

**NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, hiTechMODA,
ReGen Runway, Visual Conductor, & SDG Impact Awards**

UN Friends of World Oceans Day 2020

Making Waves: Fashion + Art Impacting Our Oceans

Friday, June 5th 2020 from 6PM – 8:30PM EST



Gabriel Forestieri, Co-Founder of projectLIMB. In 2004 while in San Francisco, Gabriel began with a mission of creating dance to reveal the underlying relationships with the world that are everywhere but often overlooked. Through this focus a practice emerged that centered on attending to relationship called *Worlding*. Gabriel used *Worlding* to create outdoor public works in Buenos Aires, Dublin, Finland, Brussels, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, Appleton, Barcelona, Ibiza, Salt Lake City, Montreal, Miami, Middlebury, Hawaii, Pittsburgh, Massachusetts, Dallas, Washington D.C., Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Thailand, and New York City. Gabriel is an alumni of the MFA (2006) dance program at NYU and was nominated for a total of four Isadora Duncan awards (San Francisco's highest dance achievement) in 2004 and 2005. He has had the pleasure of working with choreographers: Daria Fain, Wili Dorner, Foofwa D'immoblite, Davis Freeman, Risa

Jaroslaw, Keith Thompson, Tomi Pasoneen, Scott Wells, Erika Shuch, and Punchdrunk. He was a founding company member in 2011 of the NYC mounting of *Sleep No More*, the Off Broadway sensation. In 2011, after experiencing the Dolphin Dance Project, the idea of underwater dance seeded itself deeply in projectLIMB. An underwater practice emerged, which took worlding and added freediving. Since 2014 projectLIMB has created many films, live performances, and *Breathe (a multidisciplinary water opera)* all which contributed to the development of this unique underwater dance/art form, which has become projectLIMB's artistic focus.



Dr. Francois Bailet, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, BSc (Environmental Sciences), Diplôme d'Étude Approfondies (Law and Economics of Development) and PhD (International Public Law) served as the late Elisabeth Mann Borgese's Special Assistant for almost a decade until her passing in 2002, after which he was appointed Deputy Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute Network (IOI), then Expert Advisor in Ocean Governance to the IOI, and Honorary Adviser to the President of IOI. In 2004, he assumed a post in the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, where he now serves as Senior Legal Officer. While with the IOI, Dr. Bailet's main responsibilities included: capacity development academic education; and development/implementation of ocean law and policy frameworks at all

levels of governance. He also represented the organization within numerous international, regional and national ocean law and policy processes, and at the United Nations. Currently, Mr. Bailet oversees the Capacity-Building and Trust Funds Unit of DOALOS, coordinates the Maritime Security Cluster, and leads the United Nations marking of World Oceans Day. He also served as the Secretary of the General Assembly's Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects which produced the first World Ocean Assessment.



Lea d'Auriol, Founder of the Oceanic Global Foundation. In 2016 Lea founded Oceanic Global with the mission of engaging new audiences in ocean conversation. The non-profit taps into universal passions to raise awareness for issues impacting our oceans and to provide individual and industry solutions that drive positive change. Oceanic Global takes a uniquely creative approach to conservation, creating immersive experiences that engage local communities, amplify the efforts of synergistic groups, generate measurable impact, and ignite global action. Since the inception of Oceanic Global, Lea has spearheaded a series of awareness-driven projects. In 2017, Lea successfully led the execution of the organization's inaugural educational experience, Oceanic x Ibiza. Oceanic x Ibiza brought together over 4,000 guests along with thought leaders, institutions, artists, sustainable brands, and more to celebrate our ocean and ignite action for

conversation. In 2018, Lea created "The Oceanic Standard" a set of research-backed tool kits and verification systems that help various industries minimize their environmental footprints and adopt sustainable practices. By creating The Oceanic Standard as free, open-source, solution-oriented resources, she has managed to shape international policy, shift consumer behavior, empower action in communities, and provide tools for all environmental organizations to utilize in furthering their respective endeavors. In 2019 and 2020, Oceanic Global was invited as production partner to the United Nations World Oceans Day.



Mara G. Haseltine, an International Artist and a Pioneer in the field of SciArt. Mara is an environmental activist and educator. Haseltine collaborates with scientists and engineers to create work that addresses the link between our cultural and biological evolution. Her work takes place in the studio, lab and field infusing scientific inquiry with poetry. She was a pioneer in the translation of scientific data and bioinformatics into three-dimensional sculptures and became known for her outsized renditions of microscopic and sub-microscopic life. She created the first solar powered oyster reef in NYC and has studied sustainable reef restoration methods extensively for the past 15 years fusing art with sustainable solutions for 'SIDS', Small Island Developing States at the United Nations. Haseltine has been a contributing member of the Explorers Club since 2008, she was awarded Return of the Flag with Honors for her work on the

high seas with Tara Expeditions studying atmospheric climate change and its relationship to planktonic ecosystems. (For full CV go to www.calamara.com)



Gaelin Rosenwaks, Founder of Global Ocean Exploration. Gaelin is a marine scientist, explorer, artist, photographer and filmmaker. She uses her art to bring people on a journey of exploration and scientific discovery. Always fascinated by the marine world, Gaelin began diving at 14 and has since continued exploring ocean ecosystems. She began her career at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where she researched over-wintering patterns of Southern Ocean zooplankton. Gaelin earned her Master's Degree in Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University conducting research on the migratory movements of Giant Bluefin Tunas. Alarmed by the changes happening in the oceans, Gaelin founded Global Ocean Exploration, Inc to share her passion for ocean exploration, marine conservation and art. She now participates and conducts expeditions in every ocean to alert the public not only to the challenges facing the

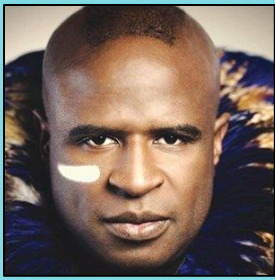
oceans, but also to what science is doing to understand these changes. Gaelin is a US Coast Guard Licensed Captain, and a Fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society, the Explorers Club and a member of the Society of Women Geographers. She has published articles in scientific journals, newspapers and magazines and has delivered lectures at global conferences and many institutions including the Explorers Club, Patagonia, Inc, Duke University and Yale University. She has appeared as an expert on many TV programs including on The Discovery Channel, CBS News, Business Insider, and National Geographic Channel. Her fine art photography has been displayed in many exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at Duke University, The Maritime Aquarium, and the Patagonia Upper West Side Store in NYC. Gaelin serves as an Honorary Advisor of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and an Ambassador for Oceanic Global and is a proud partner of UN World Oceans Day.



Jeremy McKane, Founder of OCEAN™ and Co-Host of UltraMarine. Jeremy is an Artist with a background in technology. At 18, he found himself working in a startup that would one day become (for a time) the world's largest web hosting provider. Today the company is known as NTT VERIO. In that time the internet promised potential uses that we take for granted today. It was this early experience that provided an alternate perspective. As an artist, Jeremy's work has been shown around the world that often includes a mixture of technology and thought provoking imagery about our oceans. He uses Art to engage the public to do something about the threats facing the Ocean. He is also the founder of OCEAN™ that aims to protect Our Oceans by reducing enforcement expense and defining value with the biodiversity that exists within. OCEAN™ is a blockchain platform with a mission to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. This is achieved

by reducing the cost of enforcement and defining financial value of the Ocean's resources. Thus providing a basis for the theory that the life in the oceans are worth more alive than dead. OCEAN™ is partnering up with technology firms to increase the amount of understanding we have in terms of the amount of fish, temperatures, and other data sets. If we can measure something, we can improve it. The OCEAN™ Platform enables other developers to take their ocean data and collaborate with others on a global network. In addition to this, Jeremy has autonomous ocean vehicles that analyze the health of Marine Protected Areas. By collecting millions of data points the hope is that we can actively predict dangers before they become full on catastrophic. In addition, the dual system called the MAKO serves as an autonomous enforcement system that will patrol areas looking for vessels that do not belong in the water. In extreme cases, these system will disable fishing vessels at sea that attempt to flee from enforcement. All of this can be done for the fraction of manned based systems. An independent study was done by the Blockchain Research Institute.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"



Alex Boye, British-Nigerian Son Writer/Performer. Alex became a viral internet sensation by “Africanizing” pop songs/ His “Africanized” cover of “Let It Go” from the Frozen soundtrack the Once Voice Children’s Choir has been viewed more than 80 million times on YouTube. He opened for Olivia Newton-John at the renowned Royal Albert Hall. He also performed as backing dancer for George Michael early in his career. He and his band Changing Lanes Experience competed on season 10 of America’s Got Talent. He was born to Nigerian parents in England, and would later move to the United States. He married YouTuber Julie Boyé in 2007; they have seven children together and run TheBoyeFamilyJewels YouTube channel together. During the Covid crisis, he has performed Quarantine Concerts for frontline workers, doctors and nurses in parking lots outside hospitals where he social-distance sings and serves meals to everyone. He wrote a

Love Letter song to the Graduating Class of 2020 who missed prom and commencement exercises because of the pandemic. He is writing the book and music/lyrics for an original Broadway Musical entitled “American Patriot.” He is spokesperson for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and wrote two songs for hope and courage called “Still Breathing” and “Bend Not Break.



Derrick Shawn Grant, Founder of DKDesignFineArt, DKdesignfashion and Next Level World, LLC. He is primarily a fine-artist specializing in multimedia, digital and graphic design. Grant combines his love of fashion and art into one medium. He has developed a unique methodology called Grantique, which seeks to involve the observer in the story of the creation. His background is scientific, with Grant earning a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Medical research. Grants’ surrealist style combined with digital aspects creates an intense visual effect through his work. Derrick has been an Artist and Designer for the past 20 years, yet he has only been doing fashion for five years of the 20. In college, he took Fine-Art and designing courses along with his Ph.D. in Medical Research at Mc Gill University. In the past 15 years, he has designed theatrical costumes for Theater and Ballet Shows. Moreover, he has created several fashion collections for exhibition

on the runway. He is currently the art and design director for Next Level World LLC and creates couture garments through his fashion brand Dkdesignfashion. He headlined for three seasons with hiTechMODA and ReGen Runway at National Geographic, where he was featured with his stunning collections and created an immersive audience experience with his multidisciplinary presentation - weaving dance, live singing of original songs written by his son, Julyan Grant, against a video backdrop of Derrick’s original art which was also sublimated onto the clothing on the runway as models walked on the catwalk. The entire effect was inspiring and engaging incorporating the ocean theme running throughout the segment. His clothing is made from fabrics - such as Repreve - made from recycled plastic bottles retrieved from the ocean.



Ia Faraoni, Founder & Designer of Ia’s Threads. Award-winning international Fashion Designer, and recognized as Remodista Women2Watch in Business Disruption Honoree 2019 & 2020, Ia Faraoni is the Founder and Designer of Ia’s Threads - a sustainable fashion brand best known for their sustainable luxury bags & Minaudière, ethically sourced in collaborations with small communities across the Philippines. These bags are intricately handwoven from natural plant fibers and part of an economic development program that provide income to families of weavers. Born and raised in the Philippines, she aims to break the cycle of poverty and at the same time, connect cultural differences through fashion while highlighting environmental awareness and sustainability. She is the prolific force behind the brand’s innovative zero-waste fashion clothing that was launched at New York Fashion Week ReGen Runway - with a focus on

preserving the oceans using a design method that is informed by the use of upcycled waste fabrics and post-consumer textiles innovatively combined with eco-friendly T’nalak fabrics, woven by T’Boli communities of Mindanao Island in the Philippines. She also co-founded Ira’s Helping Hands, providing backpacks, school supplies and clean water to children in need as well as providing feeding program for undernourished children in Davao del Norte, Philippines. With designing and marketing as her core skills, Ia was awarded as best international designer in Paris, France. This designer-entrepreneur has executed business strategies that landed global brand awareness, as well as widespread press coverage for Ia’s Threads. This impactful woman is focused on considering social, ethical and environmental responsibility as a priority. Name of Fashion Collection: **Ecobongga Collection**

“Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”



Latiya Gholar, Founder and Designer of American Umma. Latiya's collection was born out of the frustration of the lack of options in the modest wear market for the modern unpretentious woman, blending elements of style, traditional, futuristic and health related themes. American Umma has carved out a new form of fashion for the next generation, dope covered apparel for all. She transcends all religions, sex, race, and genders, thus beginning a movement with the birth of AU Nation which implements the message of Dope Covered Apparel for humanity, through the use of positive, unique and unconventional images, advancing a progressive lifestyle and philosophy, encouraging good deeds, inspiring and uplifting with fashions focusing on elevating unity and peace.



Runa Ray, Founder & Designer of Runa Ray Designs. She is an Indian born who established her line in 2012. Branding her label a sustainable fashion company with commitments to fair trade garments, organic fabrics and zero waste initiatives. The company donates portions of proceeds to fund environmental educational programming to further promote sustainability. Bolstered by her ecologically driven approach and 'design with the end in mind', Ray commits her brand to fashion environmentalism and the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' model while executing a low emissions manufacturing process, converting garment scraps to paper to offset her companies carbon footprint. From the sourcing of natural fibers, to zero wastage reuse of surplus fabrics and the recycling of biodegradable materials, Runa Ray is intentional about her companies pledge to sustainability.



Elinor Nathaniel is CEO of REMEANT, Together with her partner in life and business, Alon they created the innovative, eco-friendly textile created from upcycled plastic used in packaging materials. Elinor graduated from the Shenkar College in Ramat Gan, Israel, and knew that she wanted to find a way to reduce the environmental damage currently caused by the fashion industry. With creative and unconventional thinking, Elinor came up with the perfect solution – upcycling unusable packaging materials into textiles that can be used in sustainable products. Through cutting-edge technology, REMEANT has produced the first-ever solution for reusing plastic waste. REMEANT provides a second chance and allows the wasted material to be useful again. Instead of being thrown away, piling up or burning in landfills, or polluting the oceans, into a beautiful, pleasing-to-the-touch textile for sustainable fashion. The eco-friendly fabric is

waterproof, washable, highly durable and lightweight. It is 100% vegan and can be used to produce sustainable fashion, including bags, home décor, accessories and vegan clothing. This is a revolutionary process which will change the way we look at packaging and sustainable clothing and design forever. Be a part of the solution for a cleaner environment and more ethical fashion.



Rachael Zoe Miller, Founder of Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean & Co-Inventor of the Cora Ball. Rachael is an expedition scientist, inventor, National Geographic Explorer and Explorers Club Fellow working to protect the ocean. She is the Founder of Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean, a nonprofit working on the problem of marine debris and co-inventor of the Cora Ball, the world's first microfiber-catching laundry ball. Rachael leads teams on expeditions whose scientific results are published in peer-reviewed journals and education programs that inspire thousands of people of all ages. She's presented at venues worldwide including on the TedX stage and at The Explorer's Club. Rachael captains the 60' sailing research vessel, American Promise, certified hundreds of people to be sailing instructors, trained Navy SEALs to find unexploded mines using underwater robots, pitched to audiences at Our Ocean and Plastics Europe and mentors young

scientists at the New York Harbor School. She lives in Vermont, loves the snow as much as the sea and does her best thinking on skis, bikes and paddleboards.

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Bridgett Artise, Founder of Born Again Vintage & Founder of Sustainable Fashion Week.

Bridgett is a sustainable fashion guru who is so multi-talented, its mind-boggling. Just like her clothes, this woman reinvents, reuses and recycles her skills in new and beautiful ways as designer of Born Again Vintage, professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, event planner, sustainability mentor, fashion collaborator, Youtube teacher, titled Vintage Expert by the New York Times, published author of "Born Again Vintage: 25 ways to deconstruct, reinvent and recycle your wardrobe." Born Again Vintage is a brand dedicated to making sustainable fashion as common as fast fashion. Through consultations, workshops, classes and custom orders Born Again Vintage is bringing sustainability to the forefront of fashion and keeping as many garments as possible out of

the landfill...one item at a time.



Catherine Schuller, Co-Founder & Curator of hiTechMODA & Producer of ReGen Runway.

She is a former Ford plus size model, actress, comedienne and performer who is considered an icon and plus pioneer of the size diversity segment of the fashion industry. Her career in fashion spans four decades as she has reinvented and redefined with innovative projects, programs and platforms that create more opportunities for inclusivity. She was Fashion Editor of MODE Magazine, the Vogue executed plus size magazine that grew to 4 million readers in four years of its existence. She is the premiere industry plus size image consultant and invented Runway the Real Way to ensure that all sizes, shapes, ages, genders, heights, ethnicities, persuasions, nationalities would be represented in the modern contemporary fashion world. She is the Image and Style Director of Divabetic a charity outreach for women living with or at risk of diabetes started

by the Luther Vandross Foundation. She is an instructor at Fashion Institute of Technology where she created the program Business of Curves and also a professor at LIM College where she teaches in the new Sustainability Program. She is an Advocate Member of the New York Fair Trade Coalition. She recently partnered with Pamela Privette to create hiTechMODA and produced the ReGen Runway dedicated to all things sustainable on the conscious catwalk. The sold out show was hosted by Marcos Salazar of Be Social Change and sponsored by American Foundation for Suicide. Catherine is an Honorary Advisor of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.



Margo LaZaro, President and Chair, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and Co-Founder/CSO of the SDG Impact Awards.

She is Global Family's Director of UN Relations, Board of Advisors Chair for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, and UN/Representative of the Huairou Commission. She is a Charter Member of Soroptimist International NY/Metro Chapter & member of COVIDxNOW and Empower a Billion Women-EBW. Margo is an Artist/Designer with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations working as a Chief Developer and Producer of meetings, conferences and Special Events engaging with all stakeholders to develop impactful programs and projects that include the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Margo's work is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and the NGOCSN-NY motto: "Turn

Your Passions into Actions for Change." Under her leadership the NGOCSN-NY are proud Partners of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues, an Official Partner of UN Friends of World Ocean Day and a Coordinating Partner of the UN2020 Initiative. She Convenes the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo studied design at the Fashion Institute of Technology and changed direction to Costumes for Theatre, Film and TV. She later became an Instructor at FIT in Costumes. Margo brings entrepreneurs and the private sector into the UN discourse to foster the success of the UN 2030 SD Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."



Wendy Hu, Founder, Creative Director + Designer of Visual Conductor,

a boutique design studio where she vibrantly brings organizations / brands to life through experiential design. She is a BIG-picture dreamer, creating dynamic multisensory experiences while focused on hitting the 'Aha' trigger points for maximum impact. She designs a spectrum of projects, including events, pop-ups, conferences, fashion runway design, installations and beyond. Through creative storytelling, Wendy believes art + design is a powerful way to inspire, educate and influence change. She is particularly passionate about social good projects, addressing issues such as sustainability, inclusivity and women's rights. *During times of adversity, innovation happens.* While live events are on hold due to the pandemic, Wendy is embracing the time to research and create in the virtual events space, including Making Waves: Fashion + Art Impacting Our Oceans while

collaborating with her co-producers Margo & Catherine. She is also co-creator of danclN', a virtual party experience that brings people positivity and supports artists impacted at this time. www.visualconductor.co www.dancin.love