



PRESS RELEASE - 02/11/2015

COAL
Art et développement durable

A SPECIAL «OCEANS» PRIZE IN THE COAL PRIZE ART AND ENVIRONMENT 2015

COAL AND TARA EXPEDITIONS HAVE CREATED A SPECIAL “OCEANS” PRIZE FOR 2015: THE WINNING ARTIST WILL EMBARK ABOARD TARA ON AN EXPEDITION IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

The COAL Art and Environment Prize, dedicated this year to the climate (a national priority in 2015) will be awarded for the 6th consecutive year to an artist selected from 10 finalists, for an art project concerning the climate. The Ocean occupies 71% of the surface of the planet, but is often conspicuously absent from the engagements made by states in climate negotiations. It should be major factor! To place the ocean at the center of the debate, **Tara Expéditions** et **the COAL Association** are launching a special “Oceans” prize for the COAL Art and Environment 2015 competition. The winning artist will be awarded a residency aboard Tara during an expedition in the Pacific Ocean.

Special Award “Oceans”

The winner of this special prize will spend a month aboard TARA, a legendary boat built for extreme conditions, during **a mission entitled “Coral Reefs Facing Global Change on the Planet.”** The expedition will take place from 2016 to 2018 in the Pacific Ocean, particularly in the Coral Triangle of Southeast Asia. The expedition aims to understand the evolution of coral reefs – vital hotspots of marine biodiversity that are currently confronting rapid changes in demography and climate. This special “Oceans” Prize will be awarded to an artistic project engaged in saving the oceans in light of current climate issues.

The COAL Prize Art and Environment 2015 - Objective COP21

Since 2010, the COAL Art & Environment Prize has been revealing the richness of responses brought by artists to address current environmental problems. Each year the awards honor 10 projects related to environmental issues, selected through an international call for projects. This year the COAL Art and Environment Prize is dedicated to the theme of climate – to inspire the COP21, and offer the general public and policy makers highly creative and unusual ways to understand the complexity of climate change. The winner of the COAL Art and Environment Prize 2015 will receive a grant of 5,000 euros and a residency at the Domaine de Belval, owned by the François Sommer Foundation. The winner of the special “Oceans” Prize will embark aboard TARA in 2016, during an expedition in the Pacific Ocean.

The call for proposals is open until February 28, 2015, midnight.

COAL, the Coalition for Art and Ecology – was created in 2008. It has conceived 20 exhibitions in prestigious venues such as UNESCO, and the Domaine de Chamarande. COAL is guest curator of the CEAAC (Centre Européen d'Actions Artistiques Contemporaines) and since 2012 has designed and run a roundtable program for the Paris FIAC (Foire internationale d'art contemporain). COAL identifies new talents each year via the COAL Prize Art and Environment, with over 1,000 artists' projects from 52 countries over the past 5 years.

TARA EXPEDITIONS is a French non-profit organization active since 2003 in favor of the environment. A legendary boat built for extreme conditions, Tara is the platform for high-level scientific research missions. Tara Expeditions works daily to increase environmental awareness among the general public and young people. Tara Expeditions is also developing a long-term advocacy plan to mobilise civil society and encourage politicians to act concretely on the solutions we all need for the planet.

PRESS CONTACT

Maëva Blandin
COAL - 2 rue Caffarelli 75003 Paris
contact@projetcoal.fr
www.projetcoal.org

Marc Domingos
Tara Expéditions - 11 Boulevard Bourdon 75004 Paris
marc@taraexpeditions.org
www.taraexpeditions.org

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tara 
EXPEDITIONS
www.taraexpeditions.org