



LES PARTICULES, A HUMAN TALE OF DYING WATER

MANON LANJOUÈRE

PRESS RELEASE



Whereas mankind once found naturally pure matter in water, today we are faced with the tragedy of the "impurity" of the oceans. The ocean, the cradle of our life, is slowly being transformed into the tomb of man, who will not survive on a planet with dying water.

With *Les Particules, conte humain d'une eau qui meurt*, artist Manon Lanjouère tackles the subject of plastic water pollution and its dramatic consequences on the planet, the health and the lives of all living beings.

According to the UN, if we don't act quickly, by 2050 the sea will be home to more plastic waste than fish.

Through never-before-seen photographs and personal accounts, Marion Lanjouère highlights the omnipresence of these invisible particles in our bodies and our environment, underlining the need to react quickly and take concrete measures to combat this pollution.

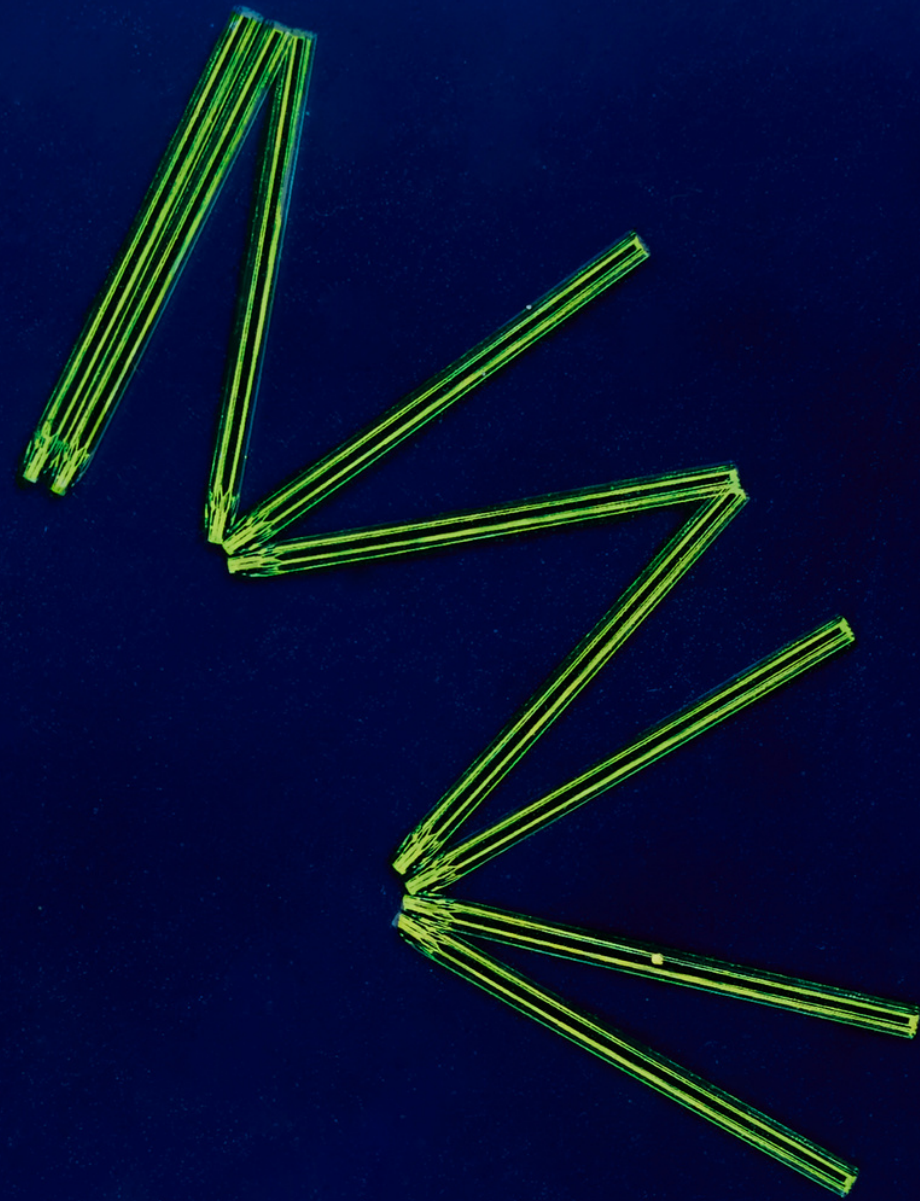
Inspired by Anna Atkins' herbarium *British Algae*, or Ernst Haeckel's sublime plates on *Nature's Artistic Forms*, Marion Lanjouère uses various photographic processes such as cyanotype to represent this underwater world. She uses the waste products themselves - cotton buds, ballpoint pens, hairbrushes and other plastic objects found on beaches - to reproduce the shapes of endangered species. Ballpoint pens become *thalassionema nitzschioide* and *guinardia striata* a simple hair elastic.

Her approach, at the crossroads of poetry and documentary, returns to the original essence of the medium and its scientific use. In the spirit of Eadweard Muybridge or Etienne-Jules Marey, Manon Lanjouère's images reveal the invisible and present to our gaze that which never ceases to elude us.

With *Les Particules*, Manon Lanjouère offers a new, poetic, artistic form to a destroyed world. Her work, which is deeply committed, seeks to provoke rapid awareness and real action to protect our environment and our oceans in particular.

Highlights

- A powerful theme at the heart of contemporary concerns
- A work that combines poetry, science and ecology
- A committed book that invites us, through the pleasure of pictorial contemplation, to act in favor of our society and our planet.
- An award-winning, critically acclaimed work
- A book that bears witness to the power of art to transform the world

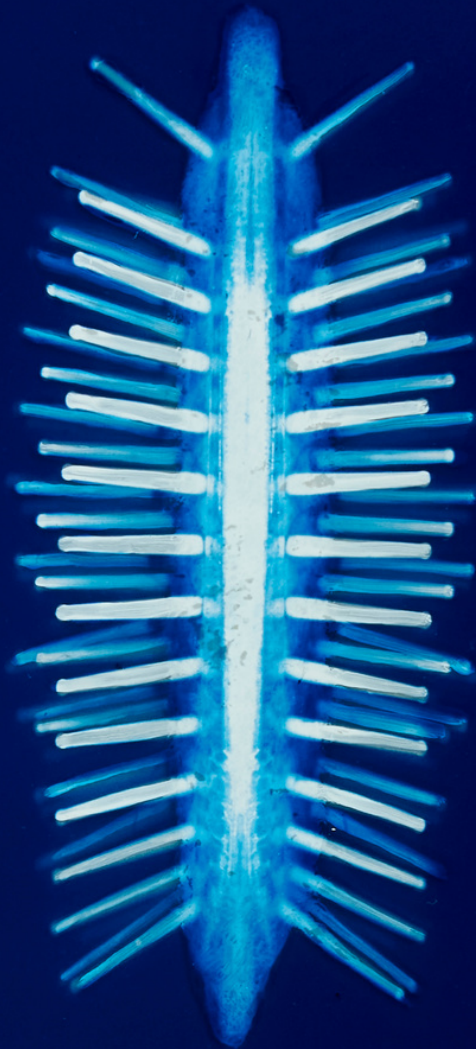


Thalassionema nitzschioides
Stylos à billes

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Tomopteris helgolandica
Brosses à cheveux

*"We're facing a theater of underwater life activity
underwater life smothered in plastic,
a new 'vegetation' of nightmares."*

Manon Lanjouère

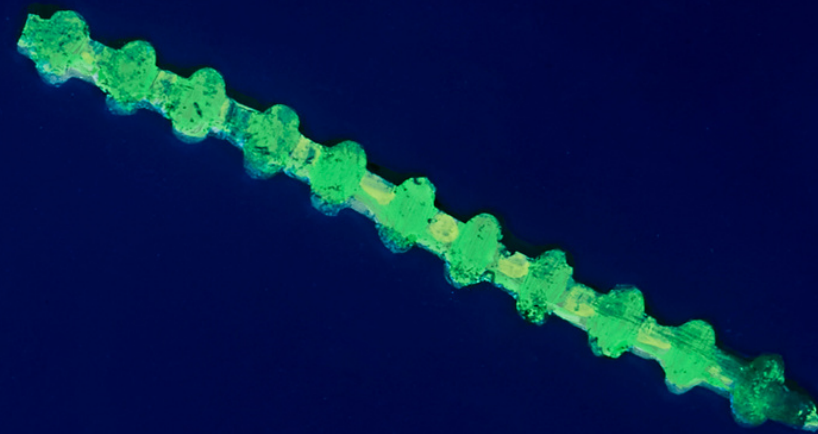
*"The marvels of science and its literary fictions
promised both knowledge and the illusion of
mastery over nature. Now, however, waste is a
species in its own right."*

Michel Poivert, Photography historian and
curator

LES PARTICULES, LE CONTE HUMAIN D'UNE EAU QUI MEURT

MANON LANJOUÈRE

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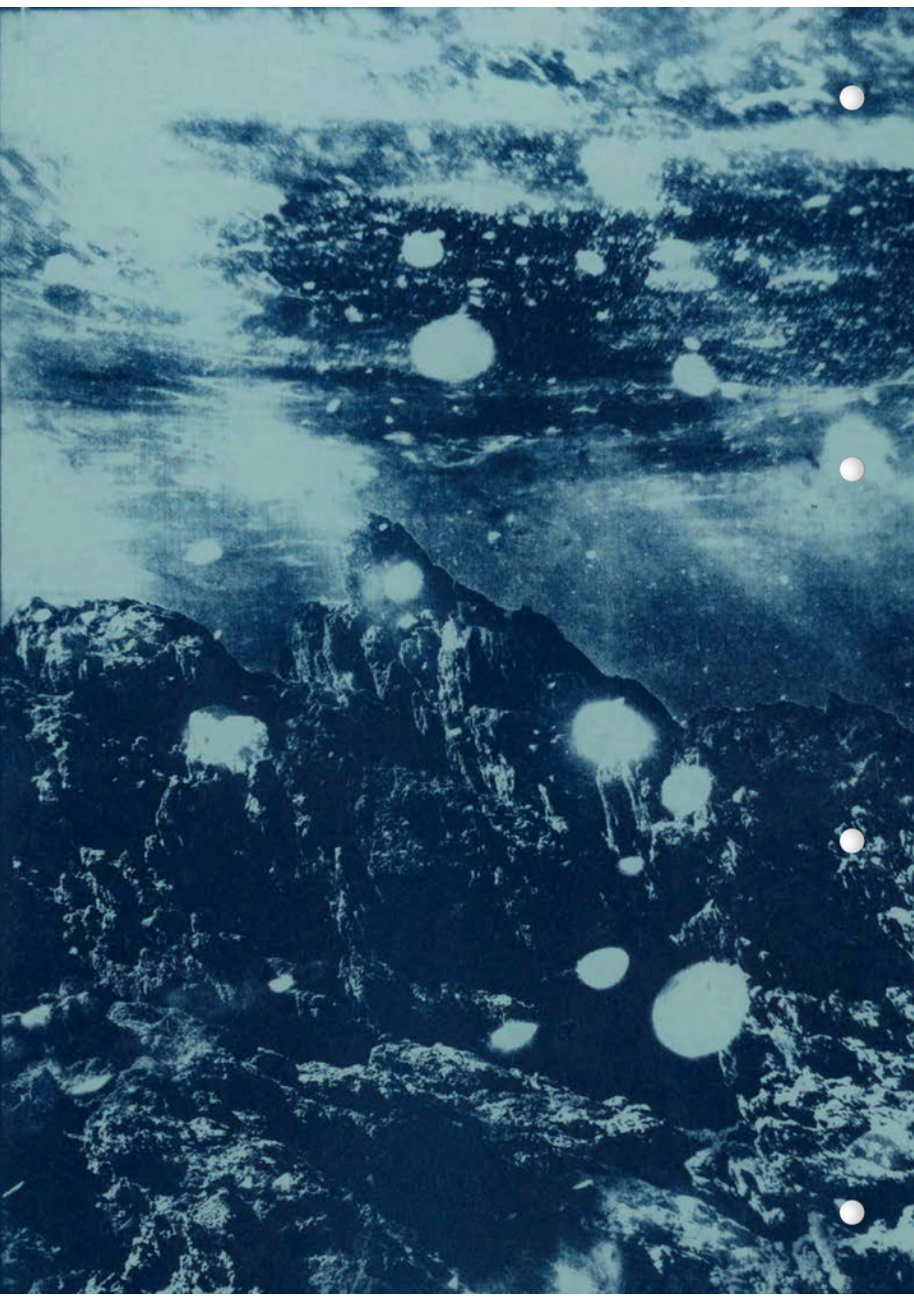
Desmidium pseudostreptonema
Collier de serrage
à crans

*"Like water splashed on your face,
Les Particules aims to awaken the energy
of seeing, transforming the gaze into a clear
action that leads to real awareness.
awareness."*

Manon Lanjouère

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LES PARTICULES MANON LANJOUERE



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Lors de l'introduction d'un nouvel élément (ici le plastique), la vie se réorganise, elle ne rejette pas. Elle intègre, assimile et se transforme. Excepté que 5000 milliards de particules d'une constitution inédite, telle que la nature n'en a jamais connu par le passé, ça fait beaucoup trop à intégrer. C'est ce que tente d'exposer le projet, ces menaces invisibles qui pèsent sur l'éco-système marin et de fait sur l'humain.

LE PHYTOPLANKTON

Le plancton végétal, ou phytoplancton, est l'ensemble des algues microscopiques formées d'une seule cellule (microalgues). Bien qu'elles soient unicellulaires, les microalgues présentent une grande diversité de tailles, de couleurs et de formes qui peuvent être très élaborées. Comme toutes les plantes, les microalgues sont des organismes qui fabriquent leur substance à partir du gaz carbonique (CO2) et des composés minéraux (azote, phosphates, potassium, fer, silice...) dissous dans l'eau. Pour cela, elles utilisent l'énergie de la lumière qu'elles captent grâce à la chlorophylle contenue dans leur cellule. Les réactions chimiques impliquées dans ces productions de matière organique libèrent de l'oxygène (O2). Par la photosynthèse, le phytoplancton produit une grande quantité d'oxygène nécessaire à la vie dans l'eau, mais aussi, grâce aux échanges gazeux à la surface des océans, il fournit les deux tiers de l'oxygène de l'air de notre planète, le dernier tiers provenant des végétaux des continents.

MANON LANJOUÈRE

Artist based in Saint-Malo

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Career

Manon Lanjouère is an artist based in Paris. After studying Art History at the Sorbonne, she decided to devote herself fully to photography and joined the Gobelins school in 2014, graduating in 2017 as one of the valedictorians of her class. Her links with the theater influence her photography, which is marked by staging and set design.

Approach

Manon Lanjouère's work focuses on environmental issues and human relationships. Immersed in intimate, physical or metaphysical spaces, at the junction of science and poetry, her multidisciplinary work questions our imagination.

Scientific research, in the fields of astronomy, meteorology or oceanography, is often the starting point and source of his projects. Drawing inspiration from scientific literature and popularization texts, his productions plunge us into the heart of natural events that could only take place in dreams.

MANON LANJOUÈRE

Artist based in Saint-Malo

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Awards and prizes

In 2022, Manon Lanjouère won the Prix Photographie & Sciences and was artist-in-residence on the schooner Tara. In 2023, she is the winner of the prestigious François Schneider Foundation Contemporary Talent Prize.

Exhibitions

Les Particules was exhibited at Salon Approche, Galerie du Jour Agnès b., Paris, 2022.

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Manon Lanjouère

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Michel Poivert

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Andreina de Bei

Collection | Civis Maritimus

News

Winner of the Prix Photographie & Sciences 2022

**Exhibition as part of PhotoClimat, the Paris social and
environmental biennial (14/09-15/10)**



Les Particules, Collection Civis Maritimus
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Each year, the Civis Maritimus collection will feature a volume highlighting the work of a photographer offering an original take on the relationship between man and the marine world.

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