

## “The Return of Gaia“ , an interactive storytelling event.

The return of Gaia is an interactive storytelling event. Is a mix of a photography exhibition and a storytelling performance. We will show a series of artworks by underwater photographer Jose G. Cano. The images are printed in big format, (1500mm by 3000mm) to recreate the feeling of the Renaissance frescos, creating an atmosphere of sacredness and mythos.



**The goal of the event** is to bring to the hearts and minds of people the need to create new stories that will help us in the difficult times ahead, when climate change will alter forever the biosphere and we will have to adapt to new forms of life and communities yet to be created.



## Story-telling as a way of communicating climate change

Stories have always helped navigate times of sorrow and duress. They have also help us keep alive the lessons learned from times of destruction, wars, disasters and human misery. They have also helped us create, every time a better society and civilisation.

What is different this time is that humanity has never been confronted with a planetary event, so there are no stories that will help us. We have to create a new story, or as Charles Eisenstein beautifully said: “ The more beautiful world our hearts know is possible”

My inspiration comes from, as a child living in a city with two cathedrals and multiple centuries old churches. The sacred spaces with Renaissance and Baroque paints in their walls telling epic stories of fights between angels, warriors, demons and saints.

### How will the event develop?

The presentation starts with a brief explanation of the theory of James Lovelock of earth as a self-regulating system. Then we will tell a short story of the birth of Gaia, as a prompt and inspiration. Following to the talk, the public will be invited to write parts or a full story. All together will form an story that the audience can access in the website [www.returnofgaia.org](http://www.returnofgaia.org)

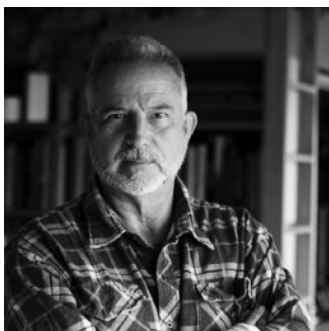
Not many hints will be given, and we encourage the audience to free their imagination and be playful.

We will also talk about the creative process, photographing dancers and models underwater to create a library of more than 3'000 different poses during two years.



**We want it to be a participatory event**, where everybody plays a part in creating the story. We want the public to bring it home and later it, rewrite it or adapt it to their culture or race or simply to their taste, as orally transmitted stories have always been created and recreated.

## **Jose G Cano Bio**



I was born in Valencia, in the coast of Spain in 1961. After studying commerce and work in distribution for several years, I left Spain disillusioned with the materialistic economic and social system and went to live on a sailing boat for several years finally arriving to Thailand in the late 90s., where I volunteered for 7 years at Child Watch and the Life Home Project, a local organization started by a small group of volunteers that worked to create safe shelters for women and children living with HIV/Aids suffering from discrimination, stigma and the lack of health resources.

This was the most important and life-changing period of my life, as it confronted me with the reality of human suffering and death while

trying to enact social change from a non for profit organization perspective.

In Asia I encountered the enormous environmental problems that the world is facing, and it made me change the focus of my work into climate change and the environment.

I moved to Nelson, New Zealand in 2009 with my wife Kung and daughter Ing, with a short stint as organic farming.

In my photographic journey, I initially focused in documentary photography, as a witness to the social problems of our world. I later turned to Fine Art Photography, but with a focus on activism media and photography on matters related to environmental issues.

I trained in Climate Change action by the Al Gore organization Climate Reality in Berlin 2018, and I was an active member of Extinction Rebellion until 2020.

At the moment, I focus on understanding and communicating the meta crisis human civilization and the planet is facing. My passion, apart from environmental issues, is underwater fine art photography and Jungian psychology.

**"The Return of Gaia Project"** by Jose Gay Cano

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