

Aqua

Uiro
MAE

1st Edition

SU4IPΔ(∞)

Not just

When it comes to elements that bring humans together, can any contend with water? Everything we understand depends on this precious resource in some way. Hydration, food, hygiene, materials, transport, and enrichment would all collapse without it. Water is a hub for all aspects of life, and cannot be understated.

This publication curates the work of creatives who evaluate and engage with water on a granular level. Highlighting their concerns, feelings, memories, aspirations, and more in relation to this huge topic.

The way in which art can incorporate themes, ideas, or visuals of water allows important considerations to bubble to the surface in profound and beautiful ways. Therefore, *Aqua* is not just a book about water; instead, it is a crucial insight into all aspects of being human, and how we occupy our planet.

Artistically reconstructing the landscape of our minds, natural geography, or any combination of the two can be approached in endless ways. In doing so, we can appreciate diverse applications of materials to replicate both lived and dreamt experiences, and explore spaces in between.

The abundance of water is both a strength and a weakness. Access to it is essential, yet the vastness of it allows for complacency. A bottle cap here, a bicycle there; it's easy to assume that compared to the scale of what is being discarded, disposing of something in a large body of water is a relatively insignificant offence.

Unfortunately, this rhetoric has been used on a scale far beyond what we can comprehend. As a result, we continue to poison a resource on which all life depends in the name of convenience, disregard, or economic gain. Art is a tool that brings light to injustice, and this matter is no exception.

about water.

Crisis cannot be addressed without a strong sense of who we are, which is mostly water. We control the means to address our own physical nature, appearance, and composition; it is art, combined with great sensitivity, care, and emotion, that creates a space in which we can all engage in mutual reflection and common cause.

As we change, so does our relationship with water. At an unprecedented rate, we are both advancing and surpassing ways in which we use and interact with it. In turn, we are able to appreciate modern conventions, while looking back at times gone by with great fondness. Art is a medium capable of conveying and illustrating our memories, thoughts, ideas, and play; to nourish our current understanding, and inform future generations.

Overleaf, thirty-one artists capture aqua in numerous ways. Water is everything we understand, and thus, any art in relation to water is about so much more. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of the infinitely talented individuals for contributing their time, works, and input into producing this publication. I hope that you derive as much joy from exploring its pages as I did putting them together.

Lyndon Watkinson

SU4IP

30 Lorrain Mailer

Lorrain Mailer is a conceptual artist who focuses on excessive plastic manufacturing and its disposal in the world, which presents an environmental and far-reaching dilemma for all living matter. It reveals our negative human qualities such as double standards, complicit attitudes, and patriarchal elements—at its core is the human instinct for power. Her practice serves to bring this to the forefront.

Does 2025 symbolise any significant changes for your art practice?

Yes, I am excited to start the year with a new direction in my practice with an installation at the Winter Sculpture Park in Thamesmead, south London, organised by gallery No. 32. Rather than producing sculptures and site-specific installations, this work is combining everything before and morphing it into architecture and product design. The "House" will retain my fundamental objective to challenge society, multinational corporations, and our political policy to stem the terrifying increase in virgin plastic production and the never-ending dumping of waste. This artwork will have a positive message suggesting reusing, recycling, and reclaiming.

What is your favourite medium, and why?

We have created a Frankenstein material. A combination of ancient raw organic liquid congealed with other components that has changed indefinitely the molecule structure. A man-made material designed to facilitate convenience, that ultimately produces minuscule particles that threaten all organic matter, even human health and reproduction. We are faced with a global crisis, so what better than to use the material that is causing it?

Can you tell me about a significant turning point in your practice?

During my BA, I received a brief to integrate everyday materiality, function, and identity into my work. This inspired me to use bubble wrap, a utilitarian fabric designed to protect objects immeasurably produced and discarded. This became a central element in my project. I filled the bubbles with tumble dryer fluff, which contains traces of organic DNA, symbolising biological identity. When unrolled, the bubble wrap resembled a wedding veil, offering a broad range of disturbing interpretations. This single artwork opened numerous possibilities for my creative expression.

(right, descending) *Aquarius*,
Sculpture, 4 x 6 m, 2021

Aquarius [detail]

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