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"Whale Fall"

Vieser, Michaela

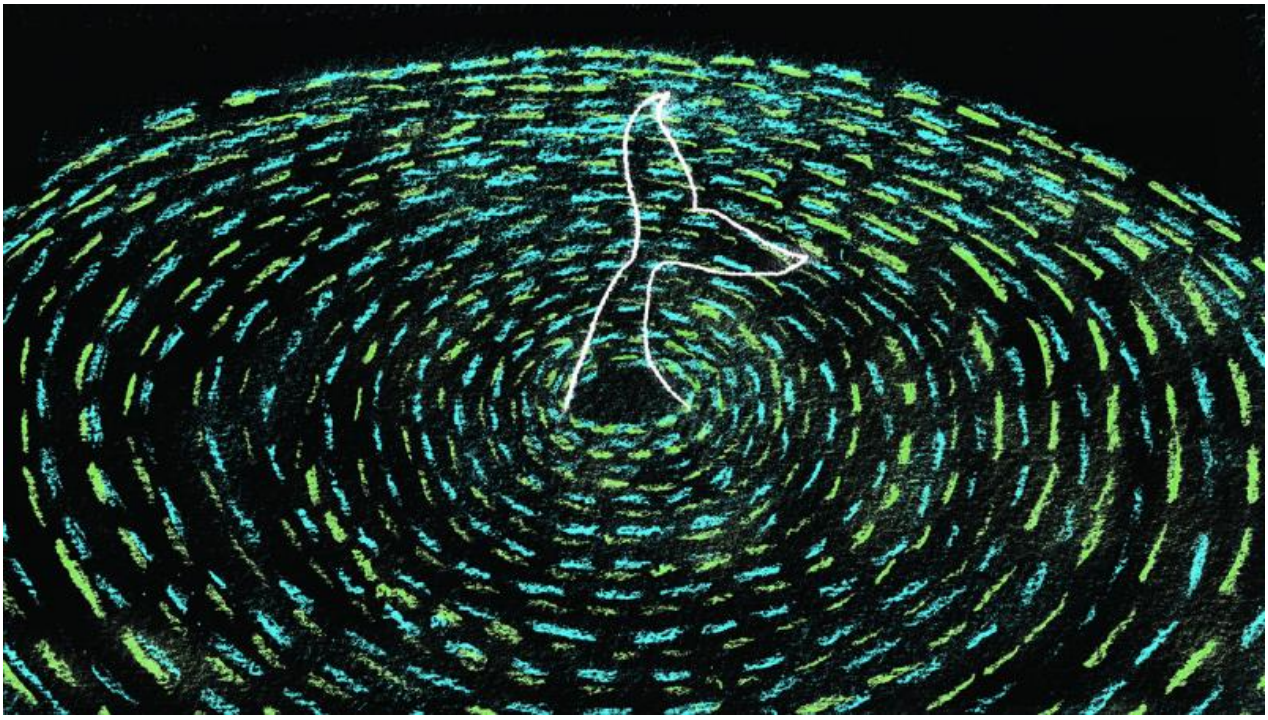


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When a whale dies, it starts a slow sink to the bottom of the sea. What arrives and remains is called a whale fall. Unlike the carcasses of most aquarian beasts, which lack rich lipids in their bones—or, lack bones in the first place, like sharks—a whale fall is full of life when it reaches its resting place. On its long trail down it becomes an ecosystem that nourishes mussels, clams, limpets, sea snails, bacteria, and other organisms. Hence, despite the darkness of this far-away sphere, biologists

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compare a whale fall to a sudden blooming of spring. (From the article)

This article was originally published in *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review* . *Springs* is an online publication featuring peer-reviewed articles, creative nonfiction, and artistic contributions that showcases the work of the Rachel Carson Center and its community across the world.

2026 Michaela Vieser



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