

Stilt Dancers, Musicians, and Ritual Processions
Come Together in New Performance Piece by Artist Laura Anderson Barbata
Animating the United Nations Plaza for World Ocean Day on June 8

**Commissioned by TBA21–Academy, Spectacular New Work Explores Our Relationship
with the Ocean, and the Urgent Need for Collective Transformation**

***Ocean Calling* was created in collaboration with choreographers Chris Walker and
Mei Yamanaka, the Brooklyn Jumbies, and Jarana Beat world musicians**

WHAT In celebration of World Oceans Day and coinciding with the first-ever United Nations Ocean Conference, the U.N.'s Eastern Plaza will be animated with a dazzling, marine-centric performance work by Mexican-American artist Laura Anderson Barbata, featuring colorful costumes, stilt dancing, and world music inspired by the traditions of coastal nations including Papua New Guinea, Jamaica, West Africa, and Mexico. Charting the emotional and physical relationship to life in the ocean, the work creates a spectacular public call to action and addresses the urgent need for collective transformation.

Commissioned by TBA21–Academy, *Ocean Calling* builds on the 2016 work by Barbata, *What-Lives-Beneath*, first presented during the TBA21–Academy Current Convening in Kingston, Jamaica. *Ocean Calling* follows a two-day cross-disciplinary program of installations, presentations, and performances organized by TBA21–Academy at the Explorers Club.

WHO *Ocean Calling* by artist Laura Anderson Barbata
A TBA21–Academy commission
Created in collaboration with choreographer Chris Walker, The Brooklyn Jumbies, choreographer and dancer Mei Yamanaka, and Jarana Beat

WHEN Thursday, June 8, 2017, 1 – 2 pm

WHERE United Nations – East Plaza
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

ADMISSIONS The event is open to media on assignment only.

ABOUT TBA21–ACADEMY

TBA21–Academy leads artists, scientists, and thought-leaders on expeditions of collaborative discovery. Our mission is to foster a deeper understanding of our ocean through the lens of art and to engender creative solutions to its most pressing issues. The itinerant Academy commissions interdisciplinary research that catalyzes engagement, stimulates new knowledge, and inspires artistic production. Founded in 2011, our nonprofit's program is informed by a belief in the power of exchange between disciplines and in the ability of the arts as a vessel for communication, change, and action. TBA21–Academy's first exhibition, [Tidalectics](#), presenting 13 artists whose work reveal diverse perspectives on the cultural, political, and biological dimensions of the oceans, recently opened in the foundation's headquarters in Vienna.

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