

THE BIOSPHERE PROJECT

Joaquin Fargas



The mission of The Biosphere Project is to raise awareness on the fragility of our planet.

“The Biosphere Project stands as a platform to raise awareness about the issue of Earth preservation, until now, the only possible habitat for human beings to live. In a poetic way the project shows the need to understand nature’s properties and to become aware about the importance of this issue. It deals with contemporary art as an instance to develop a constructive criticism of our own context.”

Florencia Battiti, Curator

Description:

Spheres, completely sealed, contain a natural and complex ecosystem. They are shown as a metaphor of the planet on an infinitesimal scale. These spheres are made of glass, polycarbonate or Plexiglas and are placed on stands of different designs and height made of stainless steel, iron, aluminum, or just hanging from the ceiling. Interactive modules include documentary information about different ecosystems and about the living forms inside the biospheres. The interaction between the art craft and the environment is relevant. The life on the biospheres depend on the location in which they are placed, variables like temperature and the amount of light are critical for them to survive.

Scope of the project – Brief overview

In December of 2006, the Biosphere Project was launched in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and by March of 2007 the project was presented in several cities of that same country. In May of 2007 it was shown for the first time in Latin America, at a Red Pop Convention in San Jose de Costa Rica and in June of 2008 it was presented at a global level in the V Science Centre World Congress in Toronto, Canada. In the years to come the project was implemented in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, United States, South Africa, Czech Republic, Canada, Malaysia, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Italy , Luxembourg, Sweden and Spain.

The Biosphere Project is an artistic project that poses raising awareness as its mission, in all levels of society, about the need to take care of our planet.

To achieve that, the project presents three objectives:

1. Installations of biospheres of different sizes and great visual impact in different public spaces such as museums, arts centers and institutions to spread the message and reach as many people as possible.
2. Mini Biospheres. Giving away small sealed ecosystem, 8cm diameter, that are like our planet in an infinitesimal scale to decision makers, like journalists, politicians, businessmen, etc.
3. Educational Program. Biosphere construction workshops in schools, for teachers and children. The goal of these workshops is to educate today's children, tomorrow's leaders, as responsible citizens.

Statement:

Nowadays, it is undeniable that human activity is causing drastic climate changes and deeply affecting our planet. Studies beyond the scientific issues and analyzed the terrible consequences that could come up as a result of an environmental disaster.

The Biosphere Project proposes us to become aware of the work that needs to be done around the planet preservation issue, being Earth until today the only possible place for humans to live. It shows, in a poetic and metaphoric way, our planet in an infinitesimal scale so that we understand nature's properties and become aware of the importance and urgency of its care. This way tries to express the need to understand that these little systems' lives are in our hands, the same way the planet is.

1) Art Installations



Exhibition – Canada Day, July 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina



Exhibition at InbioParque Costa Rica, 2007



Exhibition – Gallery Nights 2008, La Europea, Buenos Aires, Argentina



Exhibition – Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, November 2008



Petrona Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2008



Göteborg Biennale, Sweden – 2013



Göteborg Biennale, Sweden – 2013



Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art MAR, Mar del Plata, Argentina - 2014/2015



The Havana Biennial, Cuba 2015



The Havana Biennial, Cuba 2015



Art and Science Fair, Wuhu, China, 2016

2) The Biosphere Educational Program



Educational Biosphere Program in Costa Rica

The Biosphere Project at The Biennial of the End of the World 2009 – Biennial’s Educational Program , Ushuaia, Argentina

The Biosphere Project became the key elements for the Biennial’s Educational Program because it articulates education, science and environmental knowledge. It raises awareness in a general level with things so basics as environmental care.

The Biosphere Project was part of the Biennial in Ushuaia and Río Grande in the province of Tierra del Fuego, in Rosario in the province of Santa Fe and in Buenos Aires in Argentina.

The project includes a biosphere construction workshop in schools, for teachers and children. The goal of these workshops is to educate today’s children, tomorrow’s leaders, decision makers...



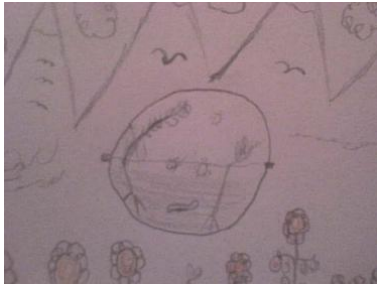
Ecosystem from a hill in front of the sea

Selection and biosphere construction



Research and class work





School Nº 38 - Esperanza Base- Antarctica

Ecosystem search and recollection



Esperanza Base Sea Ecosystem



School in Havana, Cuba 2015



School in Havana, Cuba 2015



School in Havana,Cuba 2015

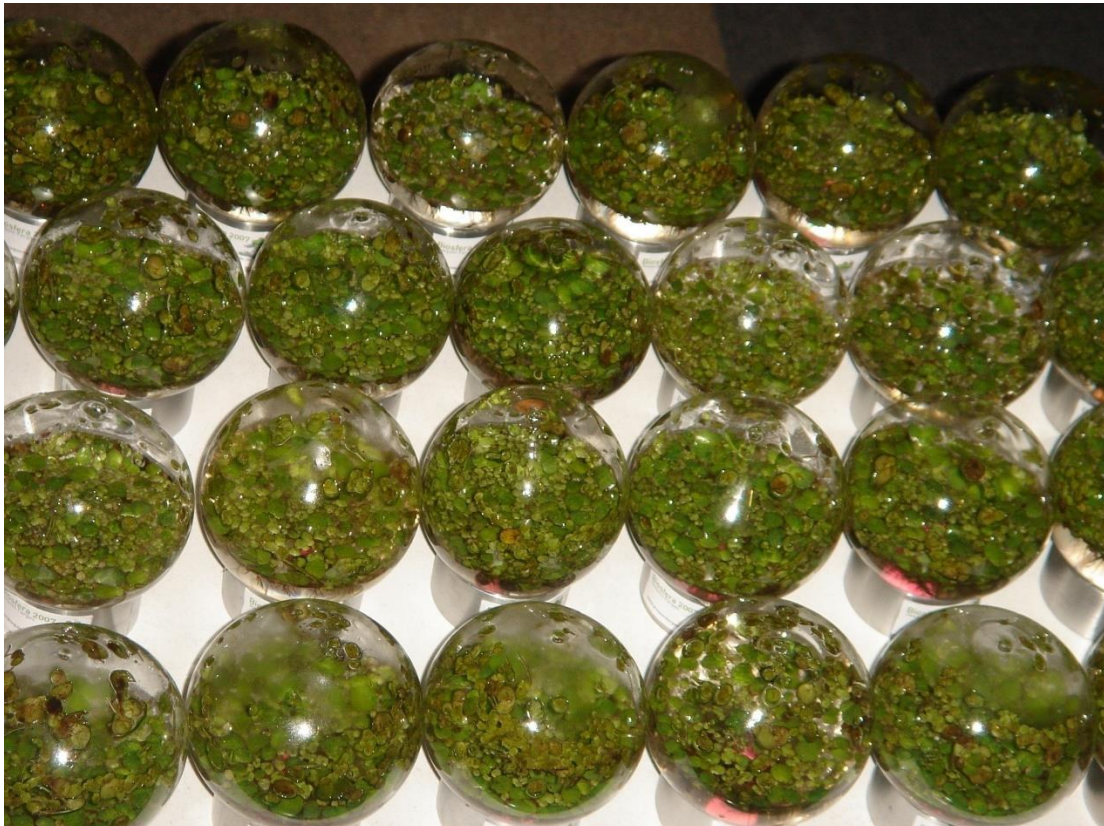


School in Wuhu, China, 2016



School in Wuhu, China, 2016

3) Mini Biospheres





Costa Rica's Ex-President **Oscar Arias Sánchez**, receiving the Mini Biosphere, the World in his hands. He was awarded the Nobel **Peace Prize** in 1987