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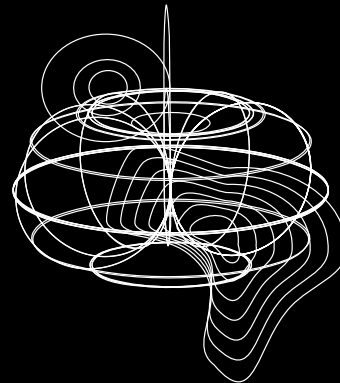
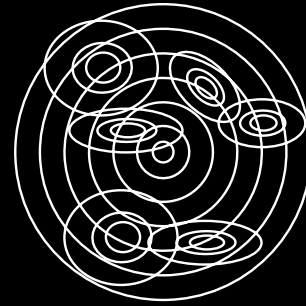
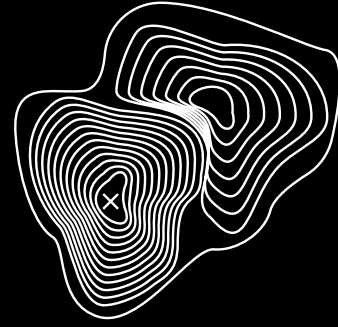
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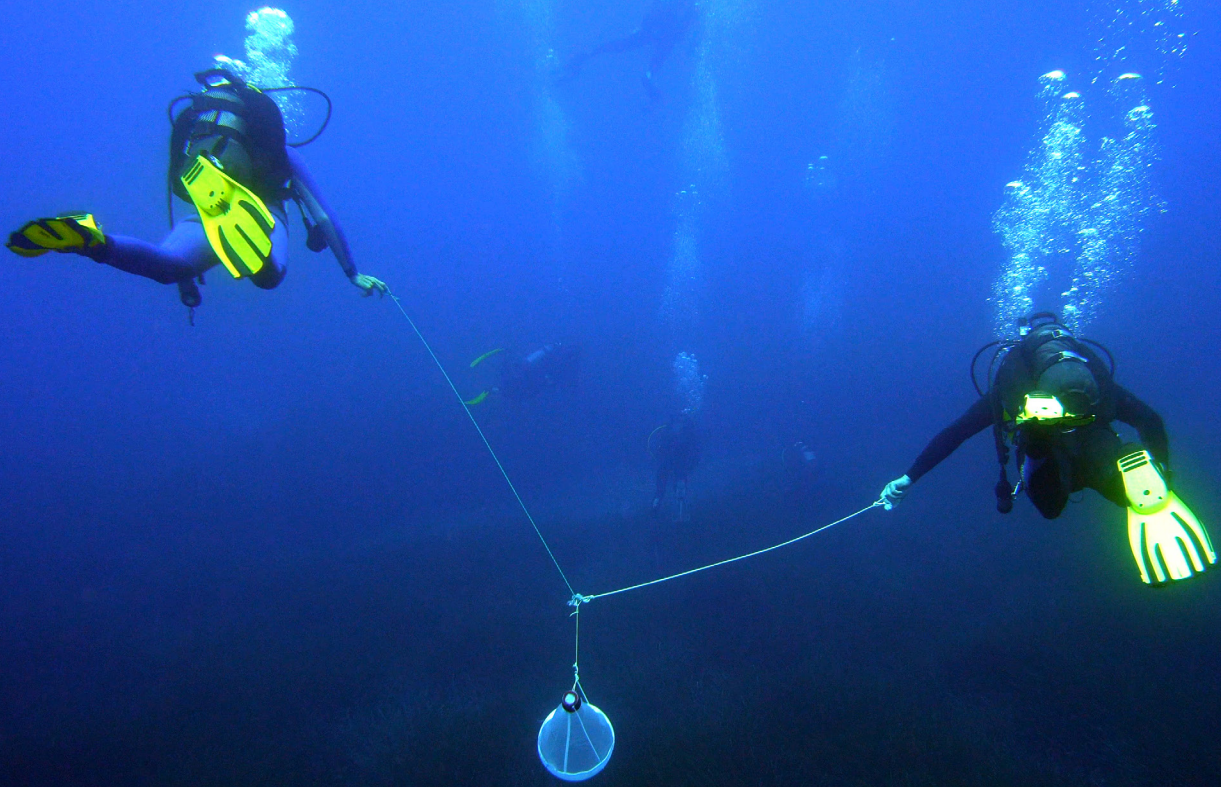
WHISPERING DRIFTERS

Rachel Carson writes in *The Sea Around Us* (1951), “The ocean is a place of paradoxes.” The statement encapsulates the vastness of water and the diversity of life hidden within, from colossal organisms to the minute forms of life. All interwoven within the ecological networks that we strive to grasp employing a manifold of tools and technologies.

Among the keystone species of the marine network are plankton—small but essential to both aquatic and global metabolisms. This video explores the ocean as a dynamic and interconnected ecosystem, revealing the hidden lives that sustain our planet. Moving from the shimmering surface into the depths, it traces the delicate balance between fish and the unseen world of plankton, species embodying the fluidity of existence, blurring the boundaries between visibility and invisibility, presence and absence, past and future.

“Whispering Drifters” fuses visuals with ecological narration, inviting to reflect on nature’s ever-changing rhythm and the interplay that underpins marine systems.





WHO HAS KNOWN THE OCEAN?

This video collage reflects on the practice of plankton sampling, questioning how scientific tools shape our perception of microbial life and exploring alternative, more attentive ways of gathering.

In my research on planktonic entities and their roles in planetary cycles, I reframe sampling not just as a scientific method but as an artistic and embodied practice of attunement to the ocean's elusive microcosms. Inspired by Ursula K. Le Guin's *Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*, the plankton net becomes a metaphorical carrier bag—an essential tool that gathers life not through extraction, but through collection and care. What is captured and what escapes its mesh reflects the selective and relational nature of how we construct knowledge about microbial ecologies.

By towing the net through the water, I engage with ocean currents and microscopic life, tracing the forces that shape their movements and interdependencies. These encounters invite a reconsideration of human-more-than-human interactions, where the sampling net functions as a sensory instrument—one that extends perception and makes otherwise imperceptible ecological processes tangible.

The deliberate use of black fades, along with silent and intentional ruptures in the sound, accentuates the epistemological and ecological themes of the work. These moments of absence underscore the unknown, the gaps in understanding, and the inherently fragmentary nature of oceanic knowledge derived through sampling, ultimately inviting viewers to reflect on the complexity of ecological inquiry.

PLANKTONIC MEDI(T)ATIONS

Settle into a comfortable position, allow the ground to stabilize your terrestrial body.

Let your arms rest gently at your sides, releasing any tension from your hands and shoulders.

Take a deep breath, feel the air filling your lungs, and exhale slowly, letting go of distractions. Repeat your natural rhythmic breathing pattern, each inhalation drawing you into a state of tranquility. Be aware of your breathing, the flows of oxygen in and out of your body. Witness the gentle rise and fall of your chest, your diaphragm lifting and sinking, your belly folding in and out.

If you like, bring your hands in front of your face. Notice the sensation of air against your skin, connecting you to the world around. How your breath invites you into the space. Slowly shift your focus inward, listen to your inner sounds.

We now embark on a journey into the depths of your fluid imagination. Leaving this terrestrial world, we delve into the aquatic.

In the ocean of life,
You are not a calm surface,
But multitudes - an ecosystem of tiny movements,
There is an ocean inside and outside of you.
As the water sways around you,
feel the cool texture against your skin,
the subtle scent of salt,
as you take a deep breath to dive in.

As you descend into the ocean, notice how the colors around you begin to change. The vibrant blues and greens of the surface give way to deeper, darker hues. You are enveloped by the rich, velvety darkness. Feel the soft touch of entities passing by, the currents caressing your skin as you submerge deeper.

When these waters first formed,
when vapor turned to liquid,
there was no oxygen yet for us to breathe.



Only billions of years later did microscopic algae emerge,
creating oxygen and allowing us to be part of Earth's cycle.
They filled the water, the atmosphere, the planet with these
precious molecules,
and continue to do so today.

As we enter their habitat, we visit them,
finding ways to be with them in our imaginations.
Imagine how their efforts nourish you.
How their produced oxygen can circle and cycle through you.
With inhaling and exhaling we build a bridge, a connection
with these tiny beings.

What does it mean to you to breathe here and now;
within the ocean, the layers and the tides?

As you zoom into their worlds, you yourself are becoming
smaller and smaller, against the vastness of the outside
ocean.

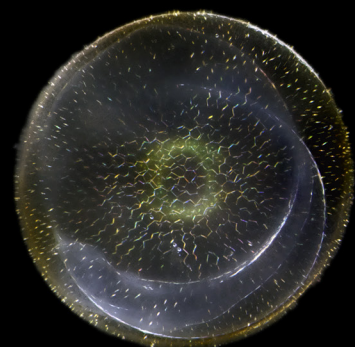
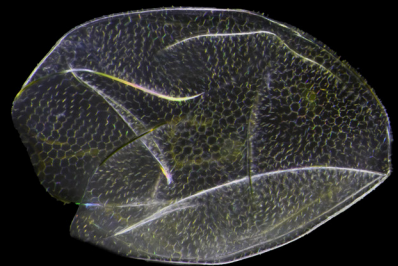
As if your bones are shrinking,
becoming smaller than your flesh.
Feel how you become weightless
as you drift with the flow of the water,
together with these species,
called phytoplankton.

Let your body be moved by the waters
enveloping you and transforming you.
Where once was your skin, you are covered in delicate plates,
a shield enclosing you, covering your inner self.

In extending outside, you grow whirling limbs,
flagellas and flickering hairs.
With these extremities, you can alter how to float.
You can let yourself sink deeper into the dark.
Or whirl yourself back to the surface.

Slowly raise your arms to the sides,
undulate them around you.
They are whirling steering levers, to propel yourself around.
You are extended, emanating from your core
and you can reach upwards towards the sunlight.

Towards the shimmering rays
that hit the surface of the ocean.
You can feel the warmth as you reach it.
How does life feel now, in this environment,



in this new body?
Do you feel safe?
Do you feel pushed, guided, confined?
Rather trapped or taken care of?

But being microscopic in this planetary togetherness
is not always full of lightness.

In this smallness the water is pulling you,
pushing you, and it can feel thick, dense, like honey.

The molecules of water around you create tight bonds and
your light movements now need more effort.

Try to softly push your hands as far away from the center
as you can.

Feel the weight on your arms,
the pull downwards, the draw of the unknown deep.

If you feel tired now, you can sediment on the ocean floor.
Spiral down, slowly turn to stone.

You are now part of the earth's history, the sediments, the
archives.

As you lie down here, you gently begin to transition back to
your physical body,
feeling the weight of the water receding
as you return to your natural state.

You grow larger and larger again,
your limbs and flagella slowly turn back into arms and legs.
From sedimented being you begin your transformation
back to your human form.

As you feel the urge to breathe, start your ascend.
Back at the surface, think about this visit in space and time,
your being and becoming with algae,
who allow you to breathe here and now.
Thank them, for their efforts, their ongoing cycles.

Then take a moment to reconnect with your own body,
before you bring your attention
back to the terrestrial world.

