



# CALL FOR JOURNEYS OCEAN/UNI

CULTURING THE DEEP SEA  
*TOWARDS A COMMON HERITAGE FOR ALLKIND*

**Abstract submission deadline:** September 4, 2023

**Writers fee:** 200 EUR

**Expected length of full text:** 600-800 words

**Deadline to submit full text (selected participants):** October 9, 2023

**Format:** Learning resource, Essay, Non-fiction, Speculative fiction

**Keywords:** Blue humanities, Eco-criticism, Deep-sea, Deep-sea mining

OCEAN / UNI is back with another semester, *Culturing the Deep Sea: Towards a common heritage for allkind*, and we would like to invite you to become a more active part of it again! Along with participation in the sessions, we are commissioning texts to enrich the curriculum. Taking a place-based approach, this semester aims to "ground" both the concept of the seabed and the speculative nature of deep-sea mining, which, as of yet, remains fictional.

**We are looking for writings considering multiple perspectives or adding another example to the featured topics.** During the semester, we will be focusing on one prospective mining site each session, hearing from those on the front lines of ecological destruction, regulation, and knowledge of the deep ocean. We offer you this space to experiment and test new ideas, to bring forward new creative and critical perspectives emerging within the complexity of the Ocean's depths.

If any of the topics listed below resonate with you and you would like to be featured—**send us your proposed abstract of up to 100 words by September 4 via this [Google Form](#).** The format we are looking for is a learning resource, essay, fiction or non-fiction, but we will consider any other creative interpretation of cross-disciplinary research that is a part of your practice or its extension. If selected, your final contribution will also be proofread by us, so don't let the grammar stand in the way of applying!

Plus, to stir your imagination, we prepared a small collection of deep sea-related content that you can already find on Ocean-Archive.org [here](#). You can use it within your Journey, or if you want to refer to your own content, you can start by uploading your materials to the Archive. Our team will be happy to assist you in case you run into technical issues.

**Please note that the selected participants must be able to finalize the text within four weeks and submit the final version of their texts by October 9.** Published texts will then be hosted on TBA21–Academy's digital venue Ocean-Archive.org under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC. This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don't have to license their derivative works on the same terms. With your permission, we will also include your text in a digital publication accompanying the semester.

**The topics of the sessions, to be interpreted broadly in the Journeys, are:**

- » Caring for the deep sea
- » A remote commons
- » International Seabed Authority as performative space
- » Green(blue)washing, energy / materials / transition
- » Ocean as library of ideas

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out via [info@ocean-archive.org](mailto:info@ocean-archive.org).

## // ABOUT

[Ocean-Archive.org](https://ocean-archive.org) is an online platform that investigates the potential of storytelling and transdisciplinary collaboration within and beyond archival practices. It strives to expand critical ocean literacy in a time of great necessity and catalyzes collective action for a living Ocean. The aim of Ocean-Archive.org is to bring together the multitude of voices and [journeys](#) around the Ocean and connect those striving to nurture and protect it. With [ocean-comm.uni.ty](https://ocean-comm.uni.ty), the platform instigates conversations around the Ocean so that the members can connect and co-create. Designed as a storytelling and pedagogical tool, Ocean-Archive.org translates current knowledge into a shared language that fosters synergy among art, science, policy, and conservation and enables us to make better decisions for urgently needed policies.

**OCEAN / UNI is an initiative dedicated to art, activism, art, and science that invites fluid thinking with the Ocean** as a way to move beyond the binaries of land and sea. OCEAN / UNI's curriculum provides students, researchers, and the public access to wide-ranging ideas and explorations through regular live sessions, reading groups, small-scale workshops or activations, and other online material, free and accessible to everyone on Ocean-Archive.org

Aiming to complement and enhance land-based understanding of the Earth, it covers a wide range of ecological, political, aesthetic, ethical, and scientific topics around the realities and futures of the Ocean.

To learn more about the upcoming semester and each session, [click here](#).

## // WHO IS BEHIND

**TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary**—based in Madrid and Vienna, with situated projects in Venice and Cordoba—is a leading international art and advocacy foundation created in 2002 by the philanthropist and collector Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza. All activity of the foundation is fundamentally driven by artists and the belief in art and culture as a carrier of social and environmental transformation and change. TBA21 is continually extending its advocacy work by sparking new collaborations across the arts, humanities and sciences, partnering with other research and educational organizations, and municipalities and communities around the world.

In 2011, TBA21 established the research center **TBA21–Academy, a cultural ecosystem fostering a deeper relationship to the Ocean through the lens of art to inspire care and action.** For a decade, the Academy has been an incubator for collaborative research, artistic production, and new forms of knowledge by combining art and science. In 2019, TBA21–Academy inaugurated Ocean Space in Venice, a planetary center for exhibitions, research, and public programs catalyzing critical ocean literacy through the arts, and Ocean-Archive.org, a digital organism for a living ocean; a platform in the making, an archive and framework for collaborative research.