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## **Mission Statement**

This journal of ecocriticism, founded in 2010, is a joint initiative of GIECO (Ecocritical Research Group in Spain) and EASLCE (European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment) and is published by the University of Alcalá as of 2014. Its principal aim is to further the study, knowledge and public awareness of the connections and relationship between literature, culture and the environment. As a virtual space, it provides a site for dialogue between researchers, theorists, creative writers and artists concerned with and by the environment and its degradation. Its pages are open to contributions on all literatures and cultures, but its special mission is to reflect the cultural, linguistic and natural richness and diversity of the European continent.

Contributions, which are subject to double-blind peer review, are accepted in five languages, in order to increase visibility and broaden the participation of scholars who are not part of the English-speaking world. *Ecozon@* publishes original research articles, in addition to creative writing, visual arts and book reviews. Publication is open to scholars interested in ecocriticism from around the world. We recommend membership of EASLCE to our contributors and readers, but it is not a requirement for either.

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**Cover image:** Rebecca Rutstein, *Day 22: Interconnections*, Acrylic on Canvas, 11x14", 2024. Copyright: © All rights reserved

This painting is part of a series called 30 Days, created on a research vessel at sea with a team led by microbiologist Mandy Joye, exploring deep ocean processes in Mexico's Gulf

of California. The artist made a painting a day for 30 days capturing data, observations, even the motion of the ship itself.

Rebecca Rutstein is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice bridges art and science. For over twenty years she has created painting, sculpture, interactive installation and public art inspired by the natural world. Rutstein is passionate about creating visual and immersive experiences that shed light on hidden networks to foster deeper connection and environmental stewardship. She has collaborated with scientists around the world including 9 expeditions at sea and 3 deep sea dives in the Navy-owned submersible Alvin, supported by the National Science Foundation. These life-changing experiences have cultivated her ecologically-focused practice and embody her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration as a means to reach the public. A Pew Fellowship in the Arts recipient with recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rutstein's work can be found in over fifty public collections including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Georgia Museum of Art and the National Academy of Sciences. [www.rebeccarutstein.com](http://www.rebeccarutstein.com)

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