

FOR THE OCEAN: LEARN. DISCUSS. ADVOCATE.

THE  
YOI

# WORLD OCEAN DAY 2024 ZINE

ILLUSTRATION • GRAPHIC DESIGN  
PHOTOGRAPHY • WRITING • OTHER

# Dear Readers,

World Ocean Day (WOD) takes place every June 8th to celebrate and advocate for our ocean. As a youth organization centered around appreciating and protecting our ocean, YOI created a zine for it.

This zine includes over 25 artworks from youth across the globe! These artworks include paintings, digital art, photography, poems, and more. It is through these artists and their wonderful creations that this zine was made possible, and it is through them that we can celebrate our ocean as a community.

"Far and away, the greatest threat to the ocean, and thus to ourselves, is ignorance. But we can do something about that."

- Sylvia Earle





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# Contributors

Duong Nguyen

Dev Katyal

Ava Saucedo

Kevin Lin

Rahmeen Fatima

Rubi Rai

Ashley Lang

Eve Ojukwu

Janeeta Razia

Allison Su

Sophie Chen

Andrei Iordan

Avantika Sanjay

Lubaba Nawla

Aanya Rooprai

Ashwi Janga

*This zine was made possible through the artists, writers, designers, and photographers who submitted their lovely work! Without you, there would be no zine.*

*Thank you all!*

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## ***The Sacrifice For Humanity***

*Rubi Rai, 15, Queens, New York*

“Despite the ocean’s vastness, humanity’s greed will always prove to be greater, polluting even in the darkest nooks of the ocean bed.”

“When people look at my artwork, I want them to feel **small**, to feel their **insignificance** before mother nature and the ocean, as if they were truly gods of some sort. ”

“To think such life could prevail in the depths of the ocean where the pressure is enough to cause the internal organs of a human body to collapse in a short period of time is **truly the definition of cool**”.



HM, AN **Otter** SEEMS TO BELIEVE IT HAS STUMBLED UPON SOMETHING VALUABLE..★

LITTLE DOES HE KNOW HIS **Treasure** IS TRASH



## Treasuring Trash: A Cynical Habit

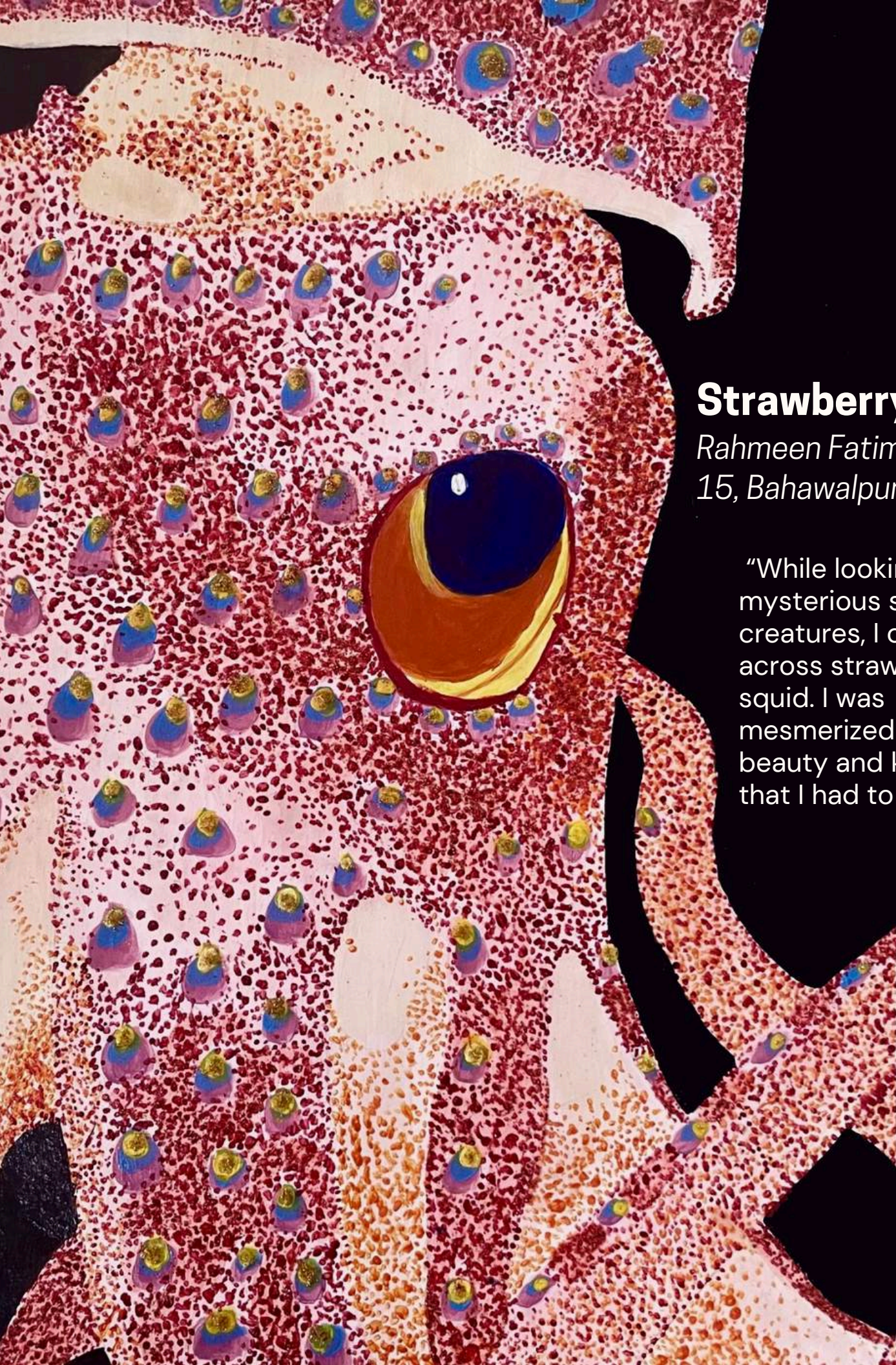
*Sophie Chen, 16, New York*

"Through creating [this piece], I hoped [...] to raise awareness of the hidden dangers lurking beneath the surface, urging our population to prompt action to preserve and purify our precious bodies of water."

"The ocean reigns as a safe haven to some of the most breathtaking and idiosyncratic creatures, such as the mimic octopus, which can imitate other sea creatures, the majestic whale shark, the largest fish in the sea, and the vibrant, bioluminescent comb jellies that light up the ocean abyss with their ethereal glow."







## **Strawberry Squid**

*Rahmeen Fatima,  
15, Bahawalpur, Pakistan*

“While looking for mysterious sea creatures, I came across strawberry squid. I was mesmerized by its beauty and knew that I had to draw it.”





## **Giant Pacific Octopus (*Enteroctopus dofleini*)**

*Ashwi Janga, 17, Yardley, Pennsylvania*

“I want people to realize the beauty in the world around us, even if they can’t continuously see [it]. There is beauty everywhere, especially within our oceans, so [...] I highlight that through my drawing of this colorful octopus.”



# MarineMatch : From Overfishing to Ocean Conservation

Dev Katyal, 17, Ottawa, Canada

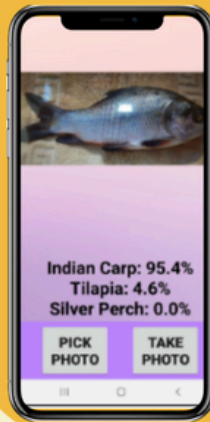
"I wanted MarineMatch to highlight that overfishing is an extremely relevant problem that we must all address as Canadians [...] Some people are very artistic, while others can build cool software using coding, all these strengths can be harnessed – giving hundreds of youth the chance to get involved and build a brighter Canada."

## HOW IT STARTED

A fishery audit conducted by Oceana Canada, a nonprofit organization, reported that just **30.4 per cent** of fisheries in Canada are considered "healthy" and nearly 20 per cent of stocks are "critically depleted."



## THE SOLUTION



MarineMatch is an app built in **Android Studio** in the Java language

The app uses **image classification** for users to upload an image of over 60+ different types of ocean animals and fish species

All this occurs in **split seconds!**

## HOW IT WORKS

MarineMatch uses a special type of AI called a "**neural network**" that requires 100+ hours of training. It uses **convolutional** layers to extract features and fully connected layers for classification. The network accurately identifies fish species in **real-time**.



## BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET... WE STILL NEED YOU!

## THE GOAL

MarineMatch will be launched to the play store by April 1st, 2024 after a thorough testing phase and review process. The app will be in the **public domain** for anyone across **Canada** to download. The goal is to have at least **100 users** by the **summer of 2024**, with users **finding 50+ new species** of fish. Overall, I hope to see increased **environmental awareness** on **overfishing**, promoting Canadian biodiversity.

## WHO CAN USE IT?

MarineMatch is open for anyone to use!

- Fishers can identify endangered species in split seconds
- Teachers can create interactive lessons by allowing students to discover

## LET'S STOP OVERFISHING!





## **Bank of Fish**

*Andrei Iordan, 14, Constanta, Romania*

"I want to make people feel the connection with the nature and the breeze when they see the vast blue mirror...sky and water."





## Touching the Tide & Curious Crab

*Ashley Lang, 16, California*

“Ocean life is diverse and its ecosystems are complex. I find beauty in the relationships of these creatures, how they interact with each other to create a home for themselves.”





# Ocean Emotion

**Maybe fishes don't grant wishes,  
Seas don't make you feel at ease,  
And you have no emotion for the ocean,  
But there's more than meets the breeze.**

**Beneath the waves, a world so vast,  
With wonders that will leave you aghast,  
Coral reefs, a rainbow's hue,  
In every shade of red, green, and blue.**

**Dive in deep, explore the unknown,  
With dolphins dancing, and whales that groan,  
Anemones waving, in colorful delight,  
In the ocean's playground, day and night.**

**The waves are calling, a surf's up cry,  
Catch the tide, give it a try,  
Feel the rush, the thrill, the motion,  
Let's dive into the ocean's ocean!**

**Let's protect this ocean's treasure,  
For future generations to treasure,  
With love and care, let's take a stand,  
And safeguard this magical wonderland.**

*Eve Ojukwu, 17, Lagos Island, Nigeria*



## Sea Mines

*Kevin Lin, 17, Brooklyn, New York*

“Although initially sea mines are relatively harmless for marine life, these mechanically engineering **death bombs** do not belong in the beauties of our seascape, just like any other sort of pollutants, they eventually erode and break down into harmful substances.”



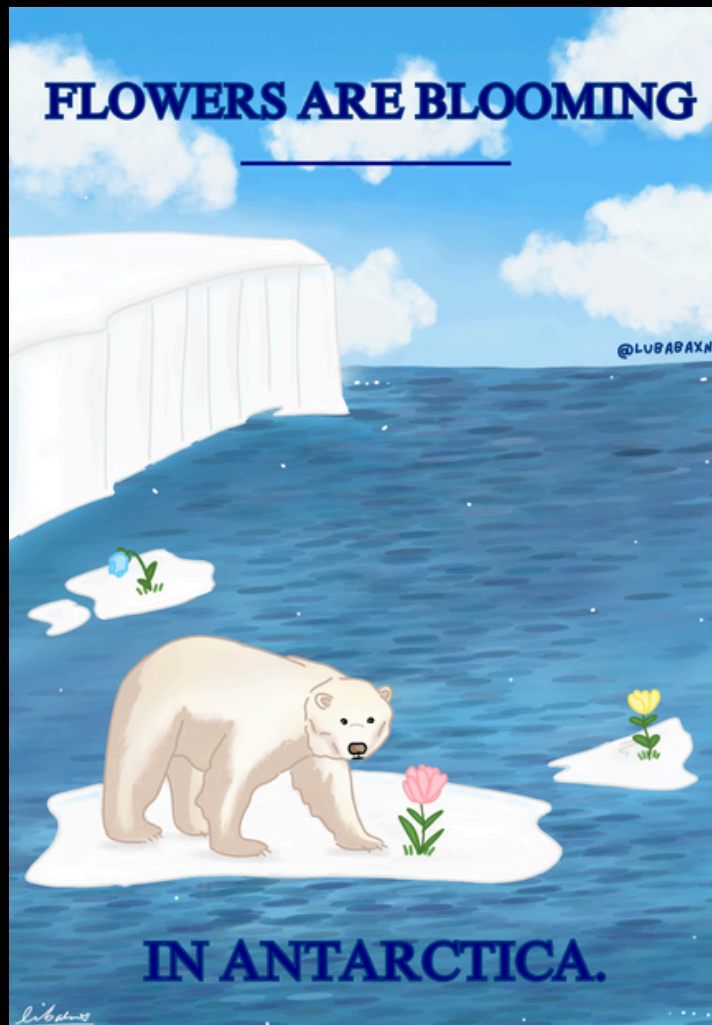
“Our ocean is the giver of life, a source of food, water, transportation that [we must] treasure and protect for the future generations rather than take for granted.”



# Jellyfish & Flowers Are Blooming In Antarctica

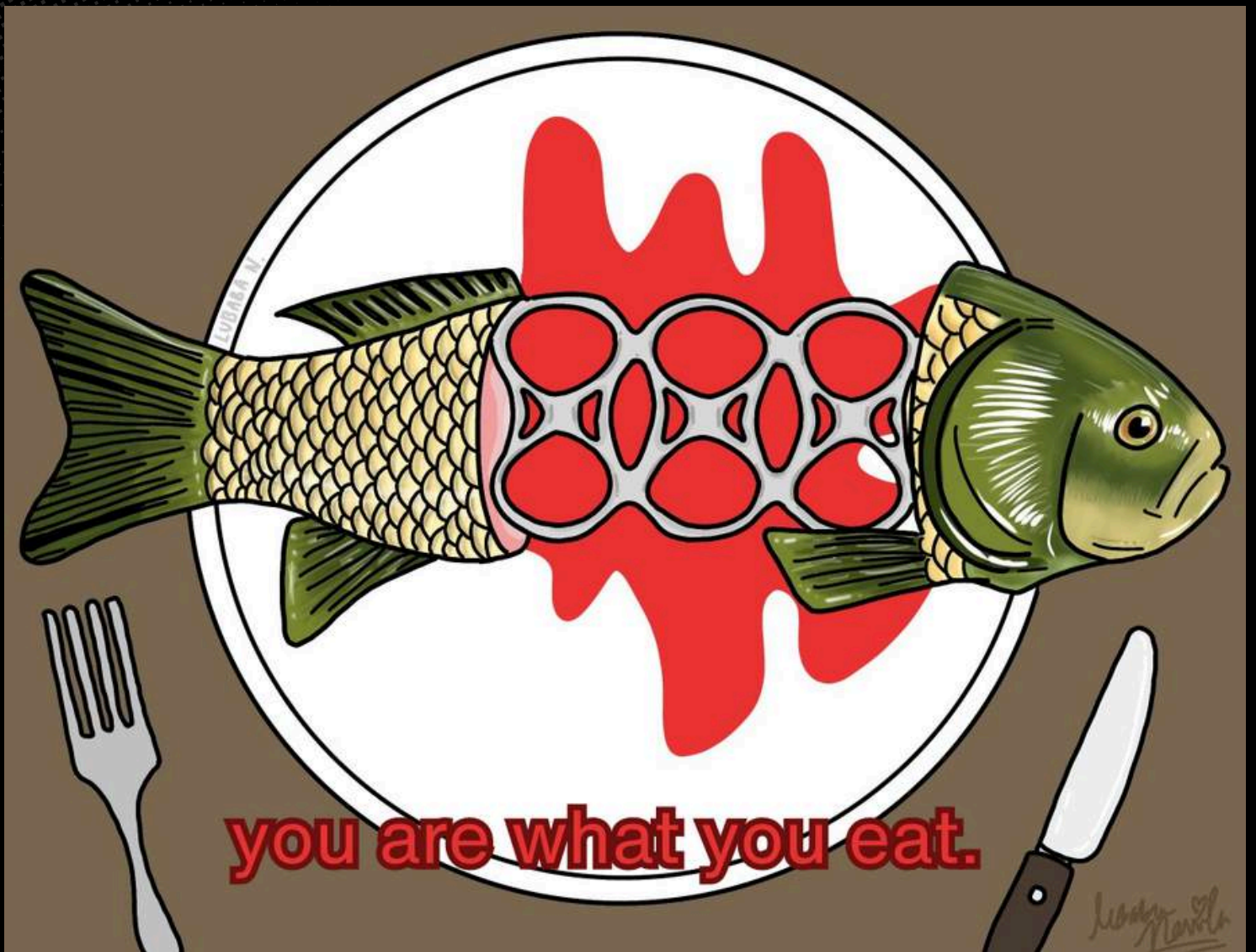
Lubaba Nawla, 15, New York

"My love for the ocean was overshadowed with concern, and those carefree summer days became tinged with the fact that the vibrant fish I once stared at was losing its color and its life, all because of me. The possibility of my childhood haven could be lost forever, and I don't want to watch it happen."



"The ocean is something we often take for granted...it's the backbone of humanity—it allows us to breathe, and above all, it allows us to *live*."





## **You Are What You Eat**

*Lubaba Nawla, 15, New York*

"If we don't ensure its protection and cherish [our ocean], the consequences will inevitably ripple outward, and the very essence of our planet will be diminished. Don't be a bystander, and don't turn your back on something we are responsible for. "





## **Strength and Resilience of Nature, Beauty and Diversity of Underwater Life, Adventure and Discover**

*Duong Nguyen, 19, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

“I was attracted to its beauty and mystery. The ocean is a vast and unexplored place, and there's still a lot we don't know about it. I find it fascinating to learn about the different creatures that live in the ocean and how they adapt to their surroundings.”



"...I want people to feel a sense of responsibility and connection towards the ocean."

# ECHOES OF THE OCEAN

Voices from the Shoreline  
AANYA ROOPRAI



Aanya Rooprai, 14, Ontario, Canada

"This piece of art mainly focuses on three main areas: how the ocean impacts us, the threats it faces, and what we can do to help protect it."

"In this specific zine, I decided to focus more on kids, and educating them as they are the future of earth."

"By recognizing the ocean's importance, we learn to appreciate how it protects life on Earth and make informed decisions to preserve this resource for current and future generations"



# Untitled

*Avantika Sanjay, 21, Chennai, India*



"Inspired by Japanese traditional art, my art piece depicts the mighty waves crashing under a full moon bringing in the tide... showcases the ethereal beauty of the ocean in the night sky."

"... respect and be curious about the complex and raw power of the ocean's ecosystem."





# Beneath the Plastic Veil - A Mother's Lament

*Janeeta Razia, 15, Jamaica, New York*

In the depths where darkness dwells,  
I roam, my heart a heavy shell.  
Through murky waters choked with strife,  
I navigate this ocean of life.

A mother's eyes, burdened with pain,  
Watch helplessly as hopes wane.  
In swirling tides of human neglect,  
My baby's fate, a cruel defect.

Entangled in a web of man's design,  
My precious offspring, no longer mine.  
Innocence snuffed by plastic grasp,  
A tragedy too cruel to clasp.

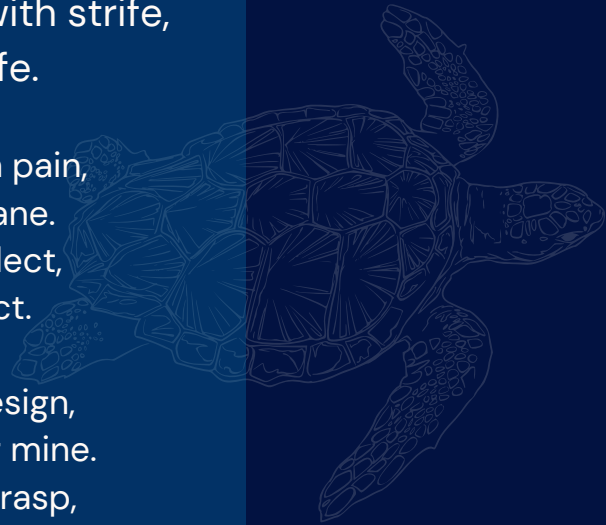
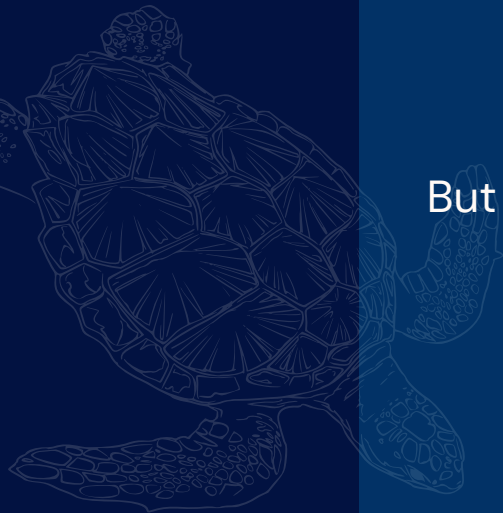
I cry out in a silent plea,  
But who will hear the song of the sea?  
For every tear that I shed,  
Is lost in waves of dread.

Oh, cruel world, what have we done?  
To rob the ocean of its sun.  
In the depths where shadows reign,  
My heart breaks, forever stained.

I mourn my loss, my soul laid bare,  
In this world of pain and despair.  
For every creature lost at sea,  
Is a testament to humanity's plea.

So heed my tale, you who tread,

Upon the shores where dreams are bled.  
For in your hands lies the power to mend,  
To bring this tragedy to an end.





# Land of Ice & The Regal Puffin

Allison Su, 20, New York



“With anthropogenic climate change, the oceans are warming and acidifying, threatening not only the existence of marine life but also the human life that depends on it.”





## **Bermudaful**

*Allison Su, 20, New York*

"I hope that by seeing these photographs, people can appreciate the beauty of the ocean and the animals that depend on it. Countries as distant as Bermuda and Iceland all depend on the ocean, showing how the ocean connects us all. Perhaps these photographs can even remind people of how nature makes them feel—calmer, more peaceful, in awe."



## Midday Beach & The Sun Meets The Waters

*Ava Saucedo, 17, Irvine, California*

“ I want people to also realize how delicate the ocean is. It’s calm, grand, yet precious. The ocean is irreplaceable...”

My photography captures the ocean in its rawest form. No symbols, no metaphors, and no abstract. I let the ocean and its overwhelming beauty speak for itself. I hope that with my straightforward photography, the ocean can be easily observed and understood by anyone who looks at my artwork.





# Thank You!

And thats a wrap! Happy World Ocean Day 2024 everyone, we hope that this event has inspired you to continue, or perhaps even begin, your path in ocean advocacy. YOI truly appreciates your support towards our mission, and we will continue to fight to protect our ocean. We look forward to “sea-ing” you around, and hopefully join us for World Ocean Day 2025.

With much love,  
YOI

