

A postcard from the shores of *Deep Listening*, *Deep Sea(ing)*

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FIGURE 1

A workstation at Pianoscópio workshops.

FIGURE 2

Performance “82°N” at BlueNIGHTS/ Torreira.

“Imagining” the soundscapes of a barely known universe is a fascinating challenge. The deep ocean is one such universe: science is now beginning to uncover some of its secrets, yet we already understand its crucial relevance to our survival on the planet – and its increasing vulnerability. Artistic experiences can play a powerful role in raising awareness about important issues. They engage the senses and emotions, and can be both playful and enthralling – especially when they involve active creative participation. *Deep Listening*, *Deep Sea(ing)* brought together scientists and artists to develop ideas and actions for children, teenagers and the wider community. The journey began at the *Pianoscópio*, a contemporary interactive installation where we guided the creation of “imaginary soundscapes” that were later transformed into “audiovisual postcards” and “soundtracks” for images and films gathered in scientific missions to the deep ocean. The results were shared with both local communities and international audiences through events that included conferences by scientists and artists, training sessions for teachers, “workshops” and artistic performances held at Fábrica/ Aveiro, BlueNIGHTS/ Torreira, RESEO/ Paris, CMI-UFMG/ Belo Horizonte, and Serralves/ Porto. The collaborative artistic creations were made available online, along with a short documentary about the project.

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As many other projects where we “walk on the boundaries” of art, science and community, this was a journey that moved the people that came on board: experimenting, discovering, creating, imagining, collaborating, listening to others are experiences that lead to places of poetic resonance. That is, perhaps, what art can do best: open up minds and hearts.

