

For Immediate Release

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Seeing the Plastic Ocean: A Climate Inspired Public Art Event

Dates: June 1-14, 2024 -

Location: Northeast Arts, 85 Seaverns Ave, Jamaica Plain MA

- Highlights:
1. June 1st - 11:30am to 1pm - Free outdoor photography exhibit, indoor art installation, jewelry-making, poetry and dance performances.
 2. June 7th & 8th - 7:30pm - Northeast Arts presents **HEARTSONGS**, suggested donation \$25, appx. run time - 1 hour

BOSTON MA, May 15, 2024 - *Seeing the Plastic Ocean: A Climate Inspired Public Art Event* is a collaborative arts project that confronts the urgent issue of plastic pollution in the ocean. Through dance, costume design and photography this dynamic project aims to draw attention to the pressing global crisis and inspire meaningful action to protect our oceans and planet.

The two-week free, outdoor photography exhibition bookends the event's highlights on June 1, 7 and 8 and addresses the important issue of plastics in the ocean. Open studios on June 1st allow the public to interact with the costumes, photography and dancers by way of dance workshops, poetry activities, audio guide to the exhibit and interactive jewelry-making from recycled materials. Evening length professional performances titled **HEARTSONGS** on June 7 & 8 feature new choreography by Gianni di Marco, Northeast Arts' continuance of the series *Portraits of Women*, and an innovative climate-centered visual treat - *Seeing the Plastic Ocean* - featuring dancers that come to life as fantastical marine life and sea creatures, costumed and

conceptualized by Jill Palese, founder of Call To Action® Clothing. Special guest Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe opens the show.

For *Seeing the Plastic Ocean*, founder of Call To Action® Clothing Jill Palese handcrafted intricate and fantastical costumes, with symbolic use of polyurethane foam bra cups built onto the costumes in clever ways, to highlight the driving part of her company's work. Palese is the creator of the Bits Blocker® a patent-pending bra technology that eliminates foam from the ocean and landfill. As Call To Action's creative director, Palese's exquisite visuals highlight the intertwined fates of humans and nature, encouraging viewers to imagine the dancers as marine life. Each marine creature's costume is made from repurposed plastic materials, collected by Palese and photographer Alyssa Fortin, to emphasize the microplastics that plague the bodies of marine life. Palese's involvement in the collaborative project emerged from the clothing brand's mission to spread awareness about environmental mission. "As a career clothing designer for major brands, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of clothing waste on the planet. The mission is an urgent one," says Palese.

The stunning underwater photographs captured by Alyssa Fortin will be on display throughout the exhibition period, featuring images of dancers from Northeast Arts, Pacific Northwest Ballet and South Shore Ballet. "The finished images required hours-long sessions of hard work and dedication from the dancers and photographer," says Fortin. "I am honored to feature my work in this event, to celebrate our collaboration..." Fortin's body of work spans for many years, first as a fine art portrait artist, with a specialty working with film and archival papers and more recently creating fine art images seen in galleries. Photos from this collaboration will be on display on July 16th at Nantucket's Hostetler Gallery and Newport's Cusp Gallery opening August 15th.

Other collaborators in the event include dancers from Burke High School, jewelry from Mosstower Studios and local poets. Join us for a beautiful and vitally important event!

Tickets for HE**ART**SONGS are on sale now through the [Northeast Arts](#) website. Suggested donation of \$25, and Pay-What-You-Wish options are available.

Open studios events on June 1st are free and open to the public on a first-come first served basis.

For more information about Northeast Arts, including [directions and parking](#), and information about our year-round classes and professional supports, please visit www.northeastartspace.org and follow us on Instagram @northeast.arts

This program is supported by the Neighborhood and Downtown Activation Grant from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the City of Boston.