

ARTIS

Embargoed until Friday 2 October 2026, 12:00 CEST
Amsterdam, 1 October 2026



Feel the deep sea in the new installation *Deep seeing currents*, 2026 by Olafur Eliasson © ARTIS, Maarten Nauw

Olafur Eliasson makes the deep sea tangible in new permanent installation at ARTIS Aquarium

From Monday 5 October, ARTIS Aquarium in Amsterdam presents *Deep seeing currents*, a new permanent installation by artist Olafur Eliasson. Created specifically for the Aquarium's historic rotunda, the work takes visitors on an imagined descent into the deep sea, one of the largest and least accessible habitats on Earth.

In *Deep seeing currents*, the deep sea becomes audible and tangible. Inside a darkened space, a sound composition takes visitors past cracking ice, whale calls, human activity at sea and geological processes far beneath the ocean surface. Flashes of light and vibrations intensify the sensation of descending into a world normally beyond our reach. Above, points of light evoke marine snow: tiny particles drifting down from the upper layers of the ocean, providing an essential source of food for life in the deep sea.

"The deep sea is so remote and inhospitable that it is not directly experienceable. And it also represents a kind of blind spot: there is still so much that we do not know. I wanted to explore what the embodied experience of the deep sea might feel like, the light, density, pressure, and sounds there, and how to make this distant space somehow more tangible. 'Deep seeing currents' can, I hope, offer us a way of empathising with a part of the world that is vastly different from our own and yet profoundly important", says Olafur Eliasson.

55 recordings from the ocean

The sound composition incorporates 55 existing recordings sourced from scientific expeditions, research institutions and public archives, including the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Ocean Networks Canada. None of the sounds are artificially generated. Using the 4DSOUND spatial audio system, with spatial composition by MONOM, the individual recordings move through the space, together creating an imagined descent into the deep sea.

A world beyond human perception

For Eliasson, the deep sea is not only the subject of the installation, but also a way of exploring the limits of human perception. With vision largely removed, visitors become more dependent on hearing, bodily sensation and spacial awareness. This reflects a recurring question in Eliasson's practice: what are we blind to, and what other ways of comprehension might be possible?



Still from *Deep seeing currents*, 2026 by Olafur Eliasson, commissioned by ARTIS © ARTIS, Maarten Nauw

Art, science and nature at ARTIS Aquarium

With *Deep seeing currents*, ARTIS brings together art, science and nature. The work was developed specifically for the rotunda of the historic ARTIS Aquarium and forms part of the renewed vision for the building.

The Aquarium, a listed historic building dating from 1882, reopened in June following an extensive restoration and renovation. Alongside aquatic life, the renewed Aquarium incorporates architecture, science, installations and art to explore the relationship between humans, water and the natural world.

About Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson (b. 1967) is an Icelandic-Danish artist whose work explores perception and the relationship between art, nature and the wider world. His installations, sculptures, paintings, photography and films have been presented internationally. In 2003, he represented Denmark at the 50th Venice Biennale and later that year presented *The weather*

project in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern in London. Recent public works include *Breathing earth sphere* (2024) on Docho Island, South Korea; *Long daylight pavilion* (2025) in Helsinki; and *A symphony of disappearing sounds for the Great Salt Lake* (2026) in Salt Lake City.

Deep seeing currents is open daily at ARTIS Aquarium from Monday 5 October 2026. Admission to the installation is included with admission to ARTIS.

The installation has been made possible with support from the Mondriaan Fund and the Timeless Foundation.

Notes to editors

This press release is embargoed until Friday 2 October 2026 at 12:00 CEST.

A press preview will take place on Friday morning in the presence of Olafur Eliasson. Journalists interested in attending at short notice can contact communicatie@artis.nl to enquire about availability.

High-resolution press images can be downloaded and used for editorial purposes at no charge, provided the full credit line is included.

For urgent press enquiries, please call **+31 6 53 73 86 88**.



[Installation view Deep seeing currents, 2026, Photo ARTIS, Maarten Nauw \(2\).jpg](#)
1.8 MB



[Still from Deep seeing currents by Olafur Eliasson, 2026. Photo ARTIS, Maarten Nauw.png](#)
2.3 MB



[Installation view Deep seeing currents, 2026, Photo ARTIS, Maarten Nauw.jpg](#)
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[Still from Deep seeing currents by Olafur Eliasson, 2026. Photo ARTIS, Maarten Nauw \(2\).jpg](#)
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ARTIS has been an iconic place in the heart of Amsterdam since 1838, where nature education and experience take center stage. As one of the five oldest zoos in the world, ARTIS offers a unique destination where visitors can experience nature in all its diversity. The historic ARTIS-Park includes the zoo, botanical garden, and the Planetarium. In addition, ARTIS-Micropia inspires visitors with the

invisible world of microbes, while ARTIS-Groote Museum reveals the deeper connection between humans and nature. As a foundation and officially recognized charity with CBF certification and ANBI status, ARTIS is committed to strengthening our connection with nature, with the mission of creating a livable future for all together.

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