

# PRESS KIT

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## ECO ARTIST

### **Nicole King will be exhibiting her paintings at the World Conservation Congress (IUCN) in Marseille «Argument for water's survival» from September 3 to 11, 2021**

Both as a painter and environmental engineer, Nicole King is an ecologist first. Her paintings reflect this priority in their attempt to reflect the significance of what the term "Anthropocene" means. In her first profession, she carried out numerous international surveys and environmental impact studies for the oil industry, then as «Water Resources & Pollution Policy» expert at WWF International.

Now, painting for more than 20 years, Nicole King uses her scientific background and experience to choose which ecological priorities should be illustrated. For example (\*canvas N°1) : how the fossil fuel industry exploits the marine ecosystem for its own advantage. Or how (\*canvas N°3) politics and the media focus their campaigns on climate change while neglecting the urgency of the problems related to water (\*canvas N° 2). One out of three people in the world does not have access to safe drinking water and the disappearance of aquatic ecosystems that sustain life is accelerating: 75% of mangroves have already disappeared (\*canvas N°5), and 50% of coral reefs are already destroyed by bleaching. Nicole King insists on ecological notions such as eco-phases, which represent the different ages of a species' life (\*canvas N°4), or the food chain. Endangered species (\*canvas N°6) inhabit her paintings.

She uses photography combined with oil painting, a natural ecological gesture. The powerful poetry that emerges from her works through the mastery and mixing of techniques imprints in our minds the most impressionable images.

«Nicole King demonstrates that figurative painting not only has the power to inform the world , but also to change it.» Thibault Josset, Univers des Arts Journalist.

«Nicole King's vivid painting, munificent and arousing, includes an underlying scientific perspective : subtle and alarming. Her altruistic and multifaceted work is exhibited at different levels of interpretation. The ecological dimension is both allusive and illusive, inferred and perceptible. One is at first attracted by the unclouded aesthetic quality which at times approaches pure abstraction. It is a moment when bright colors take on their own life and bewitch the landscape. We are further spoiled by the presence of animal life forms : haunting and affecting. The amorphous quality of the trees and seaweed in this fantasy ambiance creates a dream like world encouraging the public to step inside..» Christian Noorbergen, Art Critic.

«Even if the world of industry and technology is evoked in the brutality of the catastrophes it has induced, the same man-made structures in Nicole King's paintings are portrayed in a manner that evoke a powerful dreamlike dimension. These paintings open our eyes to the world as it is, as mankind of the 20th century has transformed and often massacred it. But neither do we forget in her work that the world of nature can be a world of infinite beauty, infinite resources.» Claire Vignes-Dumas, Art Historian.



## 1- THE OCEAN IS YOUR MIRROR

(La Mer est ton miroir), 42,5 x 28,7 inch., 2015

This painting, dedicated to COP 21 in Paris in 2015, crystallizes Nicole King's concern about offshore oil production that is taking place in increasingly dangerous conditions for the planet and the ocean. New oil fields are being discovered farther and farther out in geological layers several miles deep underwater and under the sea floor, with pressures and temperatures so high that they are uncontrollable in case of accidents. Atmospheric pollution and global warming are symbolized at the top of the canvas in the underlayer, and the melting of the ice is suggested in the center.



## 2- PASSAGE TO BLACK

(Passage au noir),  
19,6 x 25,6 inch., 2012

This waterfall symbolizes the fresh water that flows down our watersheds, contaminated by the pollutants collected by wastewater and stormwater. The beauty of the falling water contrasts with the blackness of the Indian ink at the bottom of the painting. Chemicals are everywhere: more than 20 million substances marketed in the world, 300 million tons per year of chemicals manufactured. Organic water pollution is also omnipresent: one person out of two does not have access to sanitation.





3- POLAR BEARS ON HOLD (Ours polaires en sursis), 47,2 x 30,7 inch., 2021

The consequences of climate change on the biodiversity of the polar zones are at critical levels. Will polar bears, very good swimmers, be able to evolve or adapt fast enough to the rapid melting of the ice pack, which jeopardizes their access to their usual food ? Oil platforms are responsible for the situation : we produce greenhouse gases in enormous quantities when we consume the fossil fuel they extract.



4- CARETTA, TWO ECO-PHASES (Caretta, deux écophases), 51,1 x 38,2 inch., 2020

Sea turtles like «Caretta» are endangered species : they die either by ingesting plastic bags and/ or are trapped in the huge drift nets of industrial fishing boats. The beaches where they come to lay their eggs every year are not sufficiently protected. This painting presents a very important concept in ecology : two eco-phases, a juvenile turtle coming out of the egg and an adult turtle, representing two ages of the life of the species, each vulnerable to different environmental risks.





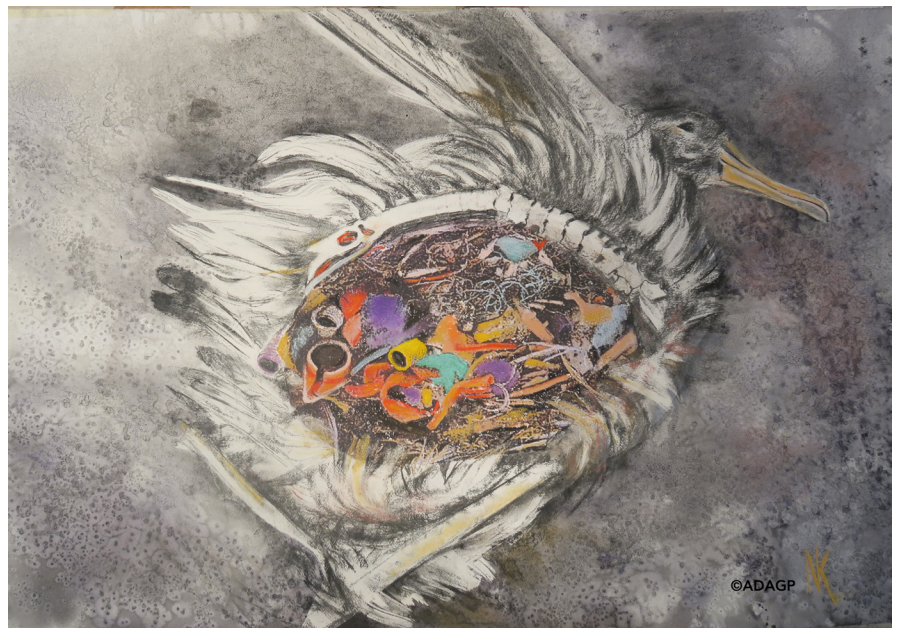
5- VANISHED ECOSYSTEM, THE MANGROVE (Écosystème disparu, la mangrove), 55,9 x 51,2 inch., 2019

This painting was inspired by the two field surveys that Nicole King carried out for Total in Indonesia over thirty years ago. The mangrove, one of the most important coastal ecosystems in the tropics, serves as a nursery for many marine species and is disappearing at a rapid rate. This wild mangrove of Borneo, first damaged by the oil industry, is now destroyed by huge shrimp farming ponds (like other 15 million hectares of the world mangrove).

6-THE PRINCE OF THE CLOUDS, or «Stranded Albatross» (Le Prince des nuées ou «Albatros échoué»), 25,6 x 39,4 inch., 2019

« Le Poète est semblable au prince des nuées,  
Ses ailes de géant l'empêchent de marcher. » Baudelaire.

70% of seabirds have disappeared in 60 years. 17 families of albatrosses out of 22 are threatened with extinction. Albatrosses, like other marine species, do not know how to distinguish between plastic debris and the living food they seek. Their stomachs are filled with the waste of our civilization. Unfortunately this waste is responsible for the creation of a 7th continent of plastic in the North Pacific. The invasion of micro-plastics in



the sea is so important that a fish has one in two chances of eating plastic instead of zooplankton. The lifespan of plastics is estimated to be between 100 and 1000 years. Each human being consumes 53 kilos of plastic each year, the majority of which ends up in the sea. Let's go from being ignorant shoppers to conscientious, informed consumers !