

- the union of different languages and countries
- stories of the sea
- exchanges between different cultures
- poetry as a way of remembering something

2. "Sea Lovers" by Ingo Niermann



Ingo Niermann is a German artist.

He made this artwork.

This artwork is **a video** called
"Sea lovers".

In this video **you can see**
a group of people.

These people are **floating**
on the water.

These people try to build
a deeper and more respectful
relationship with the sea.

These people:

- **work out with their bodies and do exercises**
- **float on the water**
- **use new tools**

They try **to understand** and **love all**
the parts of the sea.

These people love
not only the beautiful and
calm parts of the sea,
but also the dark, strange,
or difficult parts too.

They want to learn how to:

- better understand the sea
- live in harmony with all the creatures of the sea
- create a “sea of love,” where everyone helps and loves each other.

The video makes us think about
a new way of looking at the ocean
with more love, respect and care.

3. “Petrified Petrol Pump” by Allora & Calzadilla



Jennifer Allora and **Guillermo Calzadilla** are two artists.

They live and work in the city of San Juan, on the island of Puerto Rico.

San Juan is a city a long way from Nice.

Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla have created an artwork called “**Petrified Petrol Pump**”.

“Petrified Petrol Pump” **is a sculpture.**

This sculpture represents an **old petrol pump.**

Petrol pump **is a machine.**

This machine is used to put gasoline inside cars.

Gasoline is a **liquid** like water that makes cars move.

The pump has a tube.

The tube is put into the tank of the car.

The car's tank is
the gasoline container.

The pump has a screen.

On this screen you can see:

- how much gasoline you are putting in
- how much you have to pay

Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla's sculpture
depicts an old gasoline pump.

**The pump is life-sized,
like a real one.**

**The whole sculpture is made
of limestone with fossils inside it.**

A fossil is what is left
of an animal or plant
that lived a long, long time ago.

The **material that remains
becomes stone.**

So this sculpture
looks like an object
from a very long time ago.

The amount of money to pay
are carved into the stone.

The pipes are hard and fixed.

This sculpture is **a symbol**.

A symbol is **a sign**,
a drawing, or **an object**
that **represents something else**.

This sculpture represents **oil**.

Oil is a black liquid
found under the earth
or under the seabed.

Oil is used to make many things:

- Gasoline for cars
- Plastic for objects, bottles, and bags
- Energy for factories
- Heating for homes
- Clothes and materials

**Oil makes the air we breathe
and the water around us dirty.**

If oil ends up in the sea many fish and
animals die.

This sculpture shows:

- **the amount of oil present in our lives**
- **how dangerous it can be to the planet**
- **that we need to change to protect the Earth**

4. "Le Ballet du Plancton" by Christian Sardet and the Macronautes



Christian Sardet is a **biologist**.

A biologist is **a person who studies life**.

Christian Sardet **observes**
and **takes photographs**
of **small organisms in the sea**.

Christian Sardet likes to combine
science and art
to help people see
the beauty of nature.

The **Macronautes** are
a **group of artists**.

Christian Sardet and the Macronautes
made a video
called "**Le Ballet du Plancton**."

In this video you can see

plankton.

Plankton is **a collection of**

tiny living things

floating in sea water.

You cannot see

these tiny lifeforms with the naked eye

because they are very small.

You can see them with an instrument

called a microscope.

These tiny lifeforms are very important

for life on Earth.

The **plankton move slowly**

in the water, and their movement is like a dance.

In the video there are pictures and music.

In the video the **plankton moves, and**

and this looks like a dance called a "ballet".

That is why it is called "The Plankton Ballet."

In the video you can see little lifeforms

that look like:

- **glass shells**
- **micro-jellyfish**
- **fish larvae swimming**
- **lifeforms with strange and perfect shapes**

Watching this video helps us to:

- understand the sea
- marvel at nature
- respect even the smallest lifeforms
- think about how to protect them

