Minding Animals Bulletin 58

Welcome to Bulletin 58 of Minding Animals International Incorporated (MAI). It has been over 18 months that we have been in contact with our supporters. And this is just to let you know that we are alive and kicking!

This bulletin will provide an update on the organisation, potential future activities and other matters.

Minding Animals Germany

Minding Animals Germany Symposium October 24-25, 2025

Minding Animals Germany, the German-speaking part of MAI, is holding its annual symposium for the second time since 2014 in cooperation with the Nuremberg University of Music (address: Karl-Grillenberger-Str. 3a, 90402 Nuremberg).

The theme of this year's symposium is 'Humans and other animals: Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Perspectives', with members' presentations on animals in music and art, animals and design, virtual animals and animal ethics, amongst other topics.

Please contact the conference organisers with any questions or comments:
Prof. Dr. Martin Ullrich (Nuremberg University of Music) martin.ullrich@hfm-nuernberg.de
Dr. Judith Benz-Schwarzburg (University of Vienna) Judith.Benz-Schwarzburg@vetmeduni.ac.at

Conference language: German

Participation is free of charge, but only possible with registration. Please register at:

nx10429.your-storageshare.de/apps/forms/s/btGomoxLkjieYj9JTs8DS7RC

Or follow the links at:
https://www.hfm-nuernberg.de/en/research-innovation/conferences

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Hartmut Kiewert: Strand IV, 2025, Oil on canvas

Blue Animal Aesthetics Conference October 22-24, 2025

The conference will precede the Minding Animals Germany Symposium at the Nuremberg University of Music, Karl-Grillenberger-Str. 3a, 90402 Nuernberg, Germany.

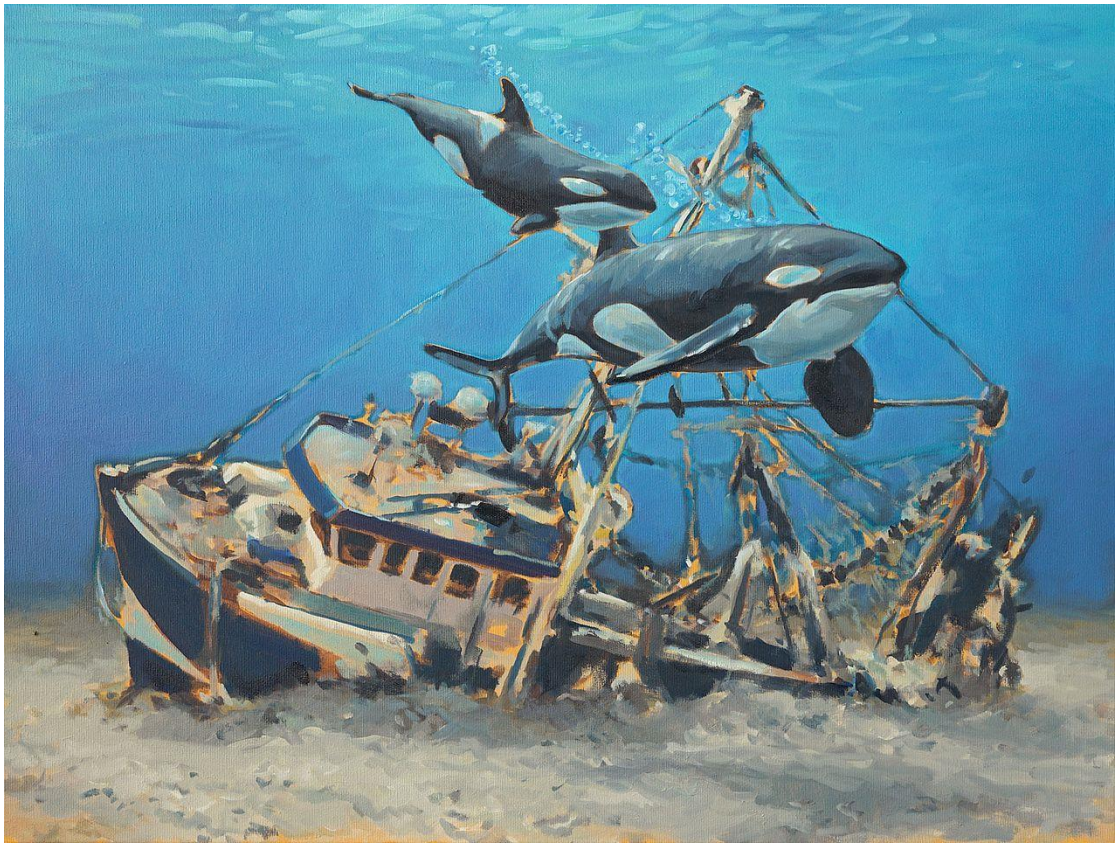
In a time of ecological disruption, multispecies entanglements, and increasing sensitivity to planetary interdependencies, this conference invites explorations at the intersection of Blue Humanities, Human Animal Studies, and artistic-aesthetic practices. Under the title 'Blue Animal Aesthetics', we aim to create a space for thinking with and through water, nonhuman animals, and art. The conference seeks interdisciplinary contributions that engage with oceanic and aquatic worlds, the politics, ethics and aesthetics of nonhuman animals, and the role of art, music, literature, and performance in navigating fluid ecologies and relational thinking in the Chthulucene.

Please contact the conference organisers with any questions or comments:
Prof. Dr. Martin Ullrich (Nuremberg University of Music) martin.ullrich@hfm-nuernberg.de
Prof. Dr. Jessica Ullrich (Münster Academy of Art), ullrichj@kunstakademie-muenster.de
Tabea Weber (Bielefeld University) tabea_sabrina.weber@uni-bielefeld.de

Topics will include:

- Marine animals in art, music, literature, and theory
- Posthuman and more-than-human perspectives on the Blue Humanities
- Ecocritical approaches to maritime space
- Aquatic animals in artistic practices
- Colonial, Indigenous, and decolonial perspectives on oceans and nonhuman animals
- Intersections of climate, art, and animal ethics in regard to waterspheres

- Water as an epistemological and aesthetic medium for nonhuman animals
- The aesthetics of marine archives and Blue Extinction



Hartmut Kiewert: Versenkung I, 2025, Oil on canvas

Languages for the Blue Animal Aesthetics Conference are: German and English

There will be contributions that cross disciplinary boundaries and open new conceptual and experiential spaces between water, more-than-human life, and aesthetics. Participation is only possible after registration and payment of the participation fee of €30.00. Please find the link to register here:

https://nx10429.your-storageshare.de/apps/forms/embed/LQ77zfYgwoTaWYFrJMt5JSDt

Or follow the links at:
https://www.hfm-nuernberg.de/en/research-innovation/conferences

The participation fee can be paid using the QR code at the bottom of this page. Kindly note that the participation fee is not refundable in the case of non-attendance. If the transfer is made by other means, please always state the booking reference (mandatory): 5302.2700.9401

ePay

Bitte begleichen Sie den Rechnungsbetrag unter Angabe des Buchungskennzeichens bis zum Fälligkeitstag. Bitte beachten Sie, dass Einzahlungen ohne Buchungskennzeichen und verspätete Einzahlungen Ihnen und der Kasse unnötige Mühen und Kosten verursachen (ggf. Mahnung und Zwangsvollstreckung).

Überweisung

Sofern Rückfragen erforderlich sind, wenden Sie sich bitte an den oben angegebenen Sachbearbeiter. Geben Sie den Grund der Forderung und das Buchungskennzeichen an.

Minding Animals Australia

Minding Animals Conference 5

Minding Animals Australia has been provided the opportunity to host the next Minding Animals Conference in July, 2027. This will be done in direct collaboration with Saffron Aid. The conference is entirely dependent upon a funding application made on behalf of Saffron Aid. We will inform all our supporters of the outcome of the funding application as soon as possible.

All being well, the conference will be held in the Hunter Valley at Lovedale/Wonnarua Country, north of Sydney (all transfers will be available from Sydney and Newcastle airports, and a range of accommodation recommended). The conference is likely to be held at Rydges Resort Hunter Valley.

The conference themes will include:

- Rewilding and compassionate conservation
- The biodiversity crisis and climate change
- The animal industrial complex
- Animals, the circular economy and sustainable food systems
- Animals in development and food sovereignty
- First Nations and decolonisation
- Educating with and for Animals
- Animals, the law and public policy
- Multi-species justice
- Personhood, animal philosophy and bioethics

Threatened Bats and Birds of Australia and the Pacific

Also in collaboration with Saffron Aid, Minding Animals Australia will also be soon co-hosting a conference series on threatened bats and birds of Australia and the Pacific. This will be coupled with the development of bioacoustics classifiers for all bats and birds in the region. Also dependent upon funding, further information will be provided shortly.

Minding Animals Danmark

On 14 June, Minding Animals Danmark held a successful first event, 'Human-Animal Studies - Now and in the Future', where a line-up of scholars from different disciplines met at Aarhus University to present and discuss research. The organisation is still in its early stages and growing steadily as more members join. The event was followed by a general assembly, and the board now consists of Jes Lynning Harfeld (Aalborg University), Sune Borkfelt (Independent), Eimear Mc Loughlin (Aarhus University) and Lærke Recht (Moesgaard Museum).

Encouraged by the event in June, the board is steadily working on future events at different locations around the country, as well as seeking to expand the membership base and establish a network of connections for future collaborations. We are also working on recruiting help to expand and help maintain our digital platforms.

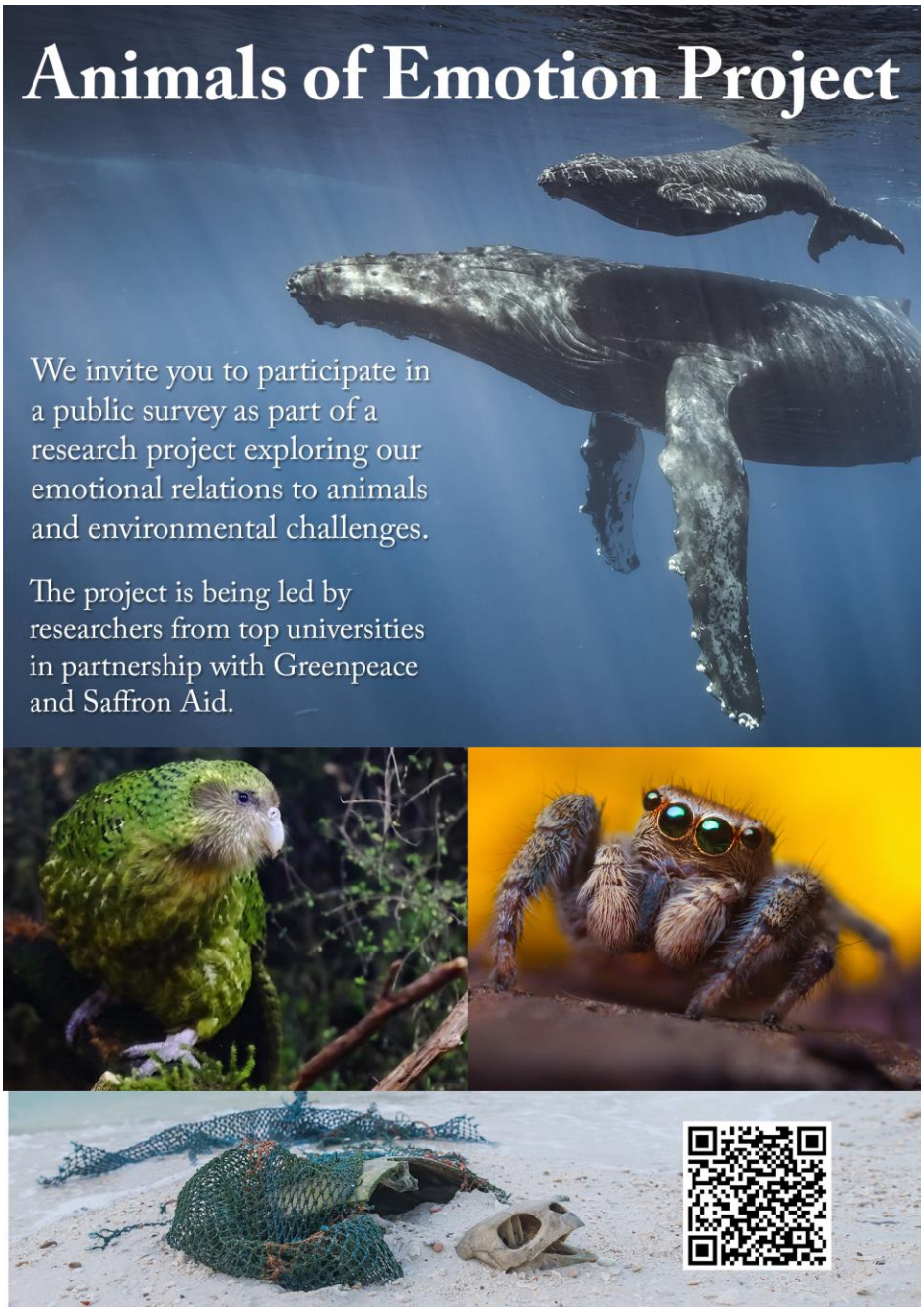
Anyone who wishes to join Minding Animals Danmark, or wishes to suggest a collaboration of some kind, can contact the organisation at kontakt@mindinganimals.dk

Circles of Extinction

Animals of Emotion Project

We invite you to participate in a public survey as part of a research project exploring our emotional relations to animals and environmental challenges. The project is being led by researchers from RMIT University, Western Sydney University, Macquarie University, and University of Canterbury, in partnership with Greenpeace Australia Pacific, Greenpeace Aotearoa and Saffron Aid.

The survey can be accessed via this link:
https://circlesofemotion.org/collections/animals/animals-of-emotion



To engage with this survey, you will need to register and answer a few questions to give us some research context. Any data you provide will be held securely and it will be made anonymous for research purposes. Once registered, you will be asked to respond to images of animals using the Circles of Emotion tool. Choose any animal you like – at least five would be great, but the more the better – and rate it via the Circles tool, using the comment function to add additional responses, if you like. If you are interested, you will have the option to opt in for further engagement with this research and possible interviews.

Your participation in this survey will help in understanding how people respond emotionally to images of animals, and to environmental and conservation challenges. Thank you for your participation in this project.

Vale

We remember those lost since the last Bulletin, including Steven Wise and Frans de Waal who both passed early 2024, and Sina Walden at the end of last year.

Book Recommendation: *The Omnivore's Deception*

Millions of people see themselves as 'conflicted omnivores', worrying about the ethical and environmental implications of their choice to eat animals. Yet their attempts to justify their choices only obscure the truth of the matter: in John Sanbonmatsu's view, killing and eating animals is unethical, regardless of whether they are 'free range' or factory farmed. Shattering the conventional wisdom around the meat economy, he reframes the question of animal agriculture from one of 'sustainability' to one of existential and moral purpose, presenting a powerful case for the total abolition of the animal economy. In a rejoinder to Michael Pollan and other critics who have told us that we can have our meat and our consciences, too, he shows why 'humane meat' is always a contradiction in terms.

The Omnivore's Deception provides a deeply observed philosophical meditation on the nature of our relationship with animals. Peeling back the myriad layers of myth, falsehoods, and bad faith that keep us eating meat, the book offers a novel perspective on our troubled relations with animals in the food economy. The problem with raising and killing animals for food isn't just that it's 'bad for the environment', but the wrong way to live a human life.

A tour de force of moral philosophy and cultural critique, *The Omnivore's Deception* will change the way we think about meat, animals, and human purpose.

Excellent reviews can be accessed by following the following links:

From Marc Bekoff
https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/animal-emotions/202504/the-omnivores-deception-the-case-of-conflicted-carnivores

From Kim Stallwood
https://kimstallwood.substack.com/p/the-omnivores-deception-by-john-sanbonmatsu

Minding Animals International Board

The Minding Animals International Board is in need of additional Board members. Please note that the Board will soon be calling for at least four nominations.

Minding Animals Website and Contact Emails

Please check out the Minding Animals website at www.mindinganimals.com, www.mindinganimals.net, or www.mindinganimals.org If you have problems accessing any of the sites, you may need to clear your cache. The emails are:

Enquires	Relevant Email Addresses
Minding Animals email (always available)	mindinganimals@gmail.com
All supporters, membership and donations enquiries	memberships@mindinganimals.com
All Board matters	board@mindinganimals.com
All other matters	admin@mindinganimals.com
Minding Animals Australia	mindinganimals@gmail.com
Minding Animals Germany	benzschwarzburg@googlemail.com
Minding Animals Danmark	kontakt@mindinganimals.dk

Donations to Minding Animals International

Did you know that, if you are a US citizen, all donations to Minding Animals International are tax deductible? Minding Animals International is a registered US 501(c)(3) Charity. If interested in donating, please log on to: http://www.mindinganimals.com/donations/ Your Paypal invoice will be your receipt.

Congratulations

And congratulations go to one of our Patrons and Co-founders, Marc Bekoff, for this prestigious honour…….

State of Colorado

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Colorado is home to a diversity of native carnivores, including Eagles, hawks, Gray Wolves, Coyotes, Black-Footed Ferrets, Mountain Lions, Bobcats, Canada Lynx, and Foxes; and

WHEREAS, carnivores are essential to the healthy functioning of every Colorado ecosystem in which they live; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty years, as a biologist, ethologist, and behavioral ecologist, Dr. Marc Bekoff has led groundbreaking research revealing that carnivores are highly sentient, emotional, and intelligent beings with unique personalities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bekoff articulated the core ethical tenets of the 'Compassionate Conservation' framework in which the lives of individual animals are necessary considerations within the broader mission of conserving species; and

WHEREAS, through his decades-long research and writings, Dr. Bekoff has contributed materially to our understanding that many carnivores are family-oriented; care deeply about what happens to themselves, their family, and their friends; and offer many life lessons about the importance of long-lasting family ties, cooperation, resilience, and adaptability;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September 6th, 2025 as

MARC BEKOFF DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this sixth day of September, 2025

Jared Polis
Governor