

# ARTAND



## – DEEP BREATHING (RESUSCITATION FOR THE REEF) –

By ARTAND, Paris

A major site-specific installation by Australian artist Janet Laurence, *Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)*, is featured in 'Artists 4 Paris Climate 2015', a project in proximate dialogue with this year's Paris Climate Change Conference. Staging the work of thirty international artists in public spaces throughout Paris, including pieces by Olafur Eliasson, Pedro Reyes and Song Dong, the exhibition aims to mobilise action around the anthropogenic catalysis of climate change.

Displayed at the entrance of Grande Galerie de l'Evolution at Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), Paris, *Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)* canvasses pressing climatological concerns surrounding the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. In the work, Laurence posits the possibility of saving our marine world from the impacts of global warming and ocean acidification. Her immersive Wunderkammer of photographs, videos and natural marine specimens in laboratory glassware metonymically reveals the fragility and otherworldly beauty of the coral reef, and a space representing a resuscitation unit, or 'hospital for the reef' as the artist describes it, imagines a plan of action. To create this emblematic 'healing space', the artist worked with the Great Barrier Reef Authority, Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Australian Museum, Paris Natural History Museum, Lizard Island Research Station and WWF. An accompanying video contextualising the plight of the reef is projected at the Tropical Aquarium of Palais de la Porte Dorée. Beyond the Great Barrier Reef, *Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)* represents the fraught relationship between humanity and the natural world whilst also pointing towards the potential of resuscitating, albeit metaphorically, the endangered environment via a climate neutral future.

*Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)* is also part of the annual Paris International Contemporary Art Fair, a five-day event that sees contemporary artists from around the world exhibit work across Paris. The Australian Museum will exhibit the installation in 2016.

**Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)**, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 20 October – 14 December 2015

[Read about Janet Laurence in the ARTAND Australia Archive](#)

### Image Credits

All images: Janet Laurance, *Deep Breathing (Resuscitation for the Reef)*, installation view, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 2015; courtesy the artist and ARC ONE Gallery, Melbourne; photograph Marc Damage