

Let's start from the beginning: our atoms were created during a supernova that exploded before the formation of the Sun, thus creating the elements that today form the planets of the Solar System, the living and non-living world of that small cosmic moment, the flora and fauna of the Earth, us who dream, fear and perhaps are the only ones with consciousness, love, and poetry, and thereby the power to change the existing conditions we find ourselves in. *Homo sapiens*, *Homo ludens*, *Homo deus*, more than sixty percent water himself. On a planet five billion years old, whose surface is still covered by seventy percent water. Water that constantly speaks to our water, its billions of years of existence summoning our internal seas.

The sea is peace. By the sea, ancient and vital, the mother sea, we can understand that we are but a moment, less than a moment in the vast cosmic history. Water is the possibility of life. It originated precisely in the water, in the oceans that once covered our searing and inhospitable planet. So, the sea has been there from the very beginning, it was the beginning – accompanying the first synthesis of molecules into larger molecules, the emergence of the first single-celled organisms, the connection of cells. When life emerged from the sea onto the land, the history of the land began, and then, around 1.9 million years ago, *Homo erectus*, the upright man, appeared. The upright man, perhaps never a wise one, separated himself from the way the planet breathes. Unaware that the story of life is much greater than man himself, we recklessly pollute and destroy even the sea, the very beginning of life. At the same time, let us not forget that the entire history of mankind and civilization is essentially a history of creation myths, where we transpose deities from one story to another, attributing divine properties to natural elements and phenomena we do not understand.

Can we turn back the clock? Can we change the story? This is what Renata Poljak is asking herself, looking for an answer through art, and all possible arsenals of art (aware that every language of creation can be understood in coexistence with others), a way not to merely rewrite an ancient story, but to make it alive through art, thus giving the Sea itself a new life, a new autonomous beginning.

The boy Vanja Cetinić – Koća lives in Split, he is 12 years old, and for the past two years he has been catching plankton with a plankton net and studying them under a microscope. Fascinating microscope images show the magnified world of tiny creatures that produce oxygen. Musicians Amira Medunjanin and Alen and Nenad Sinkauz create a new song based on the written lyrics, while Renata documents this process. Throughout history, we have perceived and understood the world through beliefs, transmitting those beliefs through songs and stories. Renata Poljak's idea is to re-create a song, a myth of new creative energy and strength, in which the Sea becomes the God of creation.

Through a utopian attempt to rewrite the creation myth, giving the sea its rightful place it had not had before, restoring its creative role, we are giving the sea back its right to its story. Renata Poljak's project, *Songs for the Sea*, in which she reinterprets mythology and gives power to the Sea, is a future we can sense as soon as our feet touch the seawater: it is the Sea healed from our careless existence, and perhaps in this story, the sea will also write us as beings of tenderness and care, of the sea and light.

A boy throws a rock and suddenly, a universe is created.

Monika Herceg