



**INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONTEST AND AWARD
7TH EDITION 2026**

**the
water
we
want!**



Every year since 2019,
The Water We Want has engaged
students aged 6-25 to showcase
water stories and water heritage
through drawings, and other media
including videos, poems,
soundscapes and photography.

In 2026

104
entries

22

water museums

6

winners

12

special mentions

The topic

All submitted artworks must focus on **freshwater** (excluding salt waters and oceans) and issues related to **biodiversity**, **climate change**, and the diverse facets of **water legacies** (both natural and cultural, tangible and intangible heritage).

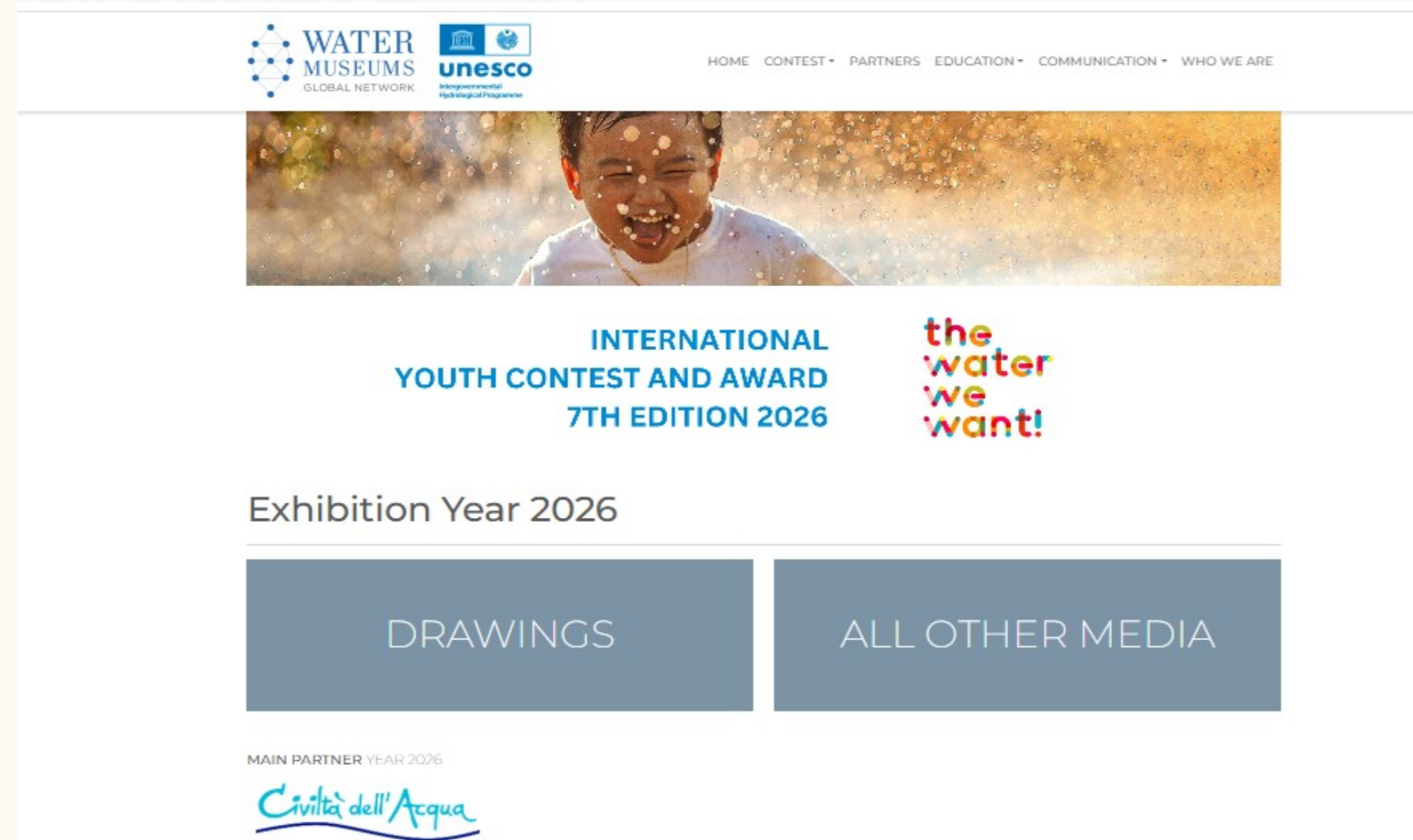
The jury

Eriberto Eulisse,
Global Network of Water Museums

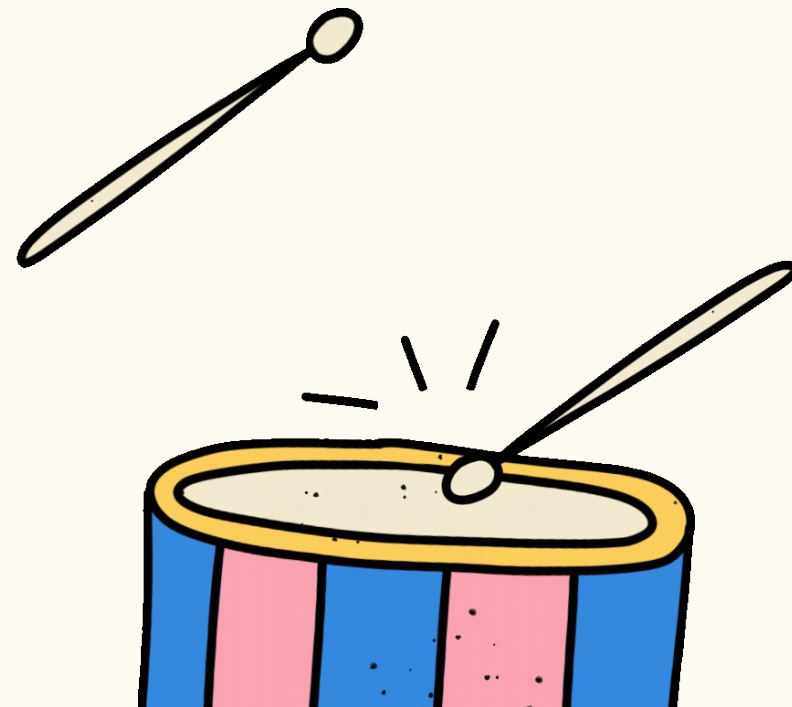
Joana Lessa,
Associated Professor, University of Algarve

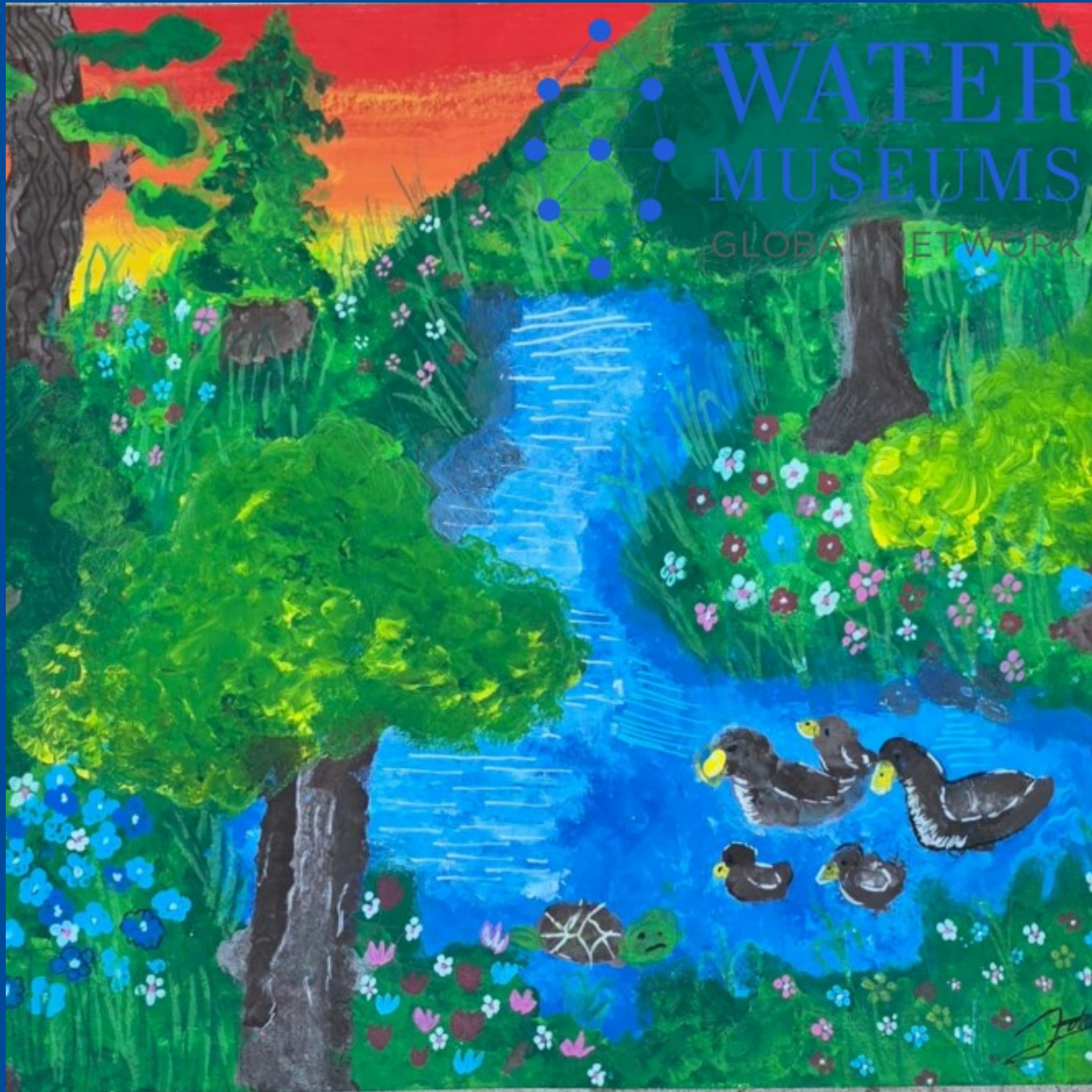
Lucrezia Gigante,
Research Associate, University of Glasgow

The online exhibition



The winners of
the 7th Edition of The Water We Want
are...





DRAWINGS 6-9Y

Iurhekua Interactive Water
Museum

The whisper of the river
by Sofia Macias Ortiz

Iurhekua Interactive Water
Museum, Mexico. Educare, Uruapan



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Drawings 6–9

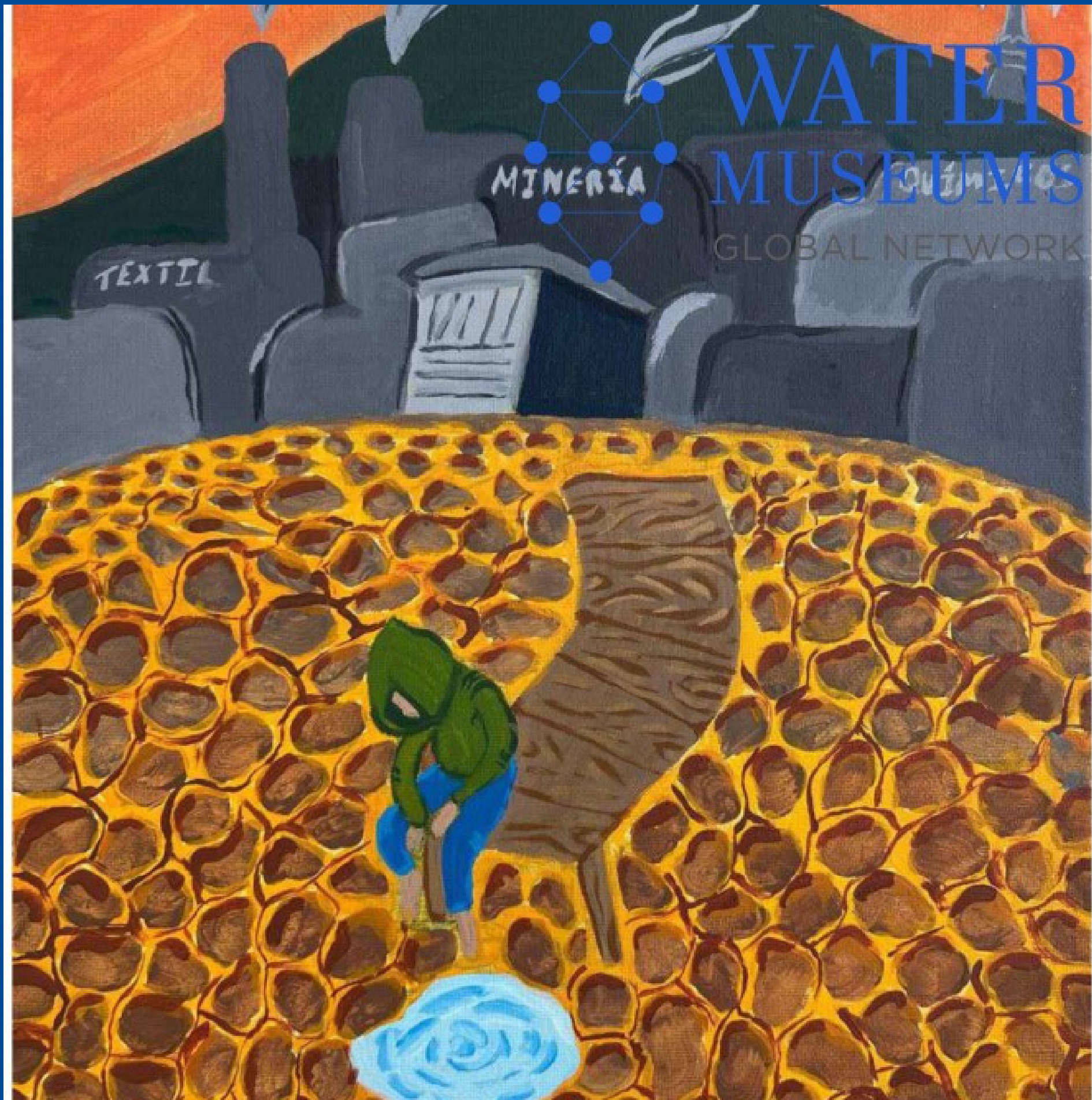
A New Come Quick, Little Rain!

By Tan Shiyue.

Hangzhou Qiantang Experimental Primary School, Caihong Campus, Hangzhou.

Tan Shiyue.

Submitted by **National Water Museum of China, China**



DRAWINGS 10-12Y

Yaku Parque Museo del Agua,
Quito, Ecuador

Quito's Last Drop
by **Valentina López**

Amaru Learning, Quito



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Drawings 10-12

Thirsting for Sweet Rain

by Hu Guoran, Chongqing Fuling Chengqu No.6 Primary School (Wujiang Campus)

Submitted by Chongqing Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China

Drawings 10-12

The Last Drop

By Sylar Segovia, Philadelphia, PA. Royal Oaks Steam Academy

Submitted by Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, USA

Drawings 10-12

Our blue gold, fresh water and the base of life

By Mariana Zúñiga Zamorano, Evaristo García, Educational Institution, Cali

Submitted by Parque de la Biodiversidad COP16, Cali, Colombia

Drawings 10-12

Porter of water

By YU ziai, Lishui Youth Palace, Lishui

Submitted by National Water Museum of China, China



DRAWINGS 13-18Y

Lisbon Water Museum,
Portugal

The Collective Desire
by Leonor Torres

Escola Secundária da
Amadora



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Drawings 13-18

Symbiosis

by Mărginean Alexia-Florina, "Liceul Teoretic Ana Ipătescu" College, Cluj-Napoca

Submitted by "Leonida Truta" Water Museum, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Drawings 13-18

A drop of life

by Zoea Benković, Dubovac Elementary School, Karlovac

Submitted by Aquatika - Freshwater Aquarium Karlovac, Croatia

ALL OTHER MEDIA 10-12Y

Living Waters Museum,
India

The Lifeline

by Anahat Kaur. Meethi Sheth.
Harleen Chaudhary. Maryam Menon.
Samaira Lavsi. Ishaani Shah.
Tanush Dutt. Veerrudra Singh
Gohil. Tamanna. Jeesha.novna
šola Sava Kladnika Sevnica

aProCh – Riverside
Education Foundation,
Ahmedabad



First, hands cradled me,
then cities,
then the slow lean of faith pressed against my skin,
until I forgot
what stillness felt like.

I learned their language.
Bone-grit settling into my bed,
the slow unmaking of what was promised forever.
Marigolds collapsing inward,
their orange bruising toward brown,
petals loosening, drifting apart.
The lamp set was floating not for me—
but for what they needed me to hold.
I held it.

I held, too, what came after,
slick sheen spreading without colour,
a metallic taste threading through my current,
a sediment thickening into a second weight
that did not move when I moved.
Fish turned without finishing their turns,
eyes stared into nothingness.

I did not refuse any of it.
Rivers are not taught refusal.
No one ever asked the current
whether it consented to become



WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK

ALL OTHER MEDIA 13-18Y



Iurhekua Interactive
Water Museum, Mexico

The Voice of Water
by Samady Guadalupe
Gómez Pérez

ICEP Uruapan Michocan



ALL OTHER MEDIA 19-25Y

Chongqing Baiheliang
Underwater Museum,
China

**Youth Guardians of
Water Heritage**
by **Tong Yixin**

Chongqing Jiaotong
University



SPECIAL MENTIONS

All Other Media 10-12

The spirit of water droplets

by Classe 5, IC Arco - SP Massone

Submitted by **Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy**

All Other Media 10-12

Phytoremediation basin

by Class: 1^A – 1^B, ICS 1 Piove di Sacco, middle school “G. Pascoli”

Arzergrande, PD Class: 1^A – 1^B.

Submitted by **Water Museum of Venice, Italy**

SPECIAL MENTIONS

All Other Media 13-18

As the River Flows...

by Tannishtha Kundu, St Johns Diocesan Girls High School, Kolkata

Submitted by **Living Waters Museum, India**

All Other Media 13-18

Daily Waste

Inês Florentino, Larissa Sales, Rodrigo Cruz, Luis Covas, Luís Carreiras,

Agrupamento Escolas José Régio (Portalegre)

Submitted by **Lisbon Water Museum, Portugal**

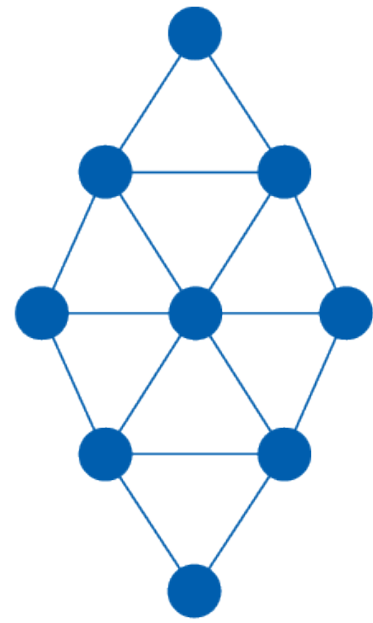
SPECIAL MENTIONS

All ther Media 19-25

Water The Ripple Promise

by Kexin Han, Zhejiang Yuying College of Vocational Technology.

Submitted by **National Water Museum of China**



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thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net