

PRESS RELEASE

Rome, 14 May 2025

Preview of the documentary 'The Sense of Place: Documenting Ocean Relationship'

Produced by CO>SEA as part of the European project PartArt4OW



The research group [CO>SEA](#) – hosted by the [Dipartimento di Metodi e Modelli per l'Economia, il Territorio e la Finanza \(MEMOTEF\)](#) Sapienza University of Rome – has premiered the new short documentary [The Sense of Place: Documenting Ocean Relationships](#) produced in collaboration with the audiovisual production agency Raw-News.

🎬 The documentary, filmed in Anzio and Nettuno (Rome), directed by Federico Fornaro and shot by Fornaro and Giuseppe Lupinacci (Raw-News), was premiered on May 14 during the event [La Notte delle Idee – Seas and Oceans: Towards New Routes](#), organized by the French Embassy in Italy and the Institut Français at Palazzo Farnese (Cinema Room), in Rome.



The Sense of Place, Between Science, Emotion and Art

Building on the theoretical and methodological framework outlined by CO>SEA in its previous video-documentation [Blue Kinship](#), [The Sense of Place](#) represents an experimental application of the explorations of Marine Social Geography on some of the key geographical concepts (such as 'sense of place', 'boundaries', 'belonging', 'territory', 'environment' and 'community') to reveal how these apply to ocean spaces and through the experience of people living at sea. Focusing in particular on the perspectives of individuals who surf at sea, particularly surfers, the video-doc kicks off the investigation of how the affective bond with the ocean is formed and expressed, adopting an emotional communication approach around the concept and lived experience of the 'sense of place'.

Acknowledging the growing recognition by international institutions of the importance of ocean literacy, the film emphasises the need to cultivate relationships based on caring for the ocean to foster a sense of responsibility. We care for what we understand, feel connected to and ultimately love, not just for the services it provides. As Chiara Certomà put it: "We take care of what we understand, feel connected to and ultimately love, not just because it provides us with resources or services."

The Sense of Place demonstrates how visual storytelling can deepen our understanding of emotional attachment to the ocean. Through a seamless collaboration between researchers and media professionals, the documentary exemplifies the power of visual documentation in marine social geography and in catalysing engaged, transformative and participatory ocean research.



A Night of Ideas for New Routes

[La Nuit des Idées](#) offered an opportunity to bring the extraordinary historical and artistic heritage of Palazzo Farnese into dialogue with one of the crucial challenges of the contemporary world: the future of the oceans. An event under the banner of beauty, confrontation and sharing, to imagine together new routes towards a shared ocean.

La notte delle idee

14 MAGGIO 2025
PALAZZO FARNESE
18.00 – 00.00
institutfrancais.it

Mari e Oceani Verso Nuove Rotte

Dibattiti, proiezioni, installazioni, performance
Ingresso gratuito previa registrazione obbligatoria

Un'iniziativa



Sponsor



Con il sostegno di



In collaborazione



Credits and accessibility

The Sense of Place: Documenting Ocean Relationship was produced by Raw-News as part of the European project PartArt4OW. Participatory Art For Society Engagement with Ocean and Water and the [CoSea Lab pilot initiative of Sapienza Terza Missione](#). The projects are coordinated by Chiara Certomà and are recognised as official activities of the United Nations Decade of Oceans.

The filming was supported by research funds from the University of Turin (ESOMAS Department). The production also benefited from the collaboration of the CO>SEA team of Sapienza University: Caterina Pozzobon, Luca Bertocci, Chiara Salari.

Special thanks go to the surfing community of Anzio and Nettuno, where the documentary was filmed, to the community of sea workers and seafarers of Anzio, and to the Anzio municipal administration.

 The documentary is available at:

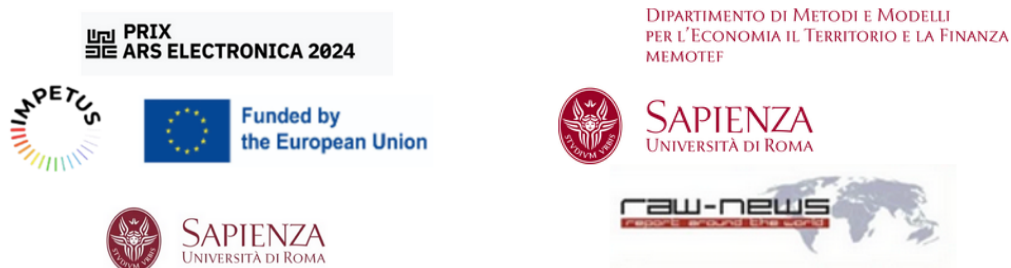
 https://youtu.be/zMfMW9pPv_k
 <https://zenodo.org/records/15407782> .

Special thanks go to the surfing community of Anzio and Nettuno, the sea workers and citizens of Anzio, and the municipal administration.

Information

- Chiara Certomà – chiara.certoma@uniroma1.it
- Federico Fornaro – federico.fornaro@raw-news.net
- Info: <https://crowdusg.net/2025/04/29/blue-kinshipspartart4owinstitut-francais/>
- CO>SEA research diary: <https://crowdusg.net/cosea/>
- PartArt4OW project: <https://partart4ow.eu/>





Patronage of Comune di Anzio

