

# ***Save the Earth with Art!***

Environmental Activism Through Artmaking

# Doing our Research

## Environmental Activism Art

### Questions:

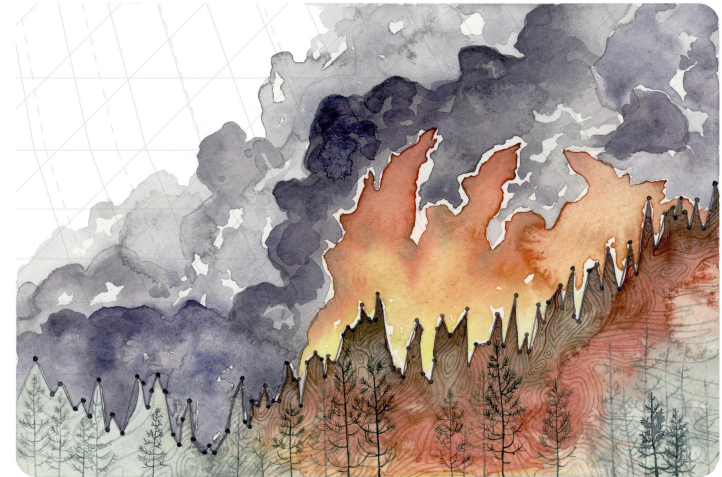
- How do artists express environmental issues in art?
- What environmental issue(s) are they talking about?
- What is their message?

### Artists:

[Jill Pelto](#), [Alejandro Duran](#), [Mbongeni Buthelezi](#),

[Benjamin Von Wong](#), [El Anatsui](#), [Sayaka Ganz](#),

[Nor Tijan Firdaus](#), [Hannah Rothstein](#)



# Communicate your message

## Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Poster

### Questions:

- What is environmental issue is important to me?
- What can we do in our everyday life to help?
- How can I express this idea creatively?

### Terms:

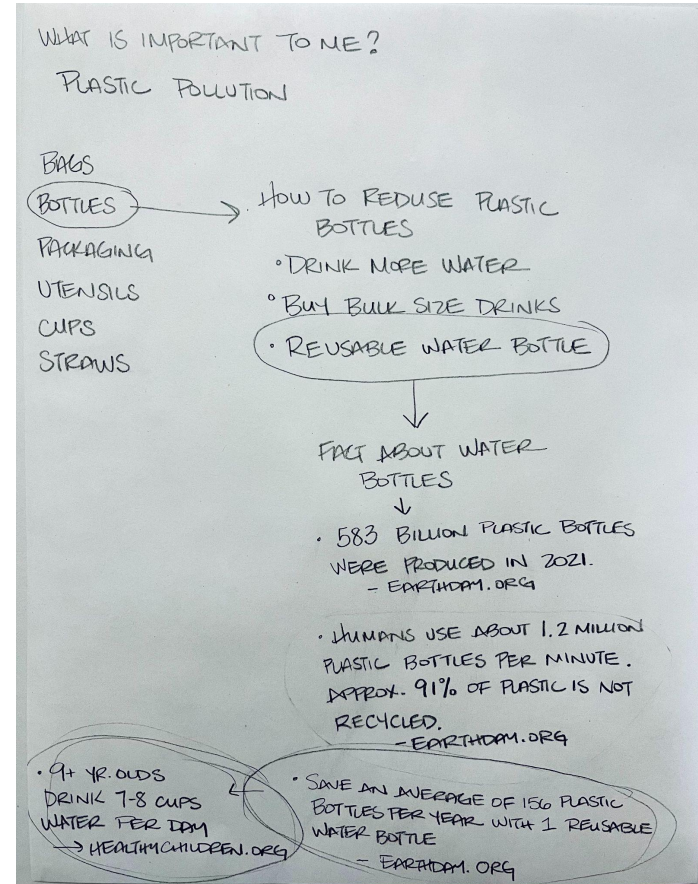
- Reduce - to make smaller or less in amount
- Re-use - use again or more than once.
- Recycle - to convert back into raw material to make into something else
- Accessibility - being able to use or get access to



## SKETCHBOOK WORK

# Brainstorming

- **Reduce** - to make smaller or less in amount
  - Using dishes at home
  - Bringing your own shopping bags or water bottle
  - Using both sides of paper
- **Re-use** - use again or more than once
  - Second-hand items - thrift shopping
  - Repurposed materials - cardboard box into a fort
  - Using items that can be used again - gift bags
- **Recycle** - convert into raw material to reuse
  - Access to recycling programs
  - What can be recycled?
  - Buying from companies who use recycled materials





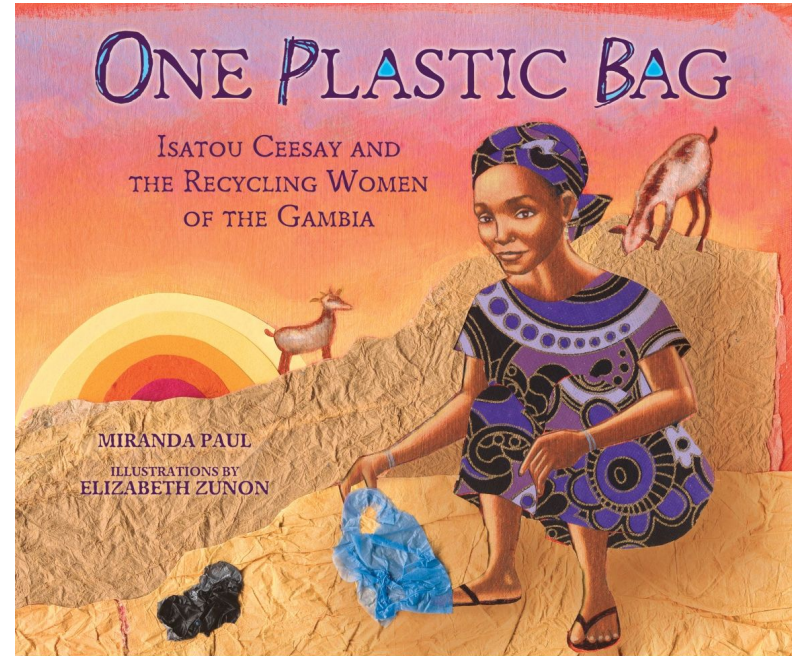
## BRAINSTORMING

# What are ways I can reduce, reuse, or recycle?

- At home?
- In our classroom?
- In our school?
- In our community?

**Isatou Ceesay**  
Gambia, West Africa

[Interview](#)



## CAREER SPOTLIGHT

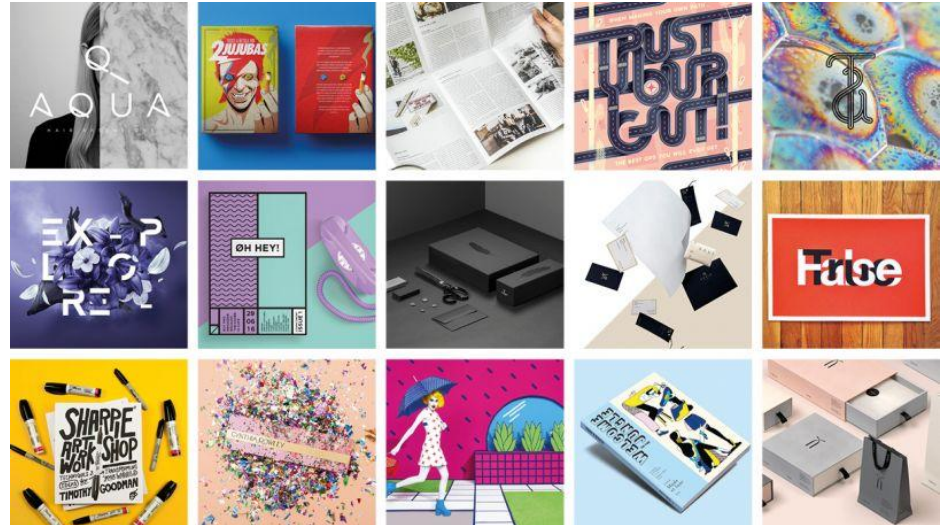
# Graphic Designer

Graphic design helps in communication. This can be done by placing words and pictures in ways that will get the attention of others. The main tools used are computers and special software.



## What do they make?

- Logos
- Websites
- Brochures
- Magazines
- Posters
- Packaging



# Graphic Design Terms

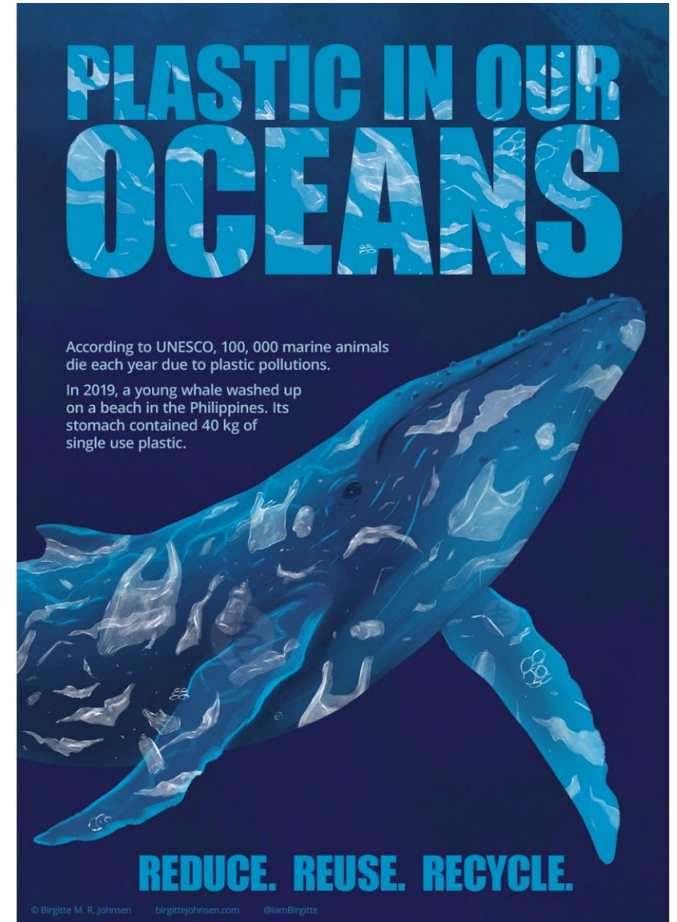
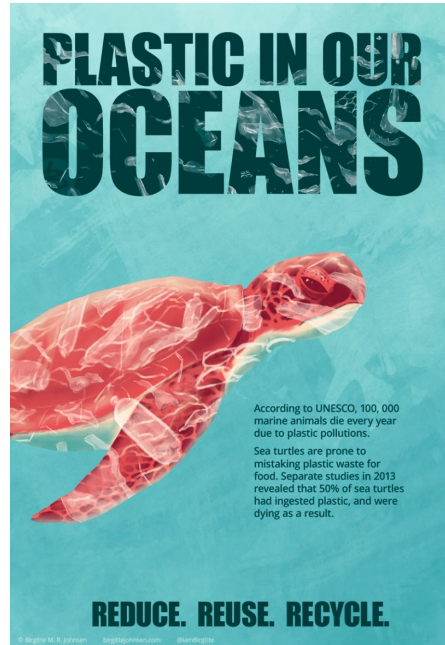
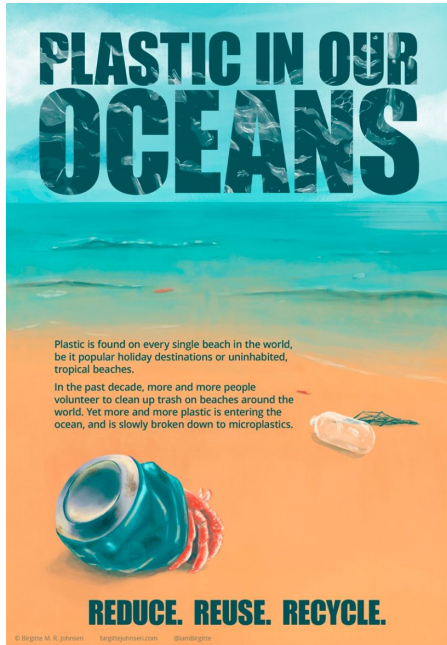
- Layout – the way in which text or pictures are arranged on a page
- Graphic – an image or symbolic element in a layout
- Headline – the main text element in a layout
- Typography – the way written text is displayed in a layout
- Call-to-Action – stimulus to do something to achieve an aim or deal with a problem





# Plastic in our Oceans

By designer [Birgitte M. R. Johnsen](#)



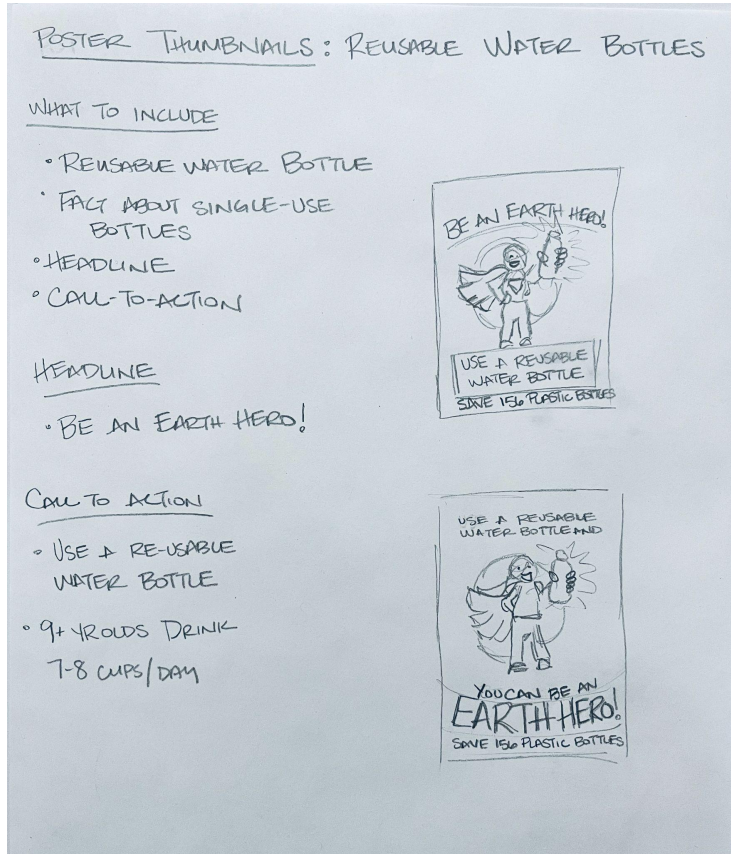


## SKETCHBOOK WORK

# Thumbnail Sketches

- What is my theme?
- What should I include?
- What are my headline ideas?
- What is my call to action?
- What facts am I including?

Draw 2-3 layout ideas



# Additional Activities

- **Home**

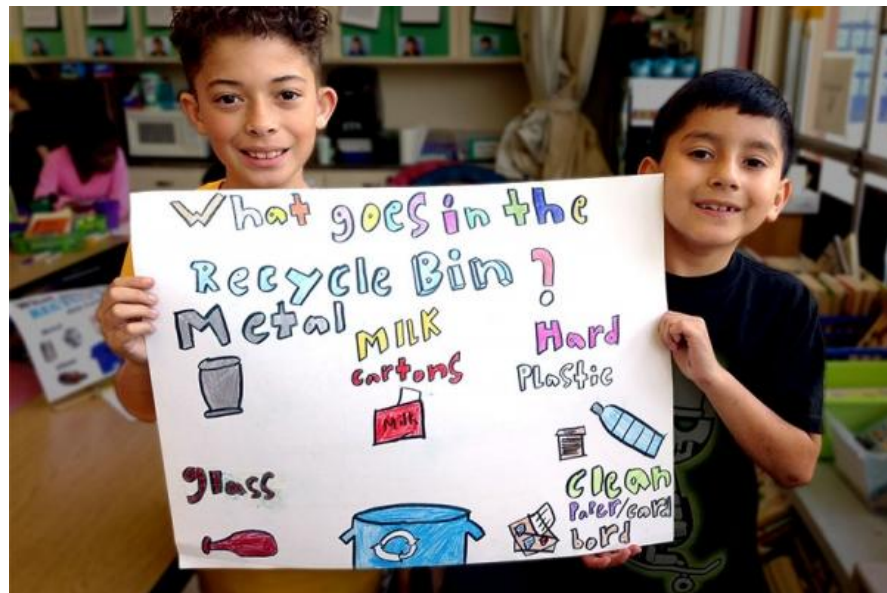
- Making your own recycle bin
- Ideas on how to reuse recyclables

- **School**

- Request for school recycling program from school administration
- Make a poster reminder for R/R/R in our classroom

- **Community**

- Thank our community leaders for recycling program
- Request more access for recycling from community leaders



# Create a Lasting Impression

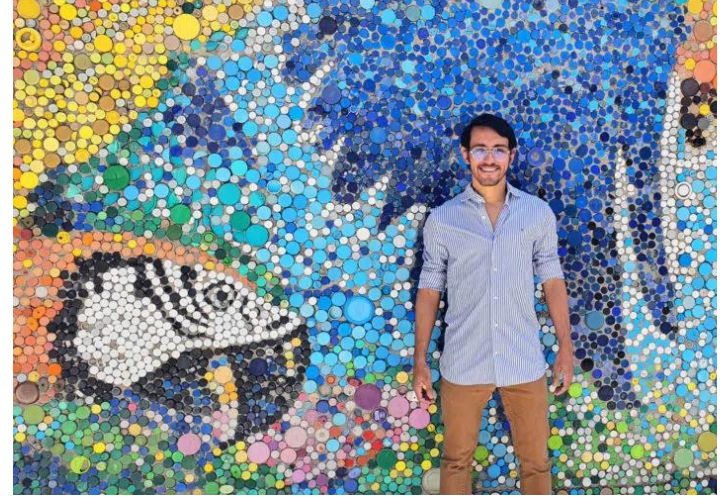
## Plastic Bottle Cap Mural

### Questions:

- What is upcycling?
- How is this piece environmental activism?
- What is the message we are communicating with our art?
- Can artmaking and activism be a community building activity?

### Artists:

[Oscar Olivares](#), [Michelle Stitzlein](#)



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www.angrange.com

## MATERIAL FOCUS

# What are the facts about plastic?

### Benefits

- Strong
- Inexpensive
- Protects
- Preserves
- Long-lasting

### Drawbacks

- Takes 100s of years to decompose
- Breaks down but doesn't disappear
- Can pollute water
- Is a threat to ocean life
- Most are single use





# Plastic bottle cap mural

## Terms:

- Mosaic - a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.

## Steps:

1. Create composition
2. Paint wood
3. Transfer composition
4. Paint composition
5. Glue bottle caps
6. Screw bottle caps
- 7. Celebrate!**



## SKETCHBOOK WORK

# Brainstorming

- What are theme ideas?
- What should we include?
  - Text?
  - Imagery?
- Any special considerations?
  - Color limitations?
  - Size limitations?

**In groups of 2-3, create a layout idea**

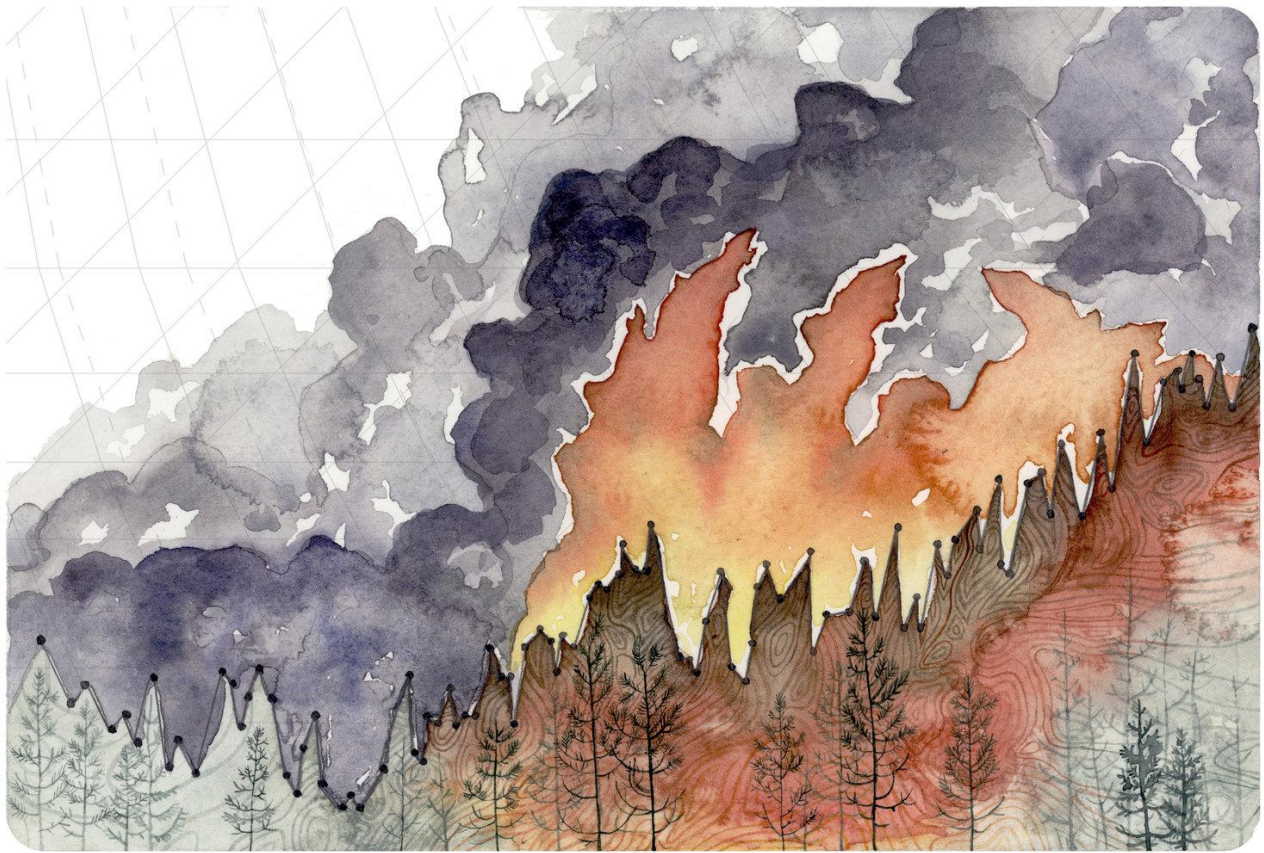
**Use iPad or sketchbooks**





# Jill Pelto

Portland, Maine, USA



"Increasing Forest Fire Activity" - 2015

## Washed Up Photo Series

I created a series about some of the major impacts of global warming that I witnessed in Washington State this summer, using scientific data to show how the drought is devastating the state. *Increasing Forest Fire Activity* uses global temperature rise information. Fortunately, I was not near any of the massive forest fires that raged before, during, and after my two weeks in Washington summer 2015, but I was greeted with many smoke-filled days. On some days, when the winds blew from the fire toward us, the smell and taste of the smoke overpowered my senses, even though the fire was about 100 miles away. As temperatures increase, and drought and drier than average conditions persist, forest fires become a huge threat to the forest, plants, animals—and of course to people and structures.



# Alejandro Duran

Sian Ka'an, México



"Algea" - 2014

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t5L\\_LPD8Vo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t5L_LPD8Vo)

Alejandro began this project in 2010, when he encountered the situation in Sian Ka'an firsthand. In response, he began collecting the colorful plastic—along with light bulbs and other objects—that have floated ashore from all over the world. The garbage is NOT painted, but rather collected and organized by color. After these photos are taken, the trash becomes a part of a growing collection which will continue to be both recycled into new artworks and used in environmental art workshops, to further awareness about plastic pollution.



# Mbongeni Buthelezi

Johannesburg, South Africa



"Women"

"I grew up with my father's animals, the cattle were an important part of my life," said Buthelezi. But not everything in this rural setting was natural.

He explained that plastic litter was so common in grazing areas that it became an unwelcome part of the cows' regular diet. "We would see these cows die because they had eaten plastics," Buthelezi said.

Five decades on, South Africa still has a serious plastic pollution problem. In 2018, 107,000 metric tons of plastic waste from South Africa ended up in the marine environment. A 2015 study found that the country was one of the world's top 20 contributors to marine plastic pollution.

With plastic waste growing around the world, Buthelezi is using his work to both highlight and combat the issue.



# Benjamin Von Wong

Toronto, Canada



Dell recycling campaign - 2017

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3fjsi\\_-ypo&t=73s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3fjsi_-ypo&t=73s)

Every single day, 142,000 computers are thrown away in the United States. At least, that was the case in 2010. Electronic waste is the fastest growing municipal waste stream in the world. Today, that number is far higher and the only way to alleviate the situation is getting people to talk more about it. Unfortunately, e-waste doesn't make for very interesting dinner conversation. I wanted to change that. Through this series we We were given 4100 lbs of e-waste for this project, the approximate amount of e-waste an American might use over their lifetime.



# El Anatsui

Anyako, Ghana, West Africa



"Gli (Wall)" - 2013

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I7XZL9KjFQ>

As well as bottle caps, he has also used found materials that range from old milk tins, railway sleepers, driftwood, iron nails and printing plates. His use of recycled African materials highlights that there are some places in the world where people have to re-use materials out of necessity, rather than as a choice. He hasn't just turned something discarded into something beautiful. The use of bottle caps hints at broader topics such as global consumerism and its history, including slavery.

"I saw the bottle caps as relating to the history of Africa in the sense that when the earliest group of Europeans came to trade, they brought along rum originally from the West Indies that then went to Europe and finally to Africa as three legs of the triangular trip...The drink caps that I use are not made in Europe; they are all made in Nigeria, but they symbolize bringing together the histories of these two continents."

# Sayaka Ganz

Yokohama, Japan



## Emergence II

plastic objects, painted aluminum and steel armature, hardware, wire, cable ties

I grew up with Shinto animist belief that all things in the world have spirits. Thus, when I see discarded items on the street or thrift store shelves, I feel a deep sadness for them and I am moved to make these abandoned objects happy. Currently I use mostly common plastic household items to create animal forms with a sense of movement and self-awareness. I manipulate and assemble them together as brush strokes to create an effect similar to a Van Gogh painting in three dimensions.

I believe the best way for artists to help reduce waste is to show how beautiful these materials can be, and what can be done with these mundane objects and materials. When we think of these things as beautiful, we value them.



# Hannah Rothstein

Colorado, USA



## National Parks 2050 - The Everglades

Rothstein chose seven parks that could represent a wide range of threats—from wildfires to invasive species to flooding. For each park, she researched site-specific climate change projections and read through scientific reports to figure out how to best reflect the looming dangers.

"It immediately clicked in my head that by reinventing those I could address climate change in a way that felt close to home and could help make the facts about climate change, which are easy to put in one ear and out the other, feel concrete and easy to understand," she says. "One of my favorite ways to approach my art is to take an idea people are familiar with and present it in a new light,"

"I want people to remember that it is possible to do something and, hopefully, to feel inspired to either call their senators and representatives or think about how they personally can work toward change—and fast," Rothstein says.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher code \_\_\_\_\_

# Activist Art Reflection

**Which artist** are  
you researching?

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**Where** are they from?

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**What are you seeing**  
in their artwork? What  
materials did they use?

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**What do you think**  
was the artist's intention?  
What's their message?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher code \_\_\_\_\_

# Activist Poster Check List

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ideas brainstormed in sketchbook
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2-3 layout sketches in sketchbook
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use pencil with markers, watercolors, cut paper, and/or collage for posters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Selected and included one element of art
- \_\_\_\_\_ Selected and included one principal of design
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include a headline
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include at least one graphic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Include one environmental and/or reduce/reuse/recycle fact from a valid source
- \_\_\_\_\_ Included a "call-to-action" for the viewer/audience
- \_\_\_\_\_ Created a 30-60 second video in Flipgrid using classroom iPad(s)

What to talk about:

- What environmental or reduce/reuse/recycle issue did I choose?
- Why did I choose it?
- What message am I communicating?
- What is my desired outcome?



# Activist Poster Teacher Sample



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher code \_\_\_\_\_

# Artist Reflection Rubric

	Not so much	I tried a bit	I did a good job	I did my best ever
<b>Focus</b>				
I used my time well.	1	2	3	4
<b>Composition</b>				
I considered my entire sheet of paper when making my art.	1	2	3	4
<b>Creativity</b>				
My art includes my own ideas.	1	2	3	4
<b>Craftsmanship</b>				
My art is complete and made with care.	1	2	3	4

Why did you choose your environmental issue?

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What message are you communicating to your viewer?


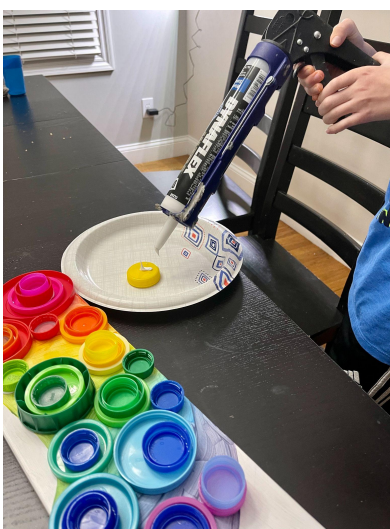

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### Lesson 3 – Teacher Sample Visual Aid

		
<p>1. Use wood support</p>	<p>2. Paint it white</p>	<p>3. Draw and paint design</p>

		
<p>4. Get a latex caulk glue that is waterproof</p>	<p>5. Glue each cap to wood</p>	<p>6. Be sure to glue caps to each other as well</p>





7. After drying, use a drill to secure caps with screws



8. All done!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher code \_\_\_\_\_

# Mural Art Reflection

**What was your favorite**  
part of our process?

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**What is the message**  
of our mural?

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**What is one way you**  
will reduce your plastic  
usage?

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher code\_\_\_\_\_

# Community Art Reflection Rubric

	Not so much	I tried a bit	I did a good job	I did my best ever
<b>Contribution</b>				
I expressed ideas and suggestions during the course of the project	1	2	3	4
<b>Participation</b>				
I actively took part in the project and gave it my best effort	1	2	3	4
<b>Teamwork</b>				
I worked well alongside my classmates to complete the project	1	2	3	4
<b>Professionalism</b>				
I followed all guidance and directions given about creating the project	1	2	3	4