## Exploring Visual Arts through the Blue Humanities: The Case Study of Jason deCaires Taylor's Underwater Sculptures

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Abstract: The Blue Humanities aims to deepen our understanding of the oceans through the integration of arts and sciences, emphasizing their cultural, historical, and ecological significance. This study explores the role of visual arts within this interdisciplinary framework, focusing on the underwater sculptures of Jason deCaires Taylor as a case study. The research employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining art history, environmental science, and cultural studies to explore the significance of Taylor's underwater installations. Methodologies include analysis of the artistic elements and themes in Taylor's work, assessment of the ecological impact of the sculptures on marine environments, and examination of the cultural narratives they evoke. Key findings highlight how Taylor's sculptures serve as artificial reefs, promoting marine biodiversity while simultaneously raising awareness about ocean conservation. The artworks act as powerful symbols, merging environmental activism with artistic expression and transforming underwater spaces into immersive art galleries that challenge traditional notions of viewing art. By bridging the gap between visual arts and environmental science, this study demonstrates how Taylor's sculptures contribute to the Blue Humanities by fostering a deeper, more holistic appreciation of the marine world. The research advocates for the continued integration of artistic perspectives into marine conservation efforts, emphasizing the role of visual arts in shaping public perceptions and promoting ecological sustainability. In conclusion, this study underscores the transformative potential of visual arts within the Blue Humanities, exemplified by Jason deCaires Taylor's underwater sculptures, which inspire both aesthetic appreciation and environmental consciousness.

Keywords: blue humanities, visual art, underwater sculptures, Jason deCaires Taylor

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