Before the Bloom

Marine Art by Dan Monceaux

Dan Monceaux is a South Australian artist, environmentalist and documentary filmmaker. An avid snorkeller and amateur naturalist, Dan balances interests in citizen science and playful art-making, bound by a deep love for the ocean. This exhibition focuses on local marine waters; their ecology, biodiversity, and threats to their health and survival. Since shooting his first underwater video in 2009 for the documentary film *Cuttlefish Country* (work in progress) Dan has shown work in group exhibitions and curated others, sometimes partnering with not-for-profit organisations like Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries and the Marine Life Society of South Australia (MLSSA). Personally grieving the massive losses of life during the 2025-26 harmful algal bloom, this exhibition invites us to reflect on our relationship with the sea and the way things were, *Before the Bloom*.

@dan.monceaux http://danmonceaux.art

1	Hard lines & gentle curves	2015	Digital illustration, printed on canvas A digital drawing of northern Spencer Gulf, manually traced from bathymetric charts. The darkest shade of blue represents water over 30 metres deep.	$250.00	
2	For the love of the ocean	2015	Digital illustration, printed on canvas A Southern right whale slaps its tail beside an impossible wave while a seabird looks on	$250.00	
3	Money fish (Southern bluefin tuna)	2017	Digital illustration, printed on canvas Tuna farming can be lucrative but is an environmentally devastating business, producing more marine nutrient pollution than Adelaide's wastewater treatment plants, and massive carbon footprints as fish are flown to customers overseas. Captive tuna are fed sardines, which are caught from the same waters where penguin and sealion colonies are collapsing.	$250.00	
4	Selections from Force of Nature video series (6 videos)	2009-2020	HD video Shot in South Australia's two gulfs, these six videos (along with additional works) are available as a narrated set to buy on Blu-ray/DVD disc.	$30.00 Blu-ray	$20.00 DVD

5	Judge Dredge – Spolied Rotten	2018	Digital illustration, poster The dredging of the shipping channel at Outer Harbor in 2018 managed to evade an Environmental Impact Statement, but didn't escape the fictional regulator, Judge Dredge.	Larger and smaller sizes also available	A2 Unframed $20.00
6	Toxic Relationship	2025	Used LED backpack, soft toys A short, animated visual poem riffing on cause and effect. Overextraction, effluent and combustion created the perfect conditions for the harmful algal bloom of 2025-26.	$250.00	
7	Widebodied pipefish	2020	Paper, washi tape, cardboard Pipefish live in seagrasses. Many people saw them for the first time when they started washing up dead during the harmful algal bloom.	$300.00	
8	Many-spotted seastar, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed An unusual sighting for this location.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
9	Decorator crab, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed The crab adorns itself with clippings from the plants it lives amongst. No longer present on the Port Noarlunga jetty since the bloom.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
10	Zoanthids, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed These anemones form dense colonies on large rocky surfaces in the shallows. Patches over a square metre in size could be seen at Port Noarlunga and Hallet Cove before the bloom.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
nu	Short-tailed ceratosoma (Nudibranch), Brighton	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed This was the most commonly sighted and conspicuous nudibranch found in SA waters. Not so easily spotted today.	$90.00	Unframed $60.00
12	Granular sea star, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Previously common animals like this seastar are less common after the harmful algal bloom of 2025-26.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
13	Anemones & seasquirts, Semaphore	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Returning to this location after the bloom revealed very few sea squirts and no anemones.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
14	Goatfish, Marino	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Marino underwater before the bloom was an abundant and verdent underwater garden, habitat for myriad fish species.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00

15	Port Noarlunga reef	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Colourful sponges thrived at the southern tip of the Port Noarlunga reef. Did they survive?	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
16	Barnacles & limpets	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Many inshore locations have been stripped bare of barnacles and limpets by the algal bloom. Today only their ghostly shadows remain.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
17	Brazilian Aeolid laying eggs, Port Adelaide	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed This introduced nudibranch (sea slug) was found during a citizen science project called *It Came from the Harbor*. This is one of many introduced species recorded there for the first time.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
18	Blue-ringed Octopus, Hallet Cove	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed The blue-ringed octopus is nocturnal. This one was photographed climbing along a rockface in the shallows.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
19	Colonial ascidians, Torrens Island	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed The Torrens island marine environment had never been surveyed prior to my citizen science project, *It Came from the Harbor*.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
20	Waratah anemones, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed This colony of anemones was a reliable feature on a crossbeam of the Port Noarlunga jetty prior to the algal bloom. Sadly missed.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
21	Banksia ascidians, Port Adelaide	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Many of the sponges and colonial ascidians seem otherworldly to land lubbers and even seasoned snorkelers. Some remain to be identified.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
22	Sea sweep, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed The iconic "welcoming committee" at the seaward end of the Port Noarlunga jetty. Reduced in number, but still present after the bloom.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
23	Seastar & sponges, Port Noarlunga	2020	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed How did the sponges and seastars fare in the algal bloom? I'll find out on my next visit.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
24	Undescribed nudibranch, West Lakes	2019	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed This nudibranch was spotted by Ryan Ottens and deposited at the SA Museum during *It Came from the Harbor*. It is undescribed, which means once studied it will receive a scientific name for the first time.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00

25	Four-colour nudibranch, Port Adelaide	2018	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed First sighting of an introduced nudibranch in South Australian waters. Collected for the SA Museum during *It Came from the Harbor.*	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
26	Giant Australian Cuttlefish, Fitzgerald Bay	2017	Digital photograph on archival paper, framed Giant Australian cuttlefish can hide from predators but not compromised water quality and reduced available oxygen. They lay their eggs on the seabed where they are particularly vulnerable to pollution and harmful algal blooms. In 2026, the population is the lowest ever recorded.	$120.00	Unframed $80.00
27	Sign of the Times	2014-2017	Programmable LED sign Shocked by events and discoveries while writing the documentary film *Cuttlefish Country*, this sign announces shocking truths discovered through journalistic and scientific inquiry. After another wild decade, another update is overdue!	$400.00	
28	Money Trap #2	2026	Crab net, corrugated iron, fishing tackle, nylon rope, float Rusted, weathered metal represents the inevitable animal health issues resulting from intensive sea-cage fish farming. Hung outdoors and in the breeze, the fish shimmer and tinkle like wind-chimes, making the most of their grim conditions.	$666.00	
29	Cuttle Scuttle (Retro arcade game)	2013-2026	Timber, perspex, computer, digital illustrations printed on waterproof film, arcade controls This is the world's first co-operative cuttlefish game and ecosystem simulator, inspired by and the actual ecology of northern Spencer Gulf and the pressures it faces. Pending commercial release, it is playable on a unique retro arcade cabinet for the first time at this exhibition.	$2,500.00	
30	Is it safe?	2026	Cable protectors, timber, fishing line The algal bloom is a monstrous thing, strange and lethal. It crawls along the seabed, swims through the water surface and discharges particles to the air. Inspired by and deliberately ironically made using found safety products, radiating from a custom 3d-printed central disc, it sprawls across the venue, threatening to envelop and ingest anything it touches. This sculpture resembles a giant Brittle star, a hungry, faceless invertebrate. It has been installed on three prior occasions, including at Henley Beach and Port Elliot, where it spanned 40 metres in diameter and was constructed in the surf zone, ambiguously appearing to have crawled out of the sea, or been coughed up by it.	$888.00	