

## OCEAN FELLOWSHIP

Call for Applications

OCEAN FELLOWSHIP 2021

TBA21–Academy at Ocean Space, Venice

March – June, 2021 & Mid-June – Mid-October, 2021

Application deadline: January 10, 2021

Kindly supported by:



## OCEAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM Guidelines

### 1. OCEAN FELLOWS & MENTORS

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The **Ocean Fellowship Program** is a funded research opportunity offered by **TBA21–Academy** and held at **Ocean Space** in Venice, Italy. The 2021 edition is closely affiliated with the exhibition *The Soul Expanding Ocean #1: Taloi Havini* at Ocean Space, on view from **March 20 to October 17**, 2021. The fellowship also forms an integral part of *The Current III* (working title: The Mediterraneans: “Thus waves come in pairs,” after Etel Adnan), a transdisciplinary and transregional exercise in sensing, listening, thinking, and learning with - by connecting and supporting situated projects, collective pedagogies, and voices along the Mediterranean shores across the fields of art, culture, science, conservation, and activism.

The program supports **six Fellows and two Mentors** to conduct individual and collaborative research as well as investigations with an awareness of oceanic worldviews and marine histories; an understanding of the changes in ocean management and recognition of indigenous marine governance and leadership; non-binarism as a philosophy; equality and social justice. This year, the Fellowship brings attention to storytelling as a method, as an „action“ to portray and convey a territory, a mindset, and a substance, encouraging intergenerational exchange, building resilience in communities, and strengthening citizenship.

Fellows and Mentors should have, all in all, a sensitivity towards pedagogy, as this program is also a possibility to experience together and share ideas and values. Further, fellows are encouraged to conceive and develop forms of mediation and activation for diverse audiences. Following a training period, the fellows will have the opportunity to act as mediators of the exhibition and present in this role their work to the audience, researching in practice. Mentors will guide the fellows’ research on group and individual sessions while having the opportunity to expand their own research during their stay in Venice. The program will unfold a mode of learning and pedagogy where knowledge is conceived as co-constructed through action and praxis. If the situation around COVID-19 should hinder travel and/or the opening of Ocean Space in March 2020, the fellowship will take place but in the digital realm.

For the 2021 edition of the Ocean Fellowship, we are proudly partnering with **Artis** who are supporting 1 fellow artist or researcher from Israel whose work addresses aesthetic, social and political questions that inspire reflection and debate around oceans and specifically the Mediterranean.

*\*We are aware that the worldwide situation due to covid-19 will severely limit international travel. However, we still encourage you to apply to the Ocean Fellowship. If future restrictions won't allow Ocean Space to reopen, the Ocean Fellowship will be transformed into a digital program, as it was in 2020. We hope this can be a positive message to encourage research and collaboration despite the obstacles caused by the pandemic.*

## 2. ELIGIBILITY & MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS OF RESEARCH

The Fellowship is aimed at undergraduates, master or PhD level students, and at recent graduates while the Mentorship is asking for scholars with a graduate or post-graduate degree with some relevant experience in teaching or mentoring. TBA21–Academy and Ocean Space contexts offer a unique opportunity for specialists engaging in multidisciplinary fields of research. Artists from all fields are encouraged to apply as both Fellows and Mentors. Applicants should engage critically with the oceanic and specialise in related fields of research (eg. Postcolonial and Feminist Studies, Indigenous Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, Accessibility and Educational Sciences, Engineering, Material sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Social sciences, Arts, Curatorial Studies and Critical Theory).

We expect excellent communication skills and the ability to explain complex subjects to different audiences, fluency in spoken and written English, Italian is a plus. Your interest in expanding knowledge on oceanic issues goes in tandem with your ability to demonstrate how the fellowship will allow you to further your studies and own research areas. A commitment for the whole duration of the fellowship placement is essential.

The call for mentors is addressed to scholars with a graduate or postgraduate degree with some relevant experience in teaching or mentoring from a wide range of disciplines including the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences. English proficiency is required for running the group and individual mentor sessions, Italian will be considered a plus.

Applicants are expected to co-develop a pedagogical and mentorship programme informing the Ocean Fellowship 2021 programme. This includes an online introductory

group session with the 6 Ocean Fellows, the weekly sessions in a group of 3 during the two Ocean Fellowship terms, in addition to engaging on one to one continued mentorship of the Ocean Fellows research during the duration of each fellows' term. The Mentors will work in close collaboration with the director of TBA21 –Academy, Markus Reymann, and the programme curators.

Find more information on previous fellows and mentors [here](#).  
TBA21–Academy and Ocean Space are committed to maintaining a diverse working environment and are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.

### 3. BUDGET & TIMELINE

The Ocean Fellows Programme will offer a total allowance of 5.500 Euro per Fellow for the 4-month duration of the programme and a total allowance of 8.000 Euro per Mentor for the full duration of their respective terms. The allowance may be subject to tax and work status

will have to be determined on a case by case basis. Fellows & Mentors are expected to finance their own travel, accommodation, and visa costs; we will support each successful applicant individually in the process of securing additional support.

**March 8 – June 30, 2021:** First Ocean Fellows group (3 fellows in total)

**June 21 – October 17, 2021:** Second Ocean Fellows group (3 fellows in total)

Additionally, all Fellows and both Mentors will be required to participate in a one -week online Group Session. Mentors and Fellows will get to know each other, familiarize with each one's background and research interests, deep -into the exhibition profiles that will be held at Ocean Space (*Territorial Agency. Oceans in Transformation* and *The Soul Expanding Ocean #1: Taloi Havinj*), and discover the richness of the Ocean Archive and several of TBA21–Academy programmes.

A meaningful presence of the Mentors in Venice is required, especially when your group of fellows will be at Ocean Space, but this can be discussed on a case -by-case basis.

#### 4. TASKS & ACTIVITIES

The Fellows are artistic-academic-scientific researchers and cultural mediators. Part of the Fellows' responsibilities is to add perspective on the exhibition *The Soul Expanding Ocean #1: Taloi Havini* and contribute to the public program, also to share their perspective research as part of *The Current III*. As part of the educational program, Fellows are assisting to run workshops and tours on topics relating to the exhibition *The Soul Expanding Ocean #1: Taloi Havini*. By assuming the role of mediators, Fellows will assist the audience in their visits and their understanding of the exhibition on 2 days per week. Exploring Venice and its ecosystem, the Fellows are expanding their research and sharing it with the other Fellows and with the audience in the public programme and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the project.

The Fellows will be invited to propose relevant texts, articles, research materials and documents. Their research will become part of [Ocean/Uni](#), [Ocean Archive](#), and [Ocean Community](#) free-access international study program and online archive, a learning platform initiated by TBA21–Academy.

As part of an Ocean Learning Program, Fellows will be introduced to institutions, associations and professionals relevant to their area of research (i.e. national institution like ISMAR-CNR, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, global ones as UNESCO, etc. and local association as We Are Here Venice, etc.). The team at Ocean Space will organise a series of meetings with researchers, scientists, activists, artists and policy-makers allowing interns to deepen their knowledge on oceanic issues and get in touch with professionals. Find more information on previous Ocean Fellows [here](#).

#### 5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Fill out the Fellow or the Mentor Application Form;
- Letter of motivation in English outlining ideas to be explored during the Ocean Fellowship Programme (maximum 700 words), indicating your period preference for joining the Ocean Fellows Programme (March – June) (June – October) or your application as Research Mentor;
- Research Proposal;
- Attach your CV in English (maximum 4 pages);
- Names and contact details of two professionals or academic referees familiar with the research of the applicant.

## 6. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please send the material in one single .pdf file by January 10, 2021 to [oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org](mailto:oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org)

## 7. SELECTION PROCEDURE

A jury formed by international professionals from diverse backgrounds will be formed to choose in accordance with the Academy and Ocean Space team members and the upcoming programme the most suitable candidates by January 30, 2021. The selected candidates will be informed of the jury's decision by email.

## 8. ABOUT

### TBA21–Academy

The Academy is a contemporary art organisation and cultural ecosystem fostering a deeper relationship to the Ocean through the lens of art to inspire care and action. For a decade, we have been an incubator for collaborative research, artistic production and new forms of knowledge by combining art and science, resulting in exhibitions, research, and policy interventions.

### About Ocean Space

Ocean Space is a new planetary centre for catalysing ocean literacy, research and advocacy through the arts. Established and led by TBA21 –Academy and building on its expansive work over the past ten years, this new embassy for the oceans fosters engagement and collective action on the most pressing issues facing the oceans today. Opened in March of 2019, Ocean Space is inhabiting the Church of San Lorenzo in Venice opened in March 2019. For more information, visit Ocean Space website.

### Contacts

For any queries please contact [oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org](mailto:oceanfellows@tba21-academy.org)

### FAQ

For Frequently Asked Questions, please see [here](#).