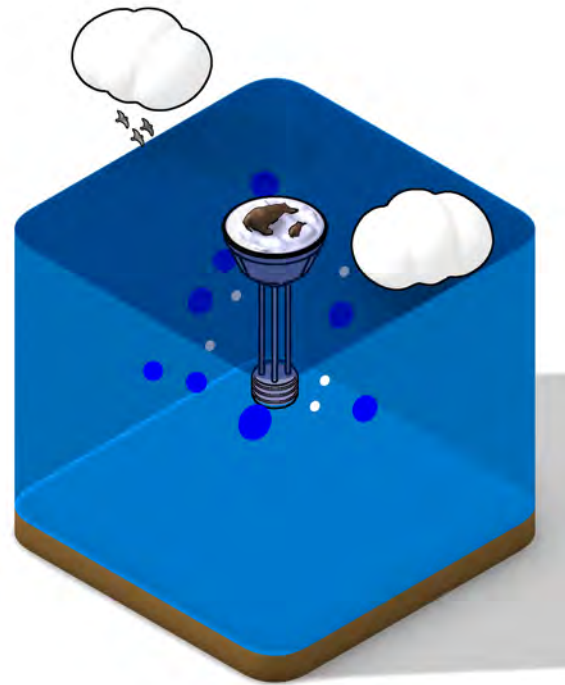


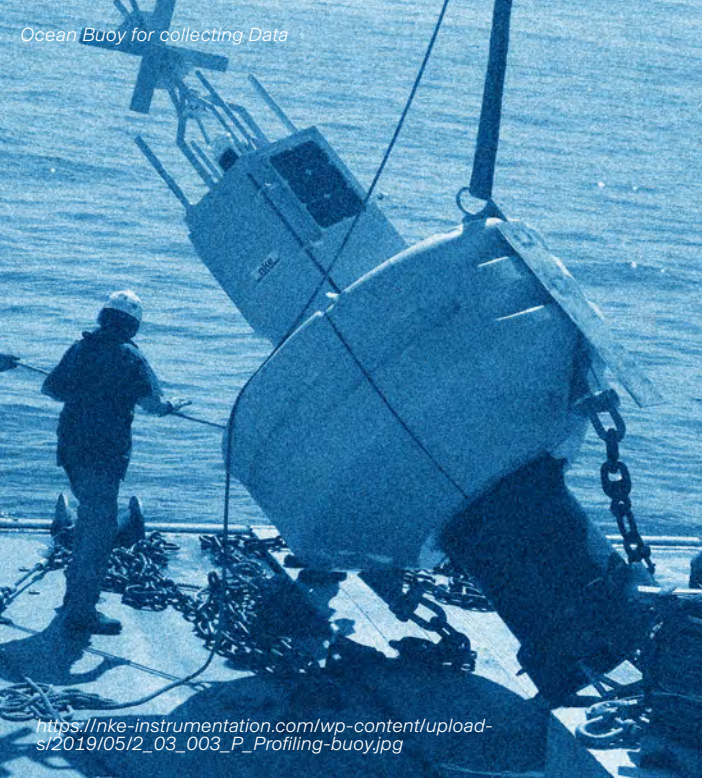
Take a Break

Dario Aguet

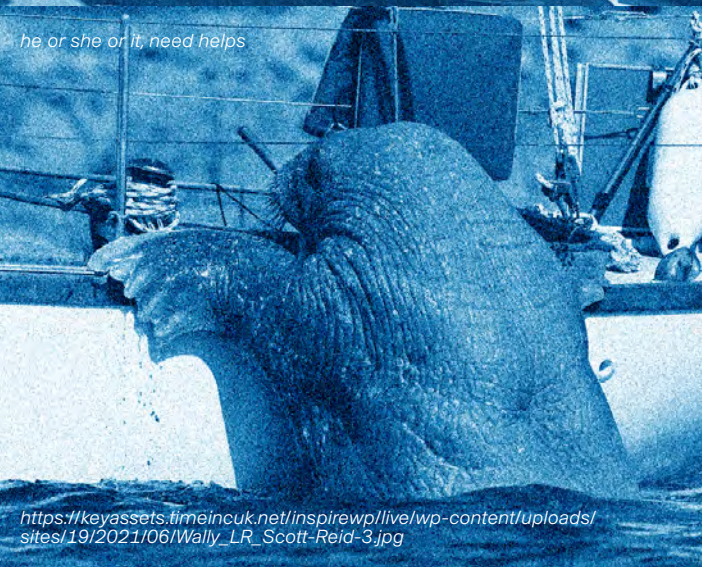


“Take a Break - Walrus’ House” is a two-level project: the submerged metal lower part serves as an ocean buoy, easily visible, and the above-water section seamlessly blends with the icy environment. This fusion of human engineering and feral ethics acknowledges **the inherent needs of walrus**, derived from insights gleaned from documentaries and **real live virtual cameras** of these creatures. This innovative structure tackles an urgent issue: **melting ice has deprived walrus of essential resting spots, especially during the rapid thawing season.**

The primary goal of this house is to counteract this situation by offering shelter precisely during crucial ice-melting periods. By ingeniously integrating human-made and natural elements, the “house” stands as a testament to bridge the gap between our constructed world and the **needs of these creatures adversely affected by our induced environmental shifts.** It signifies the possibility of harmonizing our built environment with the necessities of wildlife impacted by our environmental changes, primarily instigated by human activity.



https://inke-instrumentation.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2_03_003_P_Profiling-buoy.jpg



he or she or it, need helps

https://keyassets.timeincuk.net/inspirewp/live/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/06/Wally_LR_Scott-Reid-3.jpg



They sleep all the day

explore.org

explore.org

“Take a Break - Walrus’ House: A Refuge for Walruses in Environmental Change”

In a world marked by rapid environmental changes, “Take a Break - Walrus’ House” emerges as a piece of hope for walruses, combining human creativity and understanding of their needs within the context of climate change. The structure aims to serve as a refuge at a time when their natural resting grounds are diminishing.

Designed to address the critical issue of ice melting and the consequent loss of vital points for migration and the nurturing of their young, this two-level structure integrates its submerged lower part made of metal, like an oceanic weather buoy, with the above-water portion harmoniously blending into the surrounding environment. The project draws inspiration from fixed camera footage in live streams and documentaries, incorporating these insights into the construction process.

Exploring the “More Than Human Place” of Round Island, Alaska

In an interconnected world teeming with life beyond the human sphere, I found my “More Than Human Place” within the vast universe of Explore.org. This virtual space, a true digital sanctuary, offers an unprecedented immersion into wildlife through myriad live cameras. My attention was captivated by the fascinating and affectionate community of walruses inhabiting Round Island, Alaska. Focusing on cameras capturing these walruses, I found inspiration for “Take a Break - Walrus’ House”. This digital artefact is not just a physical structure but an idea born in a digital context that aims to provide a symbolic heaven



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRwm8aGDp9tE-ryyseD8YI4ZRIEBTFLiIBLpg&usqp=CAU>

for these magnificent beings during their resting periods and migrations.

The artefact reflects not only the need for rest amidst climate change but also intimately connects with the dynamics of the non-human community, addressing the challenges of contemporary Antarctica.

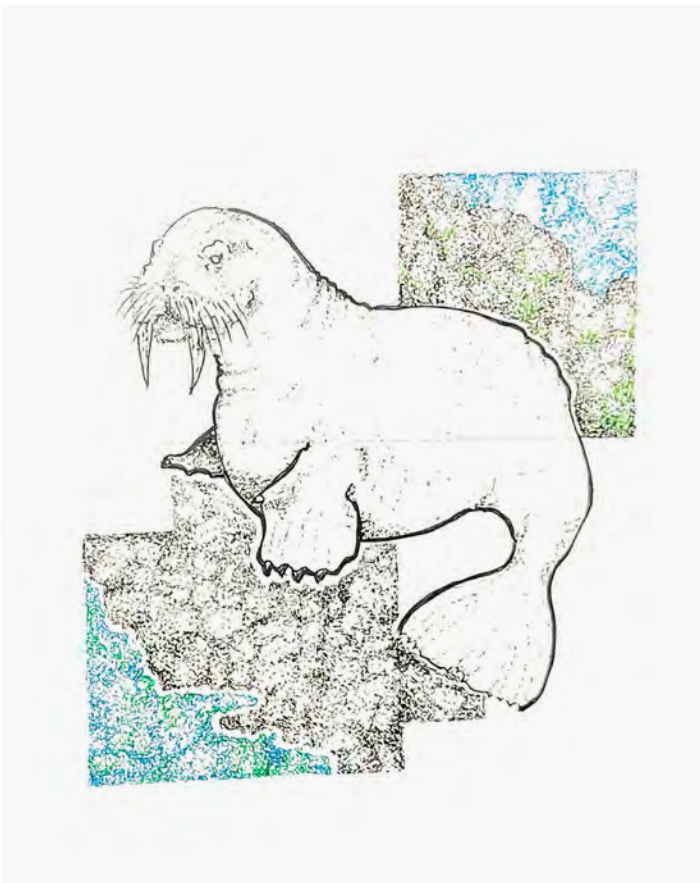
This project combines human perception with wildlife, acknowledging the innate needs amid climate change. The art of the project lies in striking a balance between our constructed world and the evolving needs of these creatures, addressing the challenges posed by environmental changes.

I attempted to adopt the viewpoint of the walrus, though I understand it's not easy... I realized one crucial thing: **they don't have the same concept of comfort.** Hence, I allowed artificial intelligence to generate the upper part of the buoy, where the walrus will rest.

The significance of this project lies in acknowledging that climate change is our fault, and **we must act rather than merely observe.** While the materials used may not be eco-friendly, I believe **the urgency to act** and effect change outweighs other eco-environmental concerns regarding its realization.

*"I'm not the only one saying this, but there's no more time. **We must act!!**"*

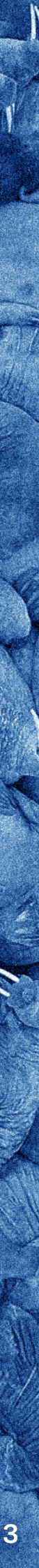
The experience of immersing myself in the "More Than Human" environment through **Explore.org** has broadened my perception, emphasizing the need for a broader dialogue between humans and other life forms. The artefact, while of human conception, fits into a larger network of non-human

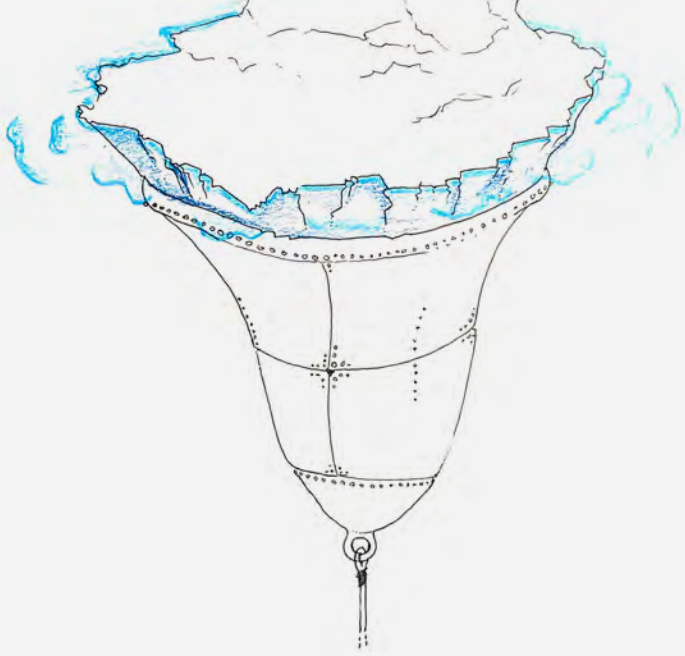


This is a Ocean Buoy



<https://www.atlantictowage.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/M3-weather-buoy-deployment-scaled.jpg>





relationships and interactions, opening doors to new connections and understandings.

The co-creation with my creature happened over time, after spending a lot of time observing and studying walrus. I asked myself:

How do they perceive change? How do they cooperate with limited space? Do they use human boats and buoys to rest, distinguishing them from their habitats? What feelings do they have about the change?

"Unfortunately, I don't know the language of walrus, so I couldn't ask them even if I wanted to."

This project stems from a my passion for nature conservation. In conceiving the design, I immersed myself in a world where human innovation merges with the urgent needs of the pinnipeds.

"And perhaps you will ask yourself, is it that simple?"

The answer is yes, why should it be complicated?

We already know how to make buoys, artificial intelligence helps us solve what we cannot see, and we have the equipment."

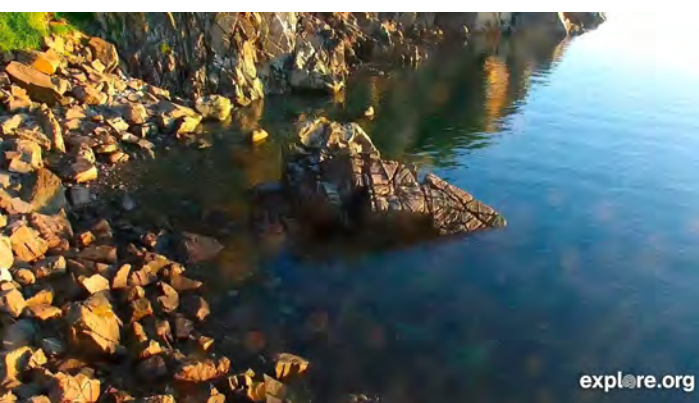
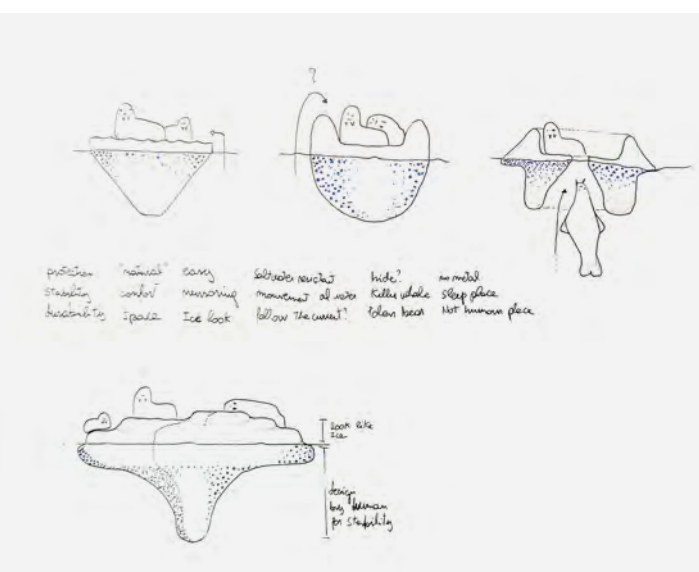
"So why don't we start by solving things. Clearly there are many issues behind it, but I wonder why not?"

During the creative process, a moment shone through a reflection inspired by a documentary on the impact of ice retreat on walrus. **That's when the urgency of my project surfaced.** Personal reflections underscored the responsibility we bear: a duty to act as stewards of our environment and its inhabitants.

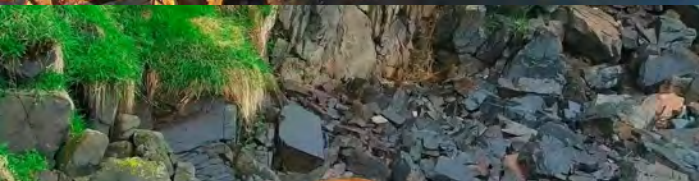
"I have often wondered whether it makes sense to reason about

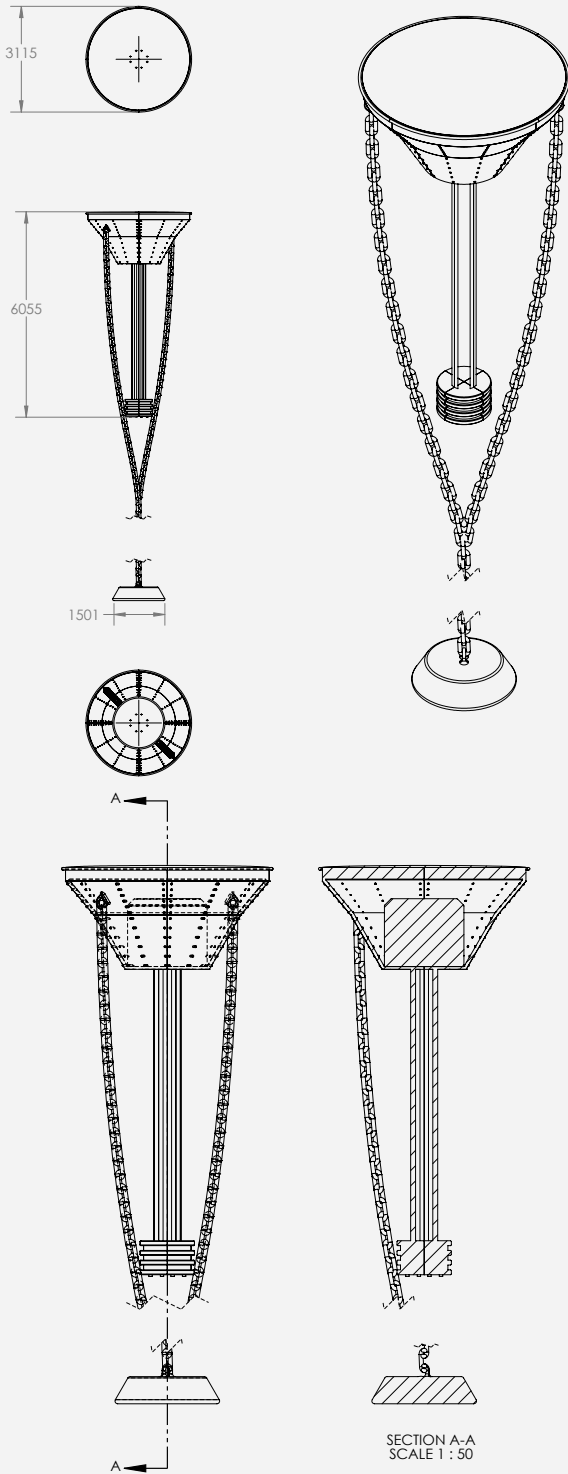


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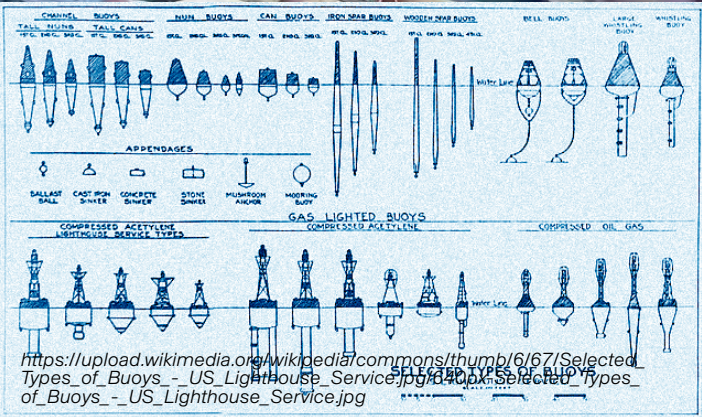
*certain issues. However, I am increasingly convinced that **taking action is one of the best solutions.** But the human collective seems unable to work together to solve any problems."*

The process of creating "Take a Break - Walrus' House" has been a journey of discovery, intertwining observation, research, and imagination. From a remote spectator to a co-creator of this digital heaven, I've explored the complexity of the relationship between humans and other life forms, opening a window to a world where connection transcends the boundaries of our individual experience.

"Take a Break - Walrus' House" represents the union between human and environmental conservation. As we witness the severe consequences of climate change, this product symbolizes our ability to address urgent ecological issues. It urges us to reevaluate our relationship with nature, prompting us to commit to creating solutions that protect the habitats of all creatures affected by environmental change.

"The walrus' house is not just a structure; it's a call to action, a symbol of resilience, and a refuge in turbulent times."





https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/67/Selected_Types_of_Buoys_-_US_Lighthouse_Service.jpg/640px/Selected_Types_of_Buoys_-_US_Lighthouse_Service.jpg

