

Impact Statement

Flora Chen, Grade 8.

Protector of the Sea, 2023.

Digital art, 10 x 7 inches.

Tillicum Middle School, Bellevue, WA

Unsung Hero: Sylvia Earle

The Unsung Hero I have chosen is Sylvia Earle, a female American marine biologist. She is a pioneer in the field of marine biology and oceanography, having spent much of her life studying the ocean and advocating for its protection. I decided to create artwork about her because I, too, am an avid lover of marine animals and an environmentalist passionate about protecting our oceans. I believe that preserving our oceans is crucial to the well-being of our planet and all the living creatures that inhabit it. Sylvia Earle's work and achievements have inspired me greatly, and I hope to share her message of environmental stewardship through my poster.

One of Sylvia Earle's most significant contributions to marine conservation is the creation of an organization called Mission Blue. Founded in 2009, Mission Blue is a non-profit organization that aims to create a global network of marine protected areas, or "Hope Spots," by identifying and highlighting areas of the ocean that are critical to the health of marine ecosystems. Mission Blue seeks to promote the establishment of protected areas around the world and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these areas. Sylvia Earle's passion for the ocean and her unwavering commitment to its protection are truly inspirational. She has dedicated most of her life to studying and advocating for the ocean's preservation, and I hope that my poster will help spread her message of hope and environmental stewardship to a wider audience.

In this artwork I made, Sylvia, as the subject of the portrait, gazes into the distance with hopeful eyes. This represents her recognition of the efforts people are making to protect the ocean and her belief that there is hope on the path to ocean conservation. She trusts that more people will become aware of the dangers of polluting the ocean and will do their best to avoid these problems while sharing this ideology with others. Meanwhile, in the background, I showcase Sylvia's hopes and imagination for the future "Hope Spots." In these areas, a variety of fish swim freely, unbound by garbage and plastic, with bodies that are lively and vibrant. Beautiful corals and reefs flourish in various parts of the ocean, providing a haven for fish from all corners of the world. This is what the ocean should look like.

Through the process of creating this artwork, I learned how to make an interesting composition in a portrait and how to add more details and content relevant to the theme in the background. I also used some painting techniques, such as using interesting concise shapes and lines to highlight the importance of Sylvia and the background and incorporating richer and brighter colors to make the picture more interesting and less dull. At the same time, I learned how one person can devote their entire life to pursuing their dreams and protecting, nurturing the ecological environment of the ocean. As I continued to learn and research Sylvia Earle, I was deeply moved by her determination, and I shared information about her with my sister, family, and friends. I also want to share it with more people in the hope that they will realize the

importance of a healthy ocean environment to the world, and I aspire to become a hero like Sylvia Earle, protecting the ocean and its ecosystem.