



**School: School of Art**

**Researcher: Mariele Neudecker**

**Project Title: Deep Sea**

**UOA: 32**

## 300-Word Statement

Neudecker's *Deep Sea* Collection consists of 3 principle works, commissioned by *Invisible Dust* for the exhibition *Offshore, Artists Explore the Sea* as part of the 2017 Hull City of Culture Arts Programme. These works stem from ongoing research with marine biologist Professor Alex Rogers. Drawn to unseen and concealed aspects of the ocean, where the hidden or invisible might reveal frontiers of light and dark, bringing a sublime sense of both discovery and danger, Neudecker focused her research on our perception, atmospheric conditions in the water column and the ocean's pollution, to ask:

1. What new knowledge might be gathered by physically accessing and mapping these hidden underwater regions in such limited and physically restricted ways?
2. How does the collaboration between an artist and marine biologist work to further our perception of and impact on marine environments?
3. How do we respond to and engage with visualizations of marine science that go beyond human territories, nationalities, experience and comprehension?

GoPro footage from a 2016 submersible expedition near Bermuda, organised by NEKTON and Professor Alex Rogers, echoing Beebe's 1934 Bathysphere trip, resulted in 3 works: ***The Improbable Always Happens Sometimes (1 & 2)***, an immersive 12-screen installation across two floors, evoking a 'fake but more real' experience of the changing sound and light during the ascent and descent into the Ocean's depth. ***"Sediment"*** and ***"Descent"*** consist of mixed media works in museum cabinets and wall hung photographs respectively.

***One More Time*** (2017), is a video installation tracking the 8.62m giant squid in a formaldehyde-filled tank in London's Natural History Museum. The work subjectively aims to mystify and de-mystify the creature.

Neudecker's work highlights the importance and questions the coherence of our comprehension of the 'deep ocean', contributing significant points of reference for research in this and in the field of museology.