



MUSAN

Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa



Introduction

Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa (MUSAN) was commissioned by the Municipality of Ayia Napa, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, and the Ministry of Tourism. It is located 200 metres off the coast of Pernera Beach within a Marine Protected Area (MPA). As the ambassador for the Ayia Napa MPA, the museum will be a space for education, preservation and conservation.

MUSAN is an underwater forest, the first of its kind in the world, and is aimed at turning a barren stretch of sand into a thriving marine environment. The museum's metaphorical entrance is marked by 2 figurative land sculptures; Irineos and Calypso, who are the children pledging to help protect the sea.

The underwater entrance is located around 200 metres from Pernera beach, visitors will be able to view the remaining 93 artworks, which are situated 8 - 10 metres below the water's surface in a ravine of sand located in between natural rock formations. A suggested route through the museum is indicated on the following page, which will guide snorkelers and divers through their underwater forest journey.

The artworks have been designed to attract marine life on a large scale and each piece will develop organically while being reclaimed by the sea. Some sculptures will float just beneath the surface so that the whole structure provides a complex environment for marine life at all levels.

Entrance

Museum Map

8.5m

Zone One
Cypress Pavilion
Pages 4 - 5

9.0m

Zone Two
Floating Forest
Pages 6 - 7

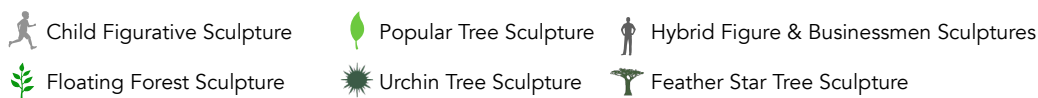
9.6m

Zone Three
Urchin Forest
Pages 8 - 9

10m

Zone Four
Feather Star Forest
Pages 10 - 11

Exit Point



Rules and Visitor Guidelines

Please ensure all visitors review this guide before entering the museum.



Do not touch
sculptures



Do not sit
on sculptures



Do not stand
on sculptures



No water crafts
allowed



No boats
allowed

- **Please do not touch the sculptures.** All the artwork within the museum have been placed there for marine life to live on / in as well as for visitors to enjoy.
- Please follow the suggested route through the museum to enjoy the overall narrative of the museum and to help limit any damage to the artworks and marine life.
- Ensure a safe distance is maintained from tree sculptures.
- Ensure a safe distance is maintained between buddy groups.
- Divers with poor buoyancy skills are advised to stay below the tree canopy.
- No personal water crafts or motorised boats are allowed within the designated museum area.
- Please tag the museum on social media:
#Musanayanapa
#Jasondecairestaylor

For more information, please visit:

www.musan.com.cy

www.moa.gov.cy



ZONE ONE - CYPRESS PAVILION

The entrance to the underwater forest is guarded by two gatekeepers; a hybrid male figure and a young boy. Behind these two sculptures is the beginning of the Cypress Pavilion, which looks purposefully barren to portray nature without foliage. The design of the trees is based on the Poplar tree, a variety commonly found in Cyprus. Although the artworks in this section are sparse and stark, reinforcing the theme of deforestation, they were purposely created to provide protective shelter for smaller marine life and to encourage fish aggregation.

Amongst the trees are numerous cameras, reminding us that surveillance is everywhere. The camera is a weapon of control, but also provides us, using the power of social media, with the means to initiate change. In the Cypress Pavilion, children have taken control of some of the cameras. As visitors progress through MUSAN, they will notice that the children use the camera to hold people to account for their actions.

Visitors to the museum are invited to contemplate what type of world we are creating and are encouraged to acknowledge that our natural world needs our help.





Can you....

- find juvenile fish in the protective habitat created by the hybrid head of the gatekeeper sculpture?
- find a heart and a star shape on one of the sculptures?
- Spot an octopus in one of the tree bases?
- see a school of black damsel fish?

Did you know...

- *MUSAN is the first underwater forest in the world.*
- the girls pointing the cameras at each other were cast made from the artist's daughter. If you swim past them too fast you may receive a speeding ticket!
- the young boy at the entrance is not crying. He is covering his eyes while he counts as the children throughout the museum are playing a game of hide and seek.
- that the Mediterranean Sea is the world's most overfished sea.

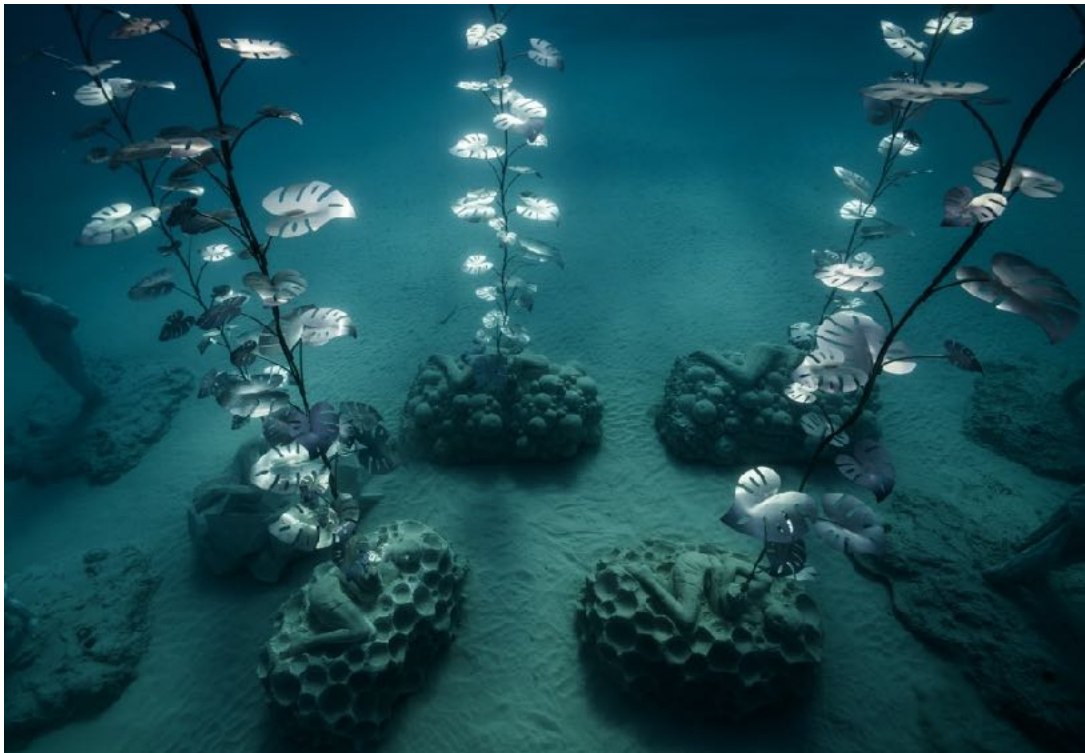
ZONE TWO - FLOATING FOREST

Having passed through the barren Cypress Pavilion, visitors will find themselves in a floating forest. Here, the theme of rejuvenation is introduced. The forest begins its transformation from a broken world into a re-wilded forest, with help from the young generation.

Children curled up asleep are dreaming of a better future. They are the symbolic seeds, protection and nourishment needed to regrow a thriving forest in the future world. Children are encouraged to rewild their imaginations as well as their surrounding environment.

The vines that float above the sleeping children sculptures were inspired by the kelp forests found around South Africa and the West coast of America. In order to create tall works within the museum, floating devices were added to the stainless steel creations that are tethered to the seabed. These provide an alternative habitat space for marine life to explore. The movement of the vines in the sea currents is intended to evoke the feeling of wind sweeping through land-based forests. These structures were designed to attract different species that normally live in different levels of the water column.

As you pass from Zone 2 to Zone 3, you will see that the dreams of the children begin to take shape.





Can you...

- find a rare nudibranch living on the vines? One has been sighted that has never been documented before in Cyprus until the installation of MUSAN.
- see a hydroid plant?
- find a juvenile big fin reef squid?
- count the number of the sleeping children?
- count the goat fish scavenging the sand amongst the sculptures?

Did you know...

- the vines were designed to resemble umbilical cords to remind us of our strong connection to the natural world.
- the vine leaves were based on the native *Taro* plant leaves.
- the thick, white sand found within MUSAN is the reason why the water visibility is some of the best in the Mediterranean Sea.
- the Mediterranean Sea has 17,000+ organisms, of which more than 750 are fish.

ZONE THREE - URCHIN FOREST

Amongst the sculpted trees in the Urchin Forest, children and businessmen can be seen playing a game of hide-and-seek. The children remind us that the natural world is a place to explore, discover and fire our imaginations. Over the last 50 years of increasing urbanisation many of us have become more excluded from the wild places that once existed.

The empowered children of the Urchin Forest are holding cameras as they play. They point their lenses at the human race and begin to take control of their own future - one in which the mystery and magic of nature will return.

In Zone 4, nature returns in great abundance and our connections to it are further explored.





Can you...

- see any juvenile barracudas or pipe fish pretending to be one of the spines?
- Find the sculpture with the sharp nails?
- see the big fish shoals of smelt?
- see the feather like bryozoans growing on the faces of the sculptures?

Did you know...

- these particular tree sculptures were designed to be half golden oak tree and half sea urchin.
- each tree weighs over 12 ton.
- the average water temperature at MUSAN is 25°C all year round.
- the Mediterranean Sea hosts more that 18% of the marine organisms found around the world.

ZONE FOUR - FEATHER STAR FOREST

In the last zone of the museum, visitors enter a flourishing forest. The foliage of the golden oak trees provide a magnificent canopy for divers to swim underneath and snorkelers to enjoy from above. At the same time, they create new habitat spaces for a plethora of marine species. A variety of retreats are positioned within the tree bases to allow marine life to reside and take refuge. As time goes by, the sculptures will be absorbed by the surrounding natural world and will be reclaimed by the sea.

The symbiotic relationship between mankind and nature needs to be cultivated to provide a better balance in favour of nurturing fragile ecosystems. The museum aims to leave us with a sense of hope and a greater awareness of our role in protecting and facilitating the rejuvenation and recovery of our fragile ocean world.





Can you...

- discover marine life living in the roots of the trees?
- spot juvenile fish colonies living in the branches?
- see any grabs hiding under the trees?
- spot any lionfish?

Did you know...

- when the trees are viewed from above they look like feather stars.
- the deepest part of the Mediterranean Sea is at 5,267m and it is called Calypso.
- the best view of the museum in this section is from laying on the sandy sea floor and looking up towards the sky? Instead of watching the clouds roll by, you will see marine life instead.
- only 20 fossil fuel companies are responsible for over a 1/3 of all greenhouse emissions since 1965? These companies have been aware of the link between their products and climate change for over 25 years.



Biography

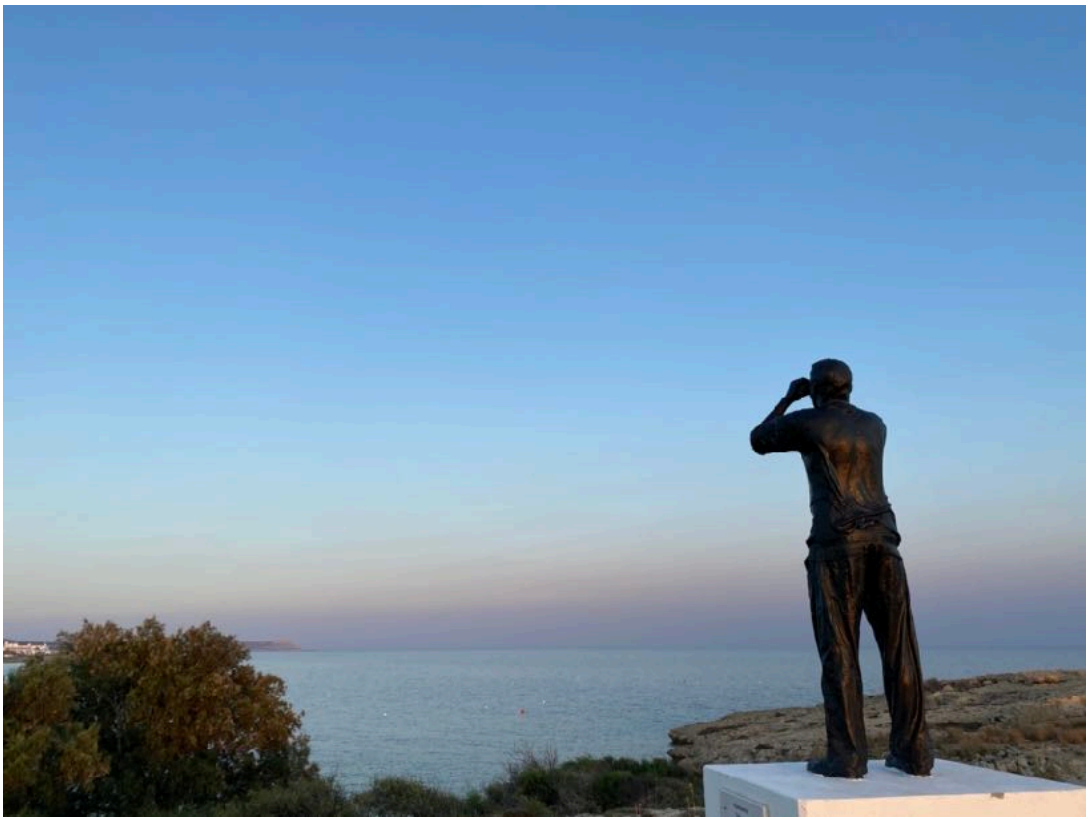
Jason deCaires Taylor (b. 1974) is a sculptor, environmentalist and professional underwater photographer. Taylor graduated from the London Institute of Arts in 1998 with a BA Honours in Sculpture. Taylor became the first of a new generation of artists to shift the concepts of the Land Art movement into the realm of the marine environment.

His permanent site-specific sculptural works are predominately exhibited underwater in submerged and tidal marine environments, exploring modern themes of conservation and environmental activism. Over the past 15 years, Taylor has been one of the first to consider the underwater realm as a public art space and is best known for his numerous large-scale underwater "Museums" and "Sculpture Parks". Taylor gained international notoriety in 2006 with the creation of the world's first underwater sculpture park, situated off the West coast of Grenada in the West Indies. *Moilinere Bay Underwater Sculpture Park* is now listed as one of the Top 25 Wonders of the World by National Geographic. The park was instrumental in the government declaring the site a National Marine Protected Area. Taylor has gone on produce 1,000+ public terrestrial and underwater sculptures worldwide, which are visited by thousands of visitors each week.

Other major projects include *MUSA* (Mexico), *Ocean Atlas* (Bahamas), *Museo Atlantico* (Spain), *The Rising Tide* (UK), *Nest* (Indonesia), *Nexus* (Norway), *Coralarium* (Maldives), *Ocean Siren* (Australia), *The Coral Greenhouse* (Australia), *Cannes Underwater Museum* (France) and *MUSAN* (Cyprus).

The works are constructed using pH neutral, environmentally sensitive materials to instigate natural growth and the subsequent changes intended to explore the aesthetics of decay, rebirth and metamorphosis. Taylor's pioneering public art projects are not only examples of successful marine conservation, but works of art that seek to encourage environmental awareness, instigate social change and lead us to appreciate the breathtaking natural beauty of the underwater world.

He has received numerous sculpture and photography awards, is a member of The Royal Society of Sculptors, an Ocean Ambassador to DAN (Divers Alert Network), an Ocean Exemplar of The World Ocean Observatory and a featured TED speaker. In 2014 Taylor was awarded The Global Thinker by Foreign Policy, described as the Jacques Cousteau of the Art world.



The Watcher

Looking out over MUSAN from a nearby hillside is The Watcher. He is keeping an eye on the future of the sea.

Photography courtesy:

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