

UPCYCLED ART FESTIVAL

THE ART OF STORYTELLING



Single use plastic

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi / Art Hub Abu Dhabi
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INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, there has been enough research conducted showing the detrimental effects of single use plastics on marine life. However, there is a gap in people’s ability to visualise the hazards of this big environmental issue and there is a lack of urgent attention that it demands.

its indicated that over one trillion single use plastic bags are used globally. Each year, 10 percent of the plastic produced globally ends up in the ocean, while 70 percent will end on the ocean floor and unlikely to degrade. Globally, it is estimated there are over 100,000 marine animal deaths from swallowing plastic bags mistaken as food.

The dangers of marine pollution are not understood by many. It is high time for us to get our act together and put in sufficient effort to bring the necessary change and take these environmental issues very seriously and do something to make a difference. We strongly believe that art can stimulate people to bring change in the society. That is exactly the reason why we conceived a unique art project to educate on the hazards of plastic pollution and to focus our efforts on tackling the wide-ranging effects of marine pollution.

The whole impetus of the project is to create a visual reference on the threat of single use plastic pollution is posing to marine life and humanity at large. Through this project, we aspire to give people an understanding, visually, of the dangers of single use plastic pollution on a global basis and how it is relevant to their own lives. This awareness is crucial for people to take actions to safeguard the environment so that we do not look back after a few decades when time is lost and regret not taking any steps to prevent the catastrophe.

It is for us to understand that the marine pollution causes tremendous hazards and affects our lives negatively. To bring awareness to reduce marine pollution, we are bringing together 6 artists to create 12 artworks on this subject.



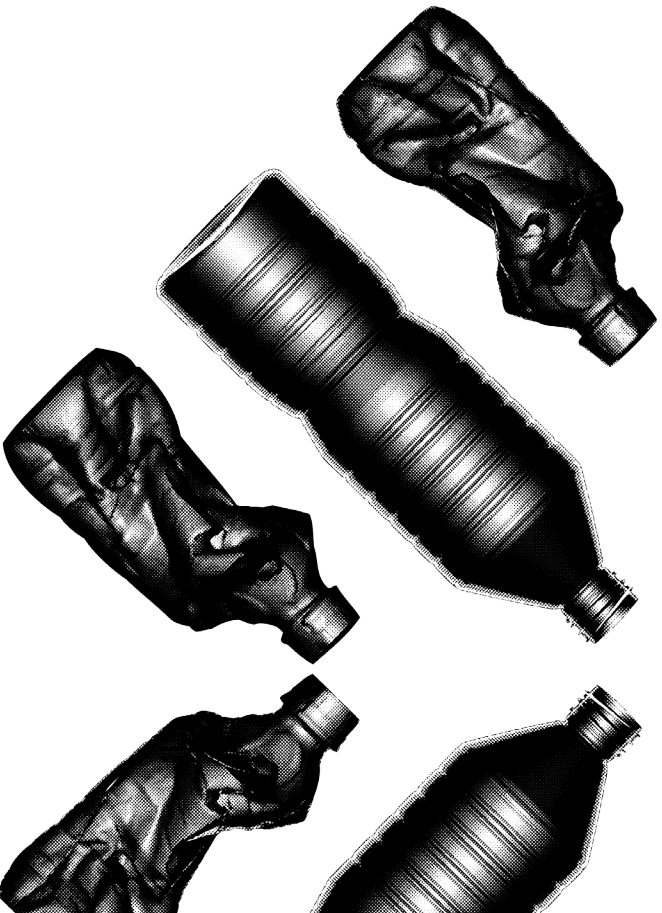
Our hope is that the work of this project reaches the masses, stimulating their thinking on how to become conscious of the single use plastic pollution threat we face. By improving the awareness, people may start preventing single-use plastic from entering the environment, thereby reducing the pollution.

Through their artworks, artists are showing how rapidly the environment is changing. The objective of the project is to spur action from people around the world. The artists who collaborated on the project include Miha Artnak, Alfredo Pecile, Silvia Chaves, Ana Golovic, Atanas Atanasoski, and Menveer Singh Gautam.

Objective of the project

- Raise awareness of the huge amounts of single-use plastics entering the environment every year.
- Raise awareness around the impact of littering on marine biodiversity and the environment in general.
- Incorporate creativity and art to help spread and grab peoples’ attention on significant environmental concerns.
- Encourage the public and youth to start minimizing the usage of single-use plastics.
- Involve youth in environmental concerns and inspire them to contribute to taking action.

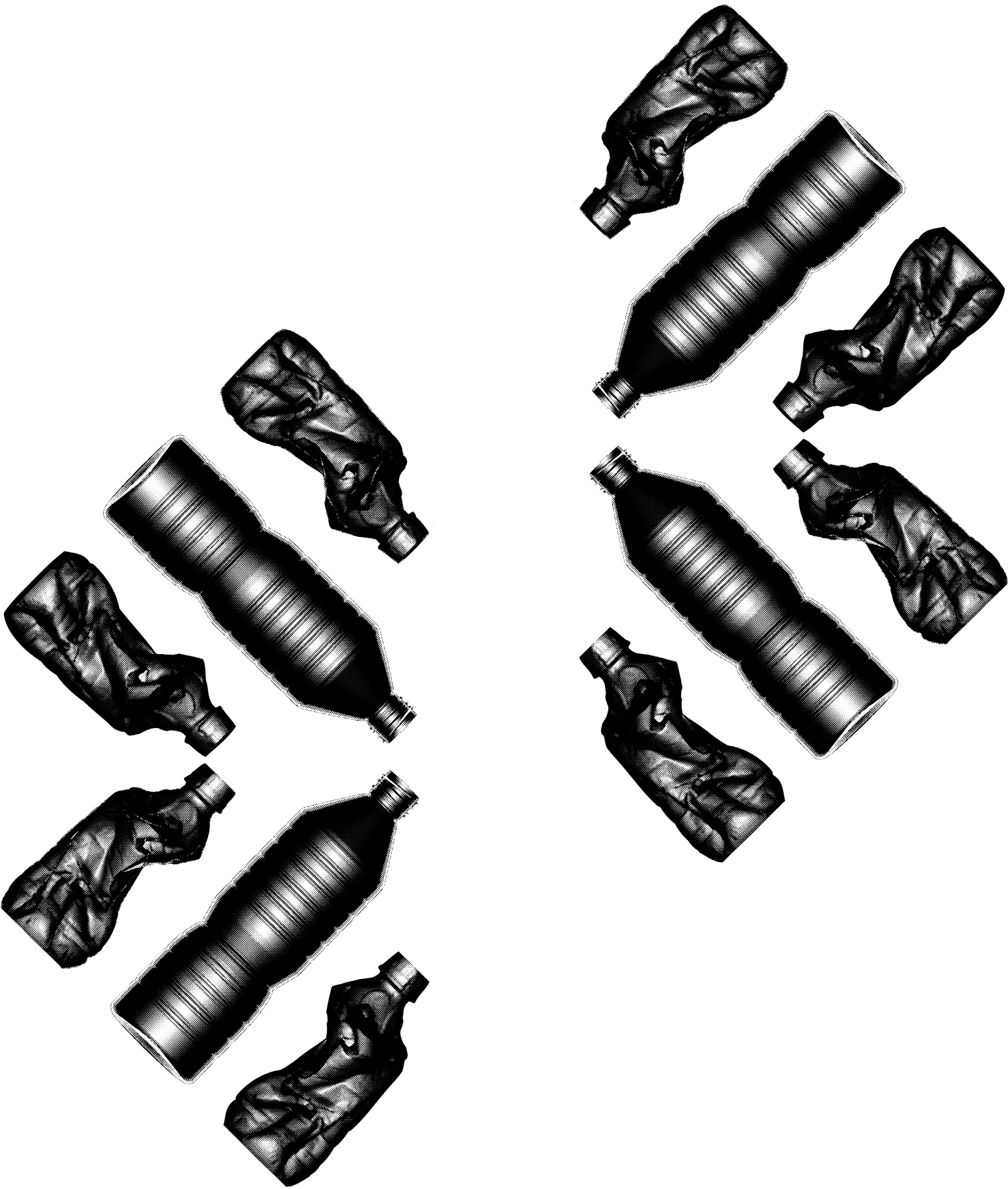
Now, maybe we should give artists a chance to strongly and precisely communicate the hazards of marine pollution and how educating ourselves on this topic is fundamental for the survival of our species and that of others too.



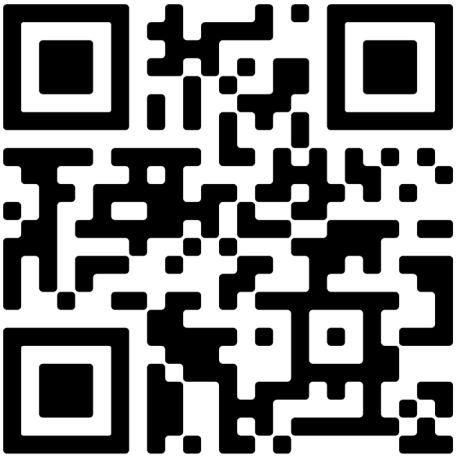
ABOUT ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
ABU DHABI

Established in 1996, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) is committed to protecting and enhancing air quality, groundwater as well as the biodiversity of our desert and marine ecosystem.

By partnering with other government entities, the private sector, NGOs and global environmental agencies, we embrace international best practice, innovation and hard work to institute effective policy measures. We seek to raise environmental awareness, facilitate sustainable development and ensure environmental issues remain one of the top priorities of our national agenda.



ABOUT ART HUB ABU DHABI



Environmental challenges are the biggest threat to the humanity nowadays and the implications of modern lifestyle accelerate the negative impact in the environment.

Collective effort is needed worldwide by all parties to adjust our way of life in order to move towards sustainability and environmental freedom.

Art and artists are the creative way to be involved in this issue so we can have an attractive and innovative message through their artworks.

Ahmed Al Yafei
Owner / Art Hub Group

The company was founded in 2009 and established in 2012 when the owner and founder Ahmed Al Yafei build the Art Hub center which is a cosy live-work space: the Abu Dhabi Art Hub which becomes the first in the Middle East based artist community promoting cross cultural exchange and artistic innovation.

The hub is a meeting place for artists both local and international to come together and create works of art. There is much happening in the capital's art community and so much more to look forward to in the near future and the Art Hub initiative is at the forefront.

As Art Hub eases past 7 years operation, more than 600 artists representing 70 counties have participated in residency programs. Individually and collectively, the visual artists of the world are provided with accommodation, workspace and the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in the United Arab Emirates.

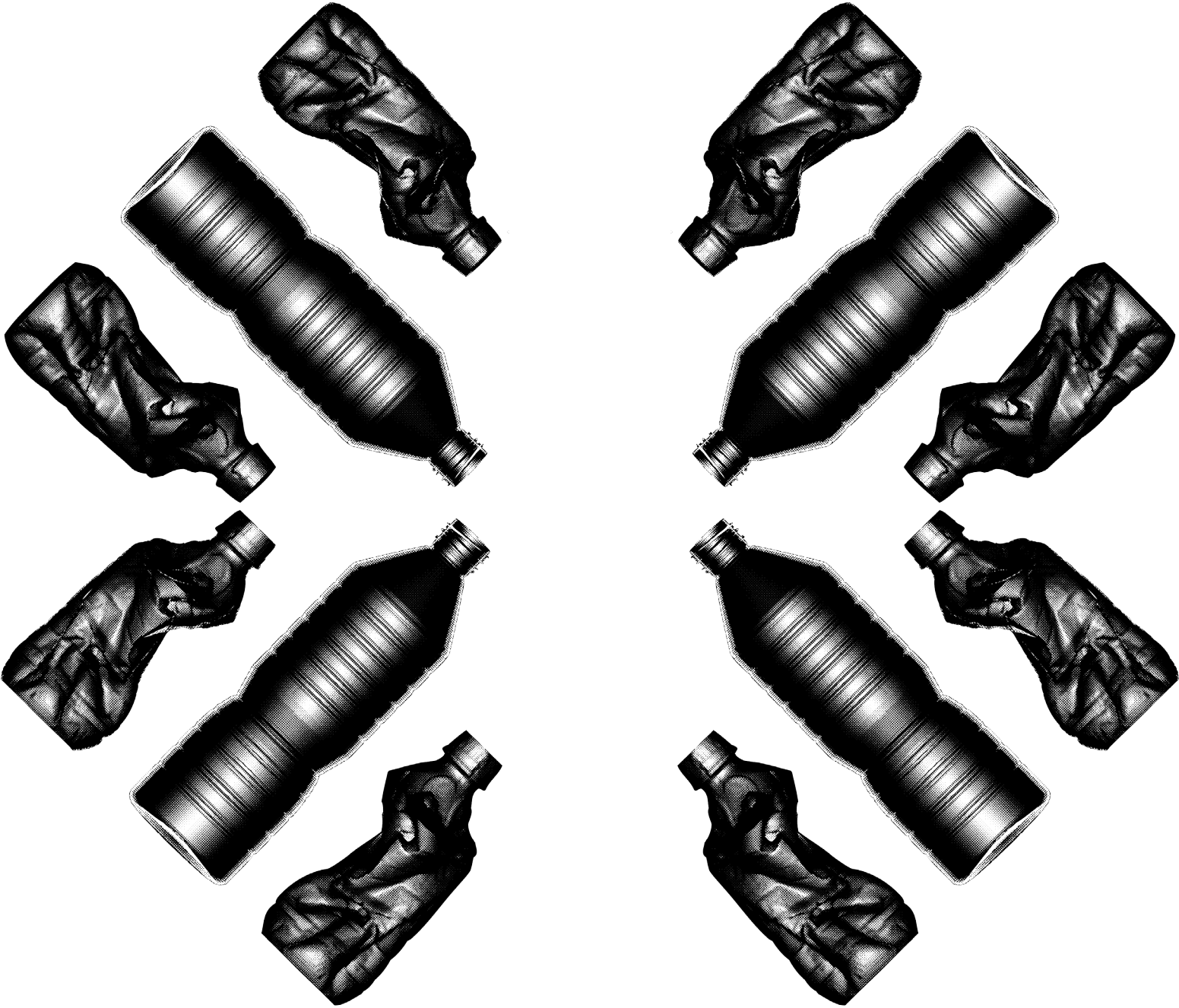
However, the broader Art Hub platform offers an extraordinary place and atmosphere for creativity, cross-cultural exchange, education through art courses, art talks and interaction with educational institutions. At Hub hosts a mentoring program and partnering scheme that teams Emirati and international artists.

Art Hub is the first artist community to be established in the United Arab Emirates. Focused on emerging and established visual artists from across the world, Art Hub Group serves as a platform for interaction between national, regional, and international artists. Art Hub encompasses perpetual activity for the benefit of the community regarding the visual arts.

Our mission to bring art appreciation to a wider audience by advocating the global need to recognize, represent, nurture, and cultivate artists and craftsmen requires us to continuously adapt to the changing art scene without losing sight of our values and principles. We constantly innovate to present our collectors and corporations with a heightened experience through our art services.

On the regional and international scenes Art Hub's present and long term objectives are:

- To nurture and promote Arab and international artists.
- To support the innovation of artistic and creative expression in the region by being a catalyst for intercultural dialogue and cross-cultural artistic exchange.
- To partake in shaping a new artistic trends and landscapes for UAE and the region.



ABOUT ART HUB LIWA

Far from the gleaming skyscrapers of Abu Dhabi and the construction and muscle of industrial Musaffah, Liwa offers artists from around the world a unique desert oasis especially designed to inspire the creative mind. Before Art Hub Liwa opened earlier this year, Art Hub Founder and Owner, Ahmed Al Yafei, made a point of bringing Abu Dhabi-based artists-in-residence to Liwa for their final weekend in the UAE before jetting off to their home countries.

Al Yafei wanted their experience in the desert to become a powerful last impression of their month spent in the United Arab Emirates. While more populous Emirati cities are no stranger to art centers, Art Hub Liwa represents a groundbreaking project for the Western Region.

Bringing artists in from every corner of the globe allows engineers, workers, families, students and oil and gas executives in the area the opportunity to profit from the artistic output. Whether that art is painting, sculpture, photography, applied arts, creative writing, or music, the team building exercises, yoga and craft workshops and classes offered at Art Hub connect and integrate the community at large with the guest creators.

Like other artistic residencies, Art Hub Liwa provides the resident time to experiment, develop new ideas, learn, share and hone artistic skills, interact with fellow residents and the community, and most of all, to absorb the solemnity, heritage and beauty of the magnificent Empty Quarter.









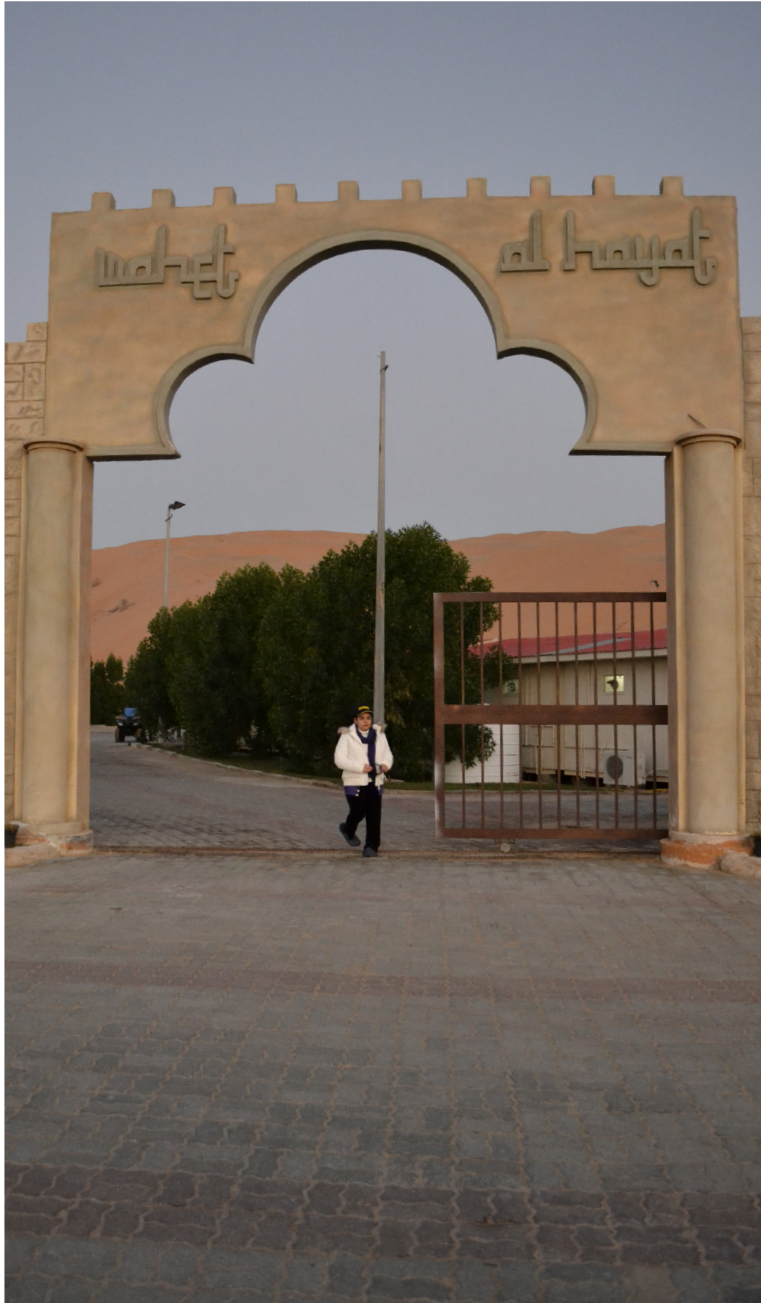


















BLUE DJIN (PLASTICIUM EXNIHILO) [redacted]

THE MIHA ARTNAK [redacted]

Blue Djin (Plasticium exnihilo)

It’s found in the sandy areas in Liwa. It’s over 120 cm in height with small plastic leaves. This is the first plant known to man that grows plastic. It feeds with insects by attracting them with vivid colors. The plastic makes it live longer, up to 400 years. This invasive plant can tolerate high levels of salinity and the leaves are used in the industry for creating plastic bags. The microplastic in the air has become the new normal. The vegetation adapted first. It’s listed as Least Concern (LC) based on the draft UAE Plant Red List.

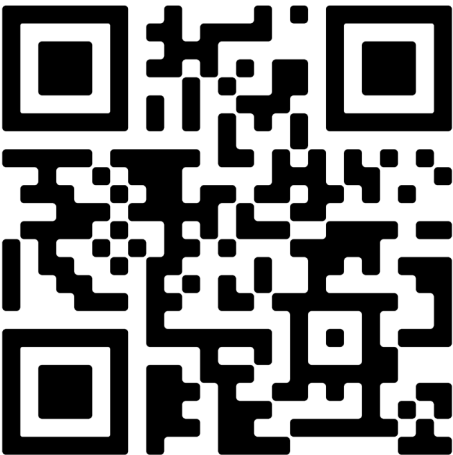
Headless and Tailless Snake

The symbol of the snake without the head and its tail represents the unorganized and confused state we currently live in. There are no solutions, no common ground and no vision to grasp.

Plastic pollution plague (1950—2050 AD)

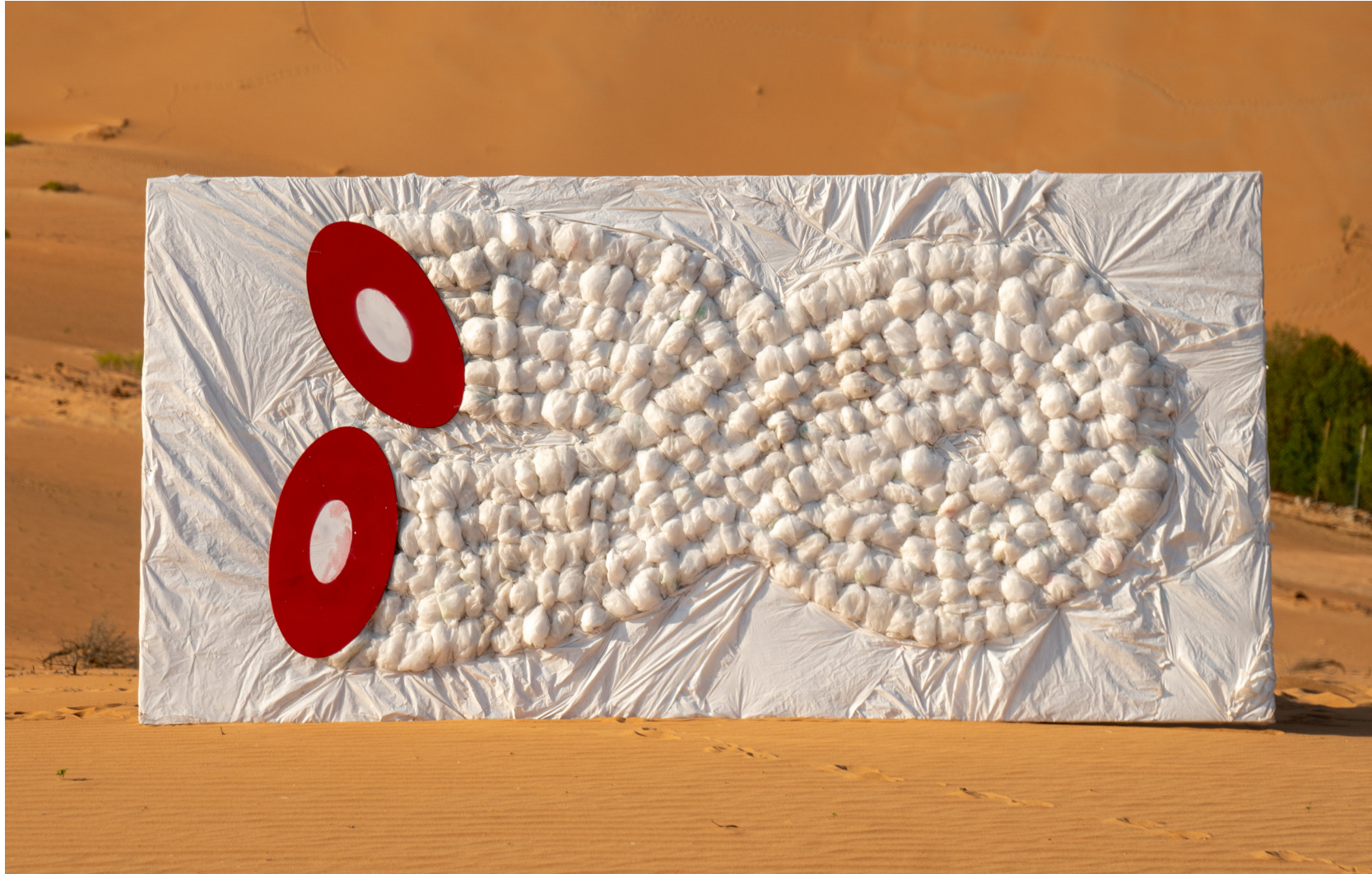
At first glance, this beautiful artifact seems like a postmodern art but actually, this specimen belongs to the global kingdom of plastic in the beginning of the 21st century. It became so widespread that it changed the course of mankind. People believed it had magical powers of convenience and enslaved them into lazy consumers, killing more than half of the population of life on earth. The impact can still be seen today and some of the fossils can be found buried in the sand or swimming in the sea.

The Miha Artnak (1983) is a contemporary artist from Slovenia. In 2001 he co-created ZEK crew—a subversive artistic group that combines graffiti with conceptual art. Their exhibitions are still one of the most visited in the country. He graduated in 2009 on the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. In 2013 he co-founded the multi-awarded design studio Ljudje (People) and with their design solutions reached the top of Slovenian design. In 2018 his fake news project resonated and revealed the lack of fact-checking in journalism, questioning our perception of truth and lies. His works are exhibited in Louvre, MoMA, Tate and many more. He is considered one of the best living artists in the world.

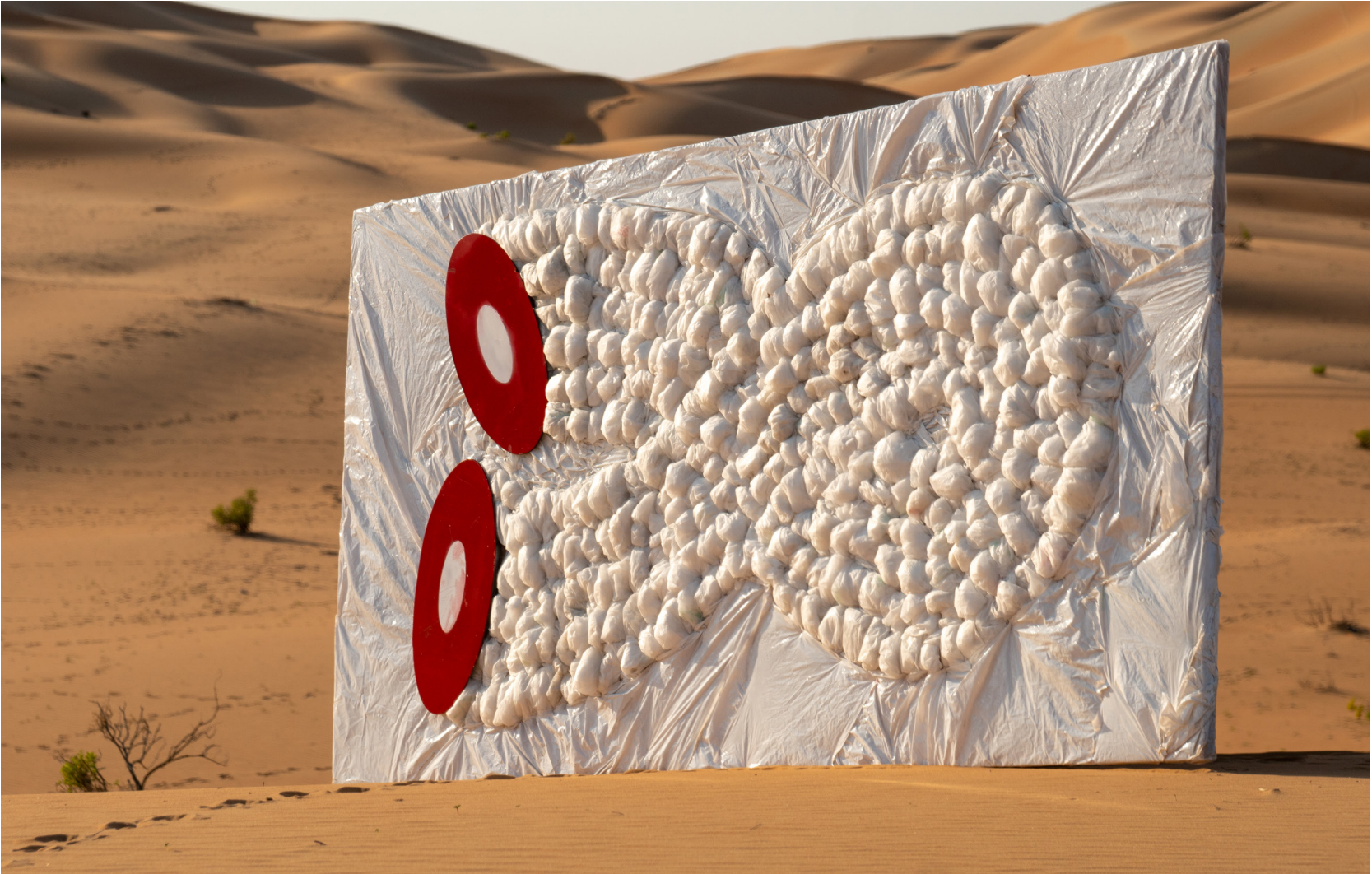


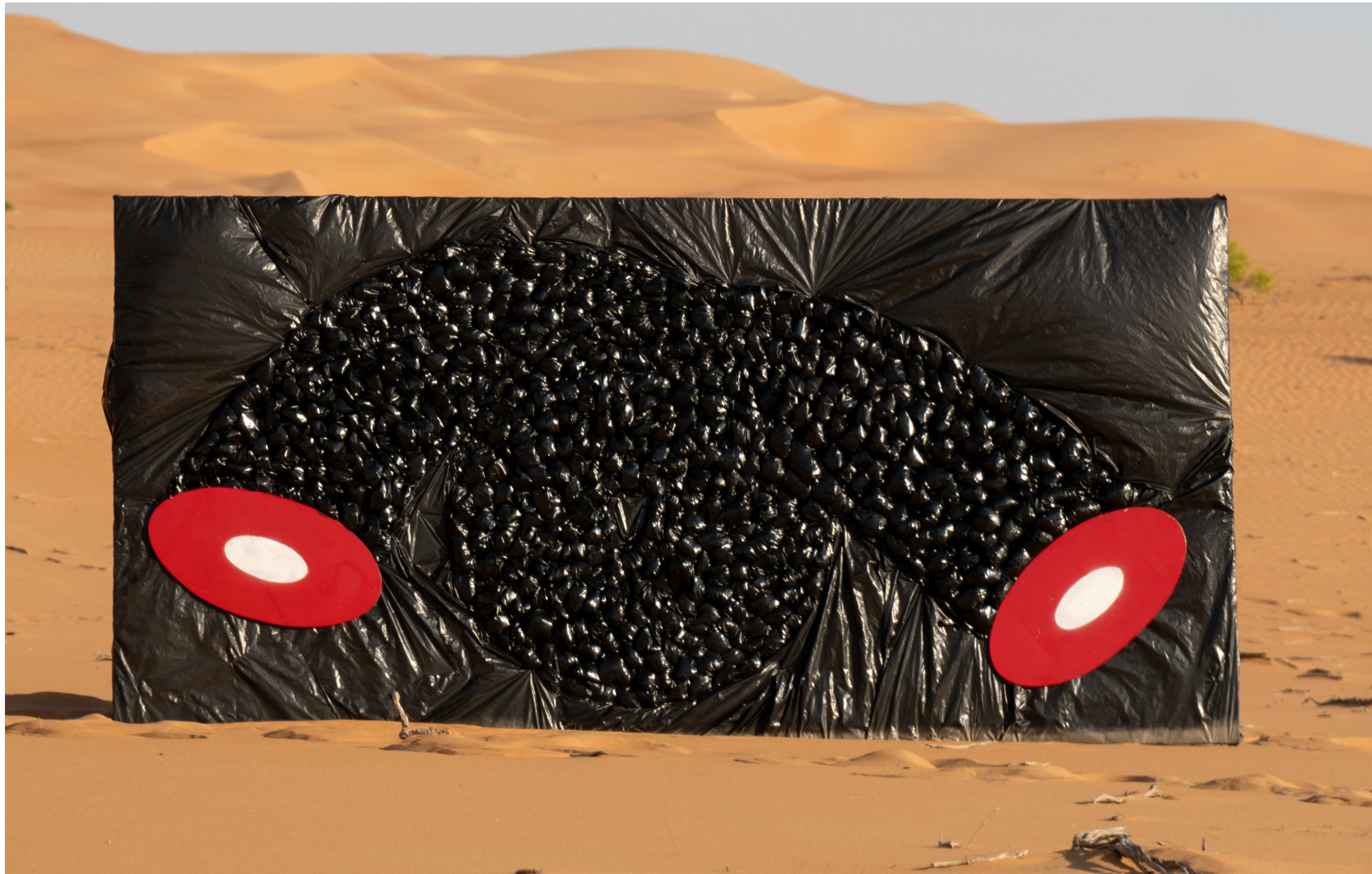
Blue Djin (Plasticium exnihilo) - 120 x 100 x 100cm | bush, waste plastic (2019) [redacted]





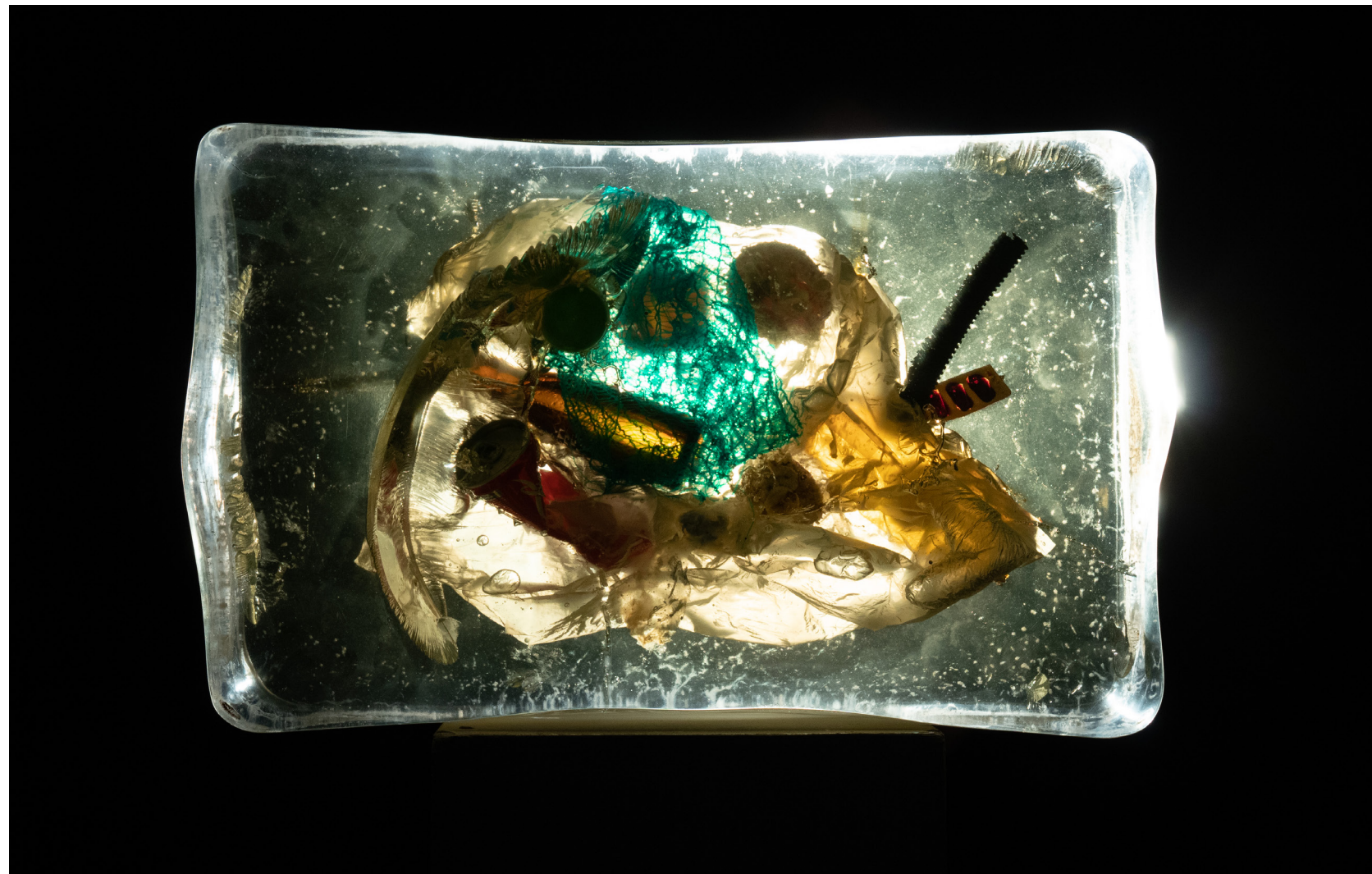
Headless and tailness snake I. - 120 x 240cm | metal, waste plastic bags (2019)





Headless and tailness snake II. - 120 x 240cm | metal, waste plastic bags (2019)





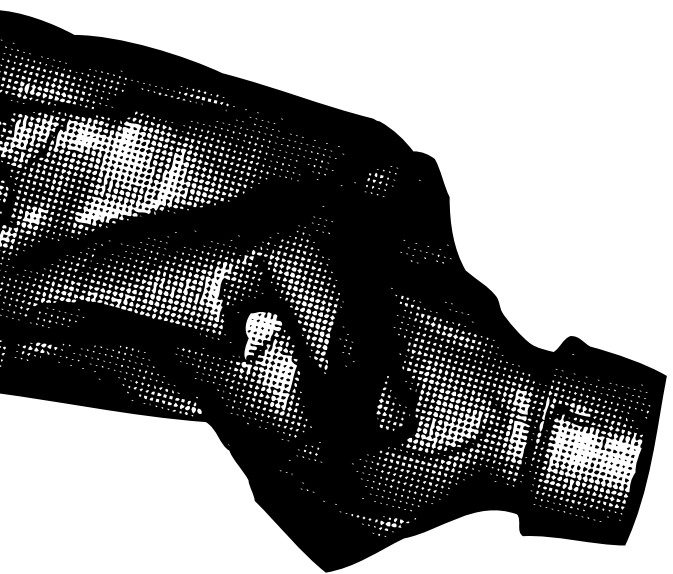
Plastic pollution plague (1950-2050 AD) - 50 x 70 x 20cm | metal, waste plastic bags (2019)





Plastic pollution plague (1950-2050 AD) / details - 50 x 70 x 20cm | metal, waste plastic bags (2019)





STORY BASED ON REAL FACTS

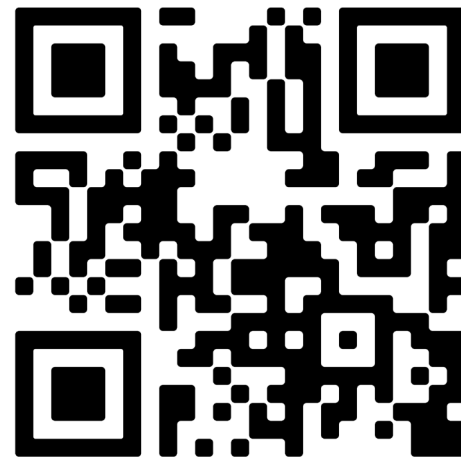
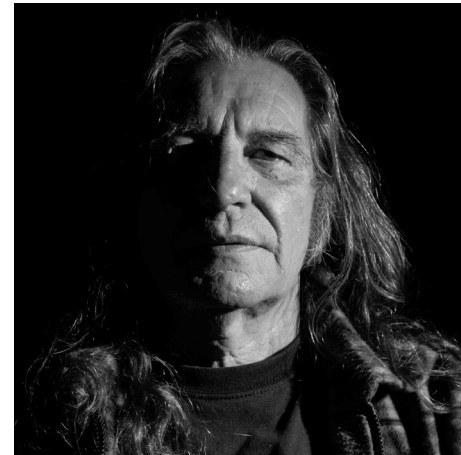
ALFREDO PECILE

The fragments of polychrome plastic flood the beaches and seas. The plastic drinking water bottle that was made for human convenience has now become the most harmful kind of pollution.

Painter and sculptor Alfredo Pecile was born in 1954 in Buenos Aires to a family of Friulian emigrants. He studied at the National School of Fine Arts in the Argentine capital and subsequently at the G. da Udine School of Art and Crafts. Lives and works in Italy, in San Giorgio della Richinvelda (PN) Fraz. Provesano - via Boschetto n. 8 tel. 0427 96151.

In the recent years, he has devoted himself mainly to sculpture and has been working with different materials. In particular he experiments with various types of stone, different techniques on wood and concrete, assembling and recycling of contemporary materials such as plastic. With the latter, he carries out laboratory activities aimed particularly at children and he has created installations with different environmental contexts.

He collaborates with multidisciplinary musicians and actors through pictorial and sculptural work connected to musical and literary themes. He has created sculptural works in various symposiums of sculpture on stone, wood and ceramic.



Story based on real facts - variable sizes | waste plastic bottles, fish net, found fishing floats (2019)

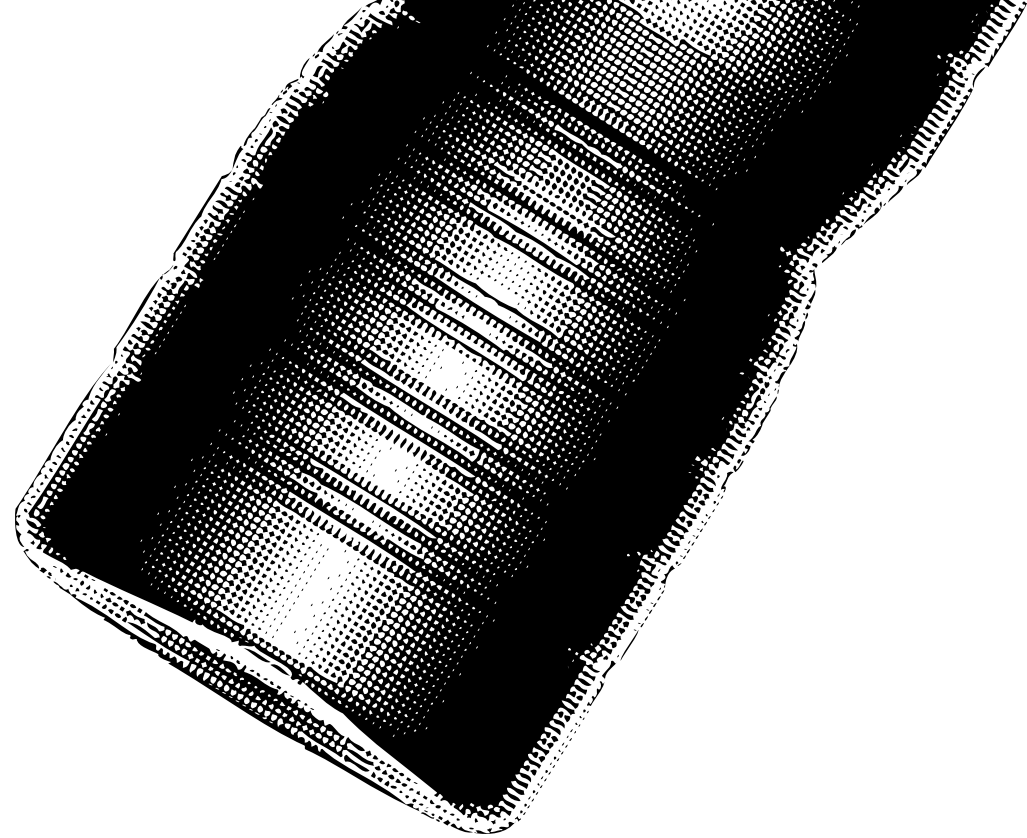


You are what you eat - variable sizes | waste plastic bottles, fish net, found fishing floats (2019)









THE MAN WHO MOVED A MOUNTAIN AND FOUND A FISH

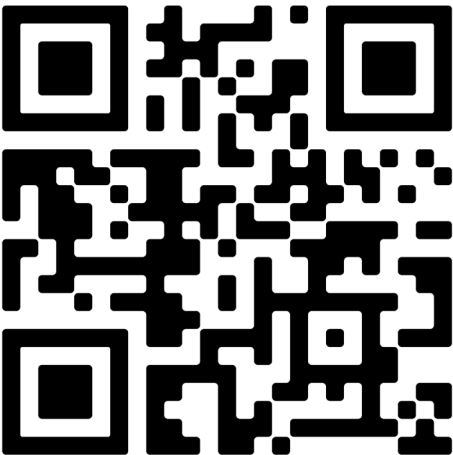
SILVIA VIANA

My project expresses a realistist vision of the downside of capitalist living and consumerism of the modern world.

It's a conscious way to see the present state and to think about the future. Art can bring us closer to see beyond what seems to surround us and can serve as a vehicle to show more clearly the time we are in.

I usually work in oil and acrylic and also use different techniques combining medium like pencil, collage, watercolor, waxes, etc. In this project I have used acrylic medium and the collage technique using plastic and various waste materials collected from the sea beach. The waste ending up at the beach is shockingly the garbage from the city dwellers. The cherry on the top is the traditional wool yarn from Abu Dhabi that I have also used to create the artwork.

Silvia Viana is painter born in Fuenterrobles (Valencia) and she is currently residing in Altea (Spain). She has earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University Miguel Hernández of Elche. She also has a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Fine Arts at the University Miguel Hernández de Elche. She also graduated in Graphic Design from the Arts School of Applied Arts of Valencia.



The man who moved a mountain and found a fish - 120 x 150cm | acrylic colors, plastic garbage, waste objects found on seashore

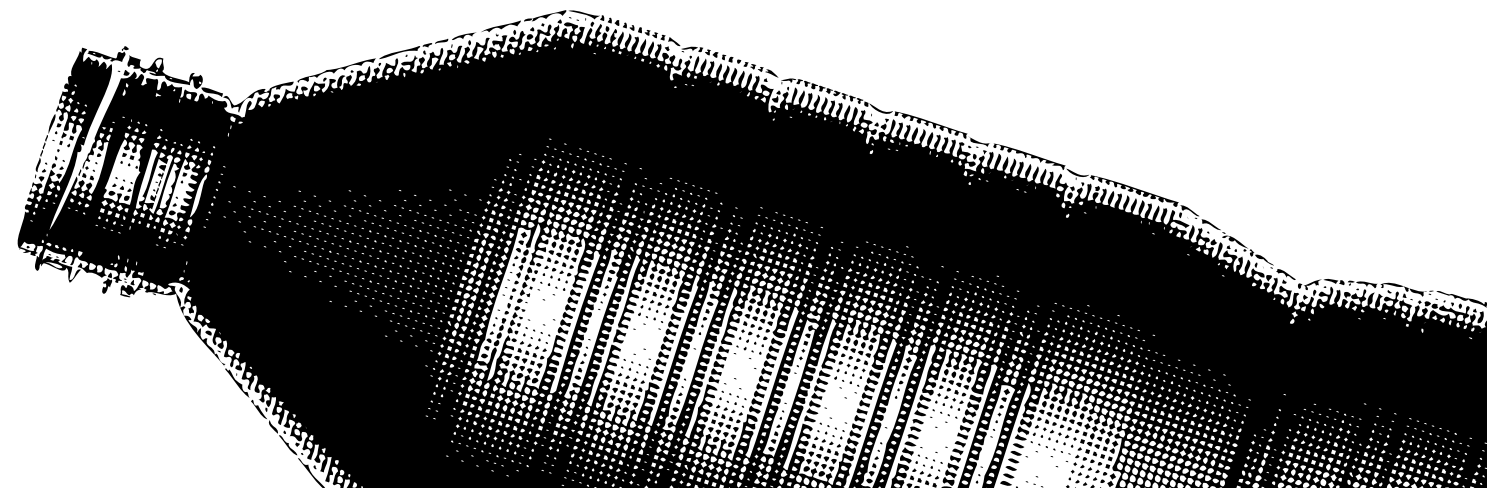
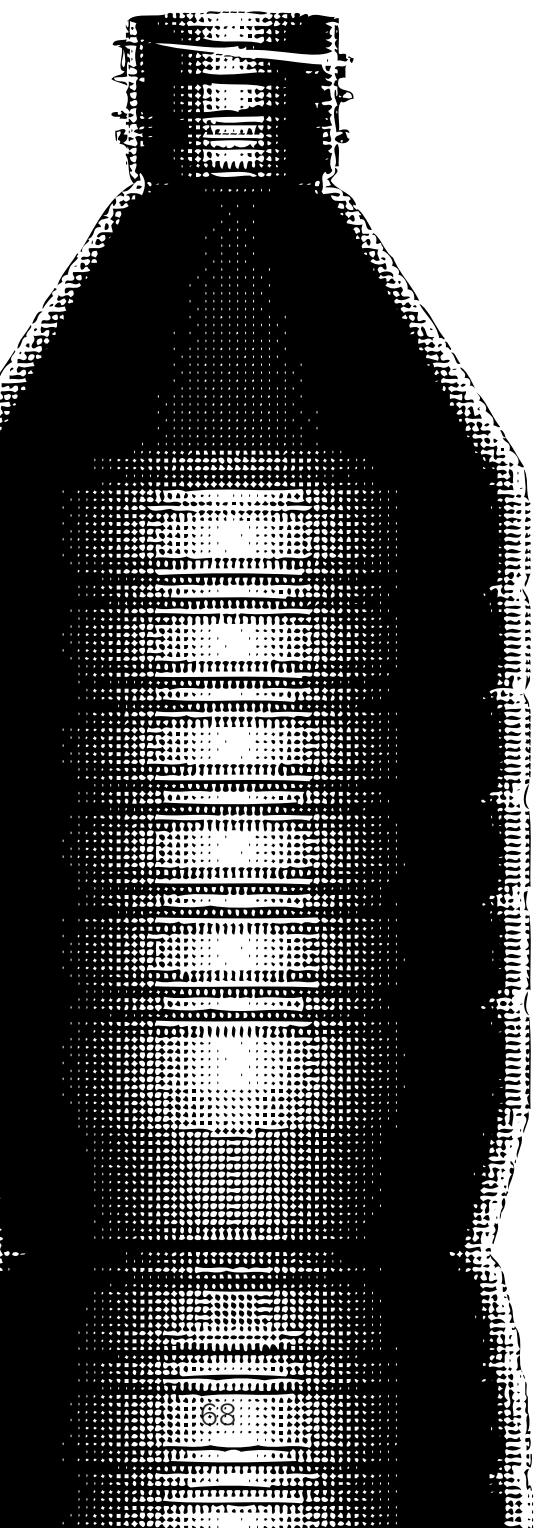




Spinning the story - 150 x 120cm | plastic garbage, yarn, acrylic colors (2019)



Plastic Fairytales - 23cm, 18,5cm, 22cm, 21cm | acrylic, plastic, radial saws (2020)

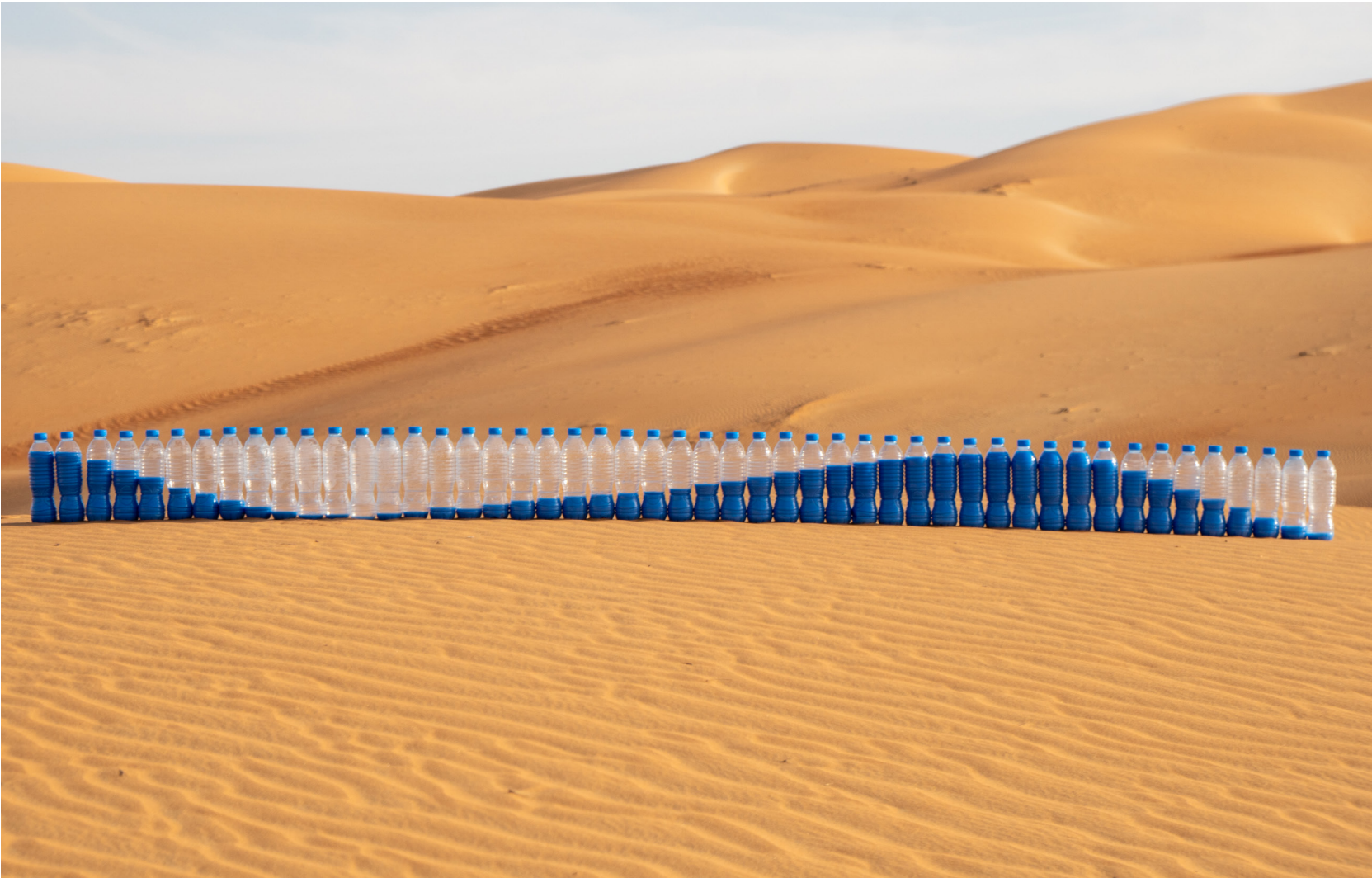
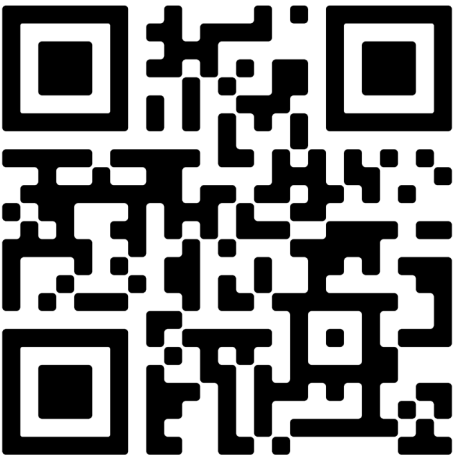


THERE IS NO STRAIGHT LINE TO PROGRESS

ANA GOLOVIC

I look for the “trick” in materials, that indescribable something that allows me to exploit an object for my own purposes: a reflection of light, a color, a play of density versus transparency, a little something that sets it off. I emphasize arrangements over embellishments allowing the items to transcend their intended purpose.

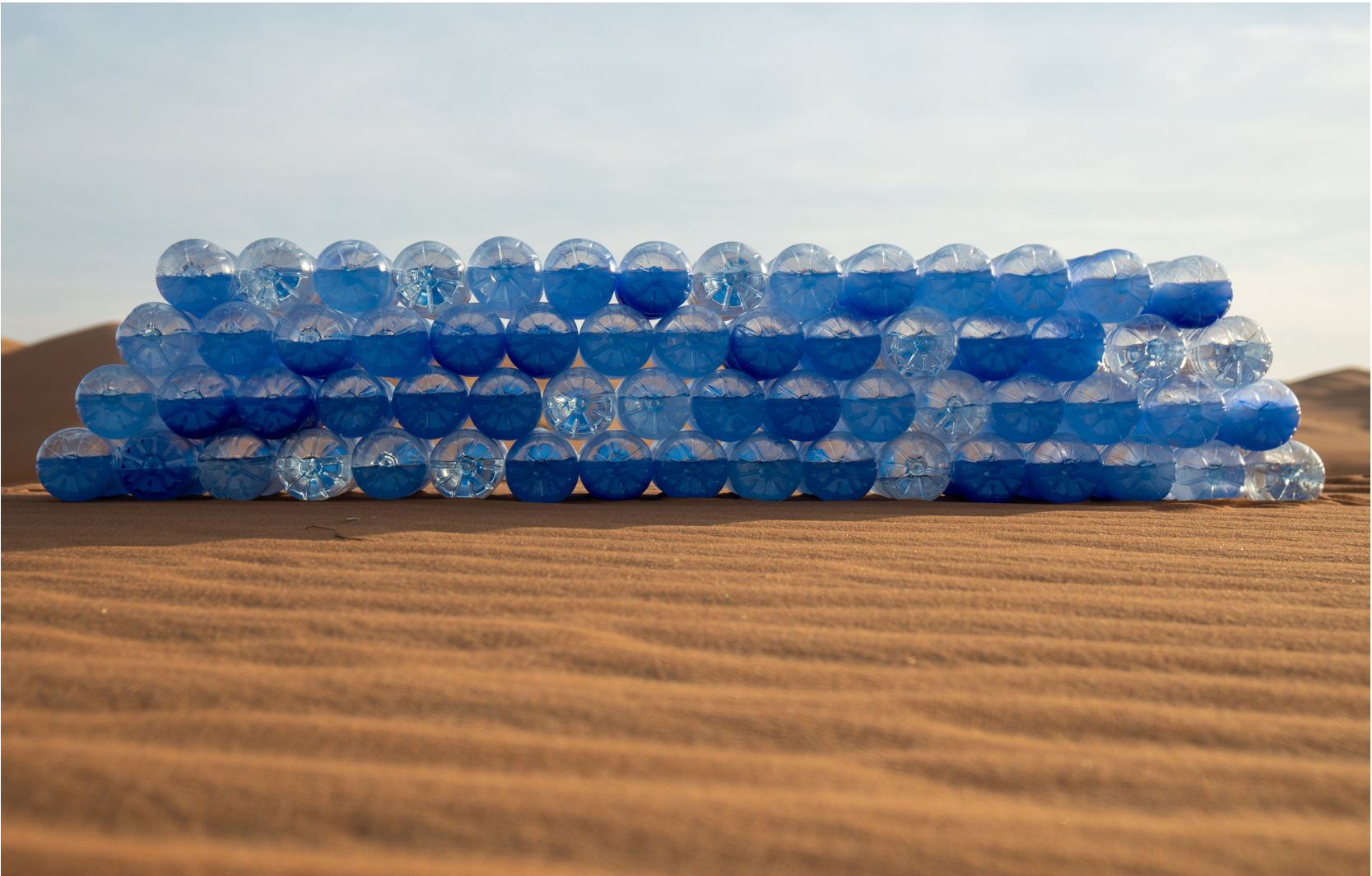
Ana Golovic was born in 1983 in Serbia, where she still lives and works. She graduated at the Academy of Arts in 2010 and has been a professional painter. She has been exhibiting her work not only in Serbia but also throughout Europe and Asia. In addition to painting, Ana is involved in creating sculptures as well as the restoration of plaster mouldings for interiors and architectural facades.



There is no straight line to progress - 310 x 23 x 10cm | waste plastic bottles (2019)



There is no straight line to progress / details - 310 x 23 x 10cm | waste plastic bottles (2019)



Changing the perspective can be hope - 100 x 23 x 23cm | waste plastic bottles (2019)





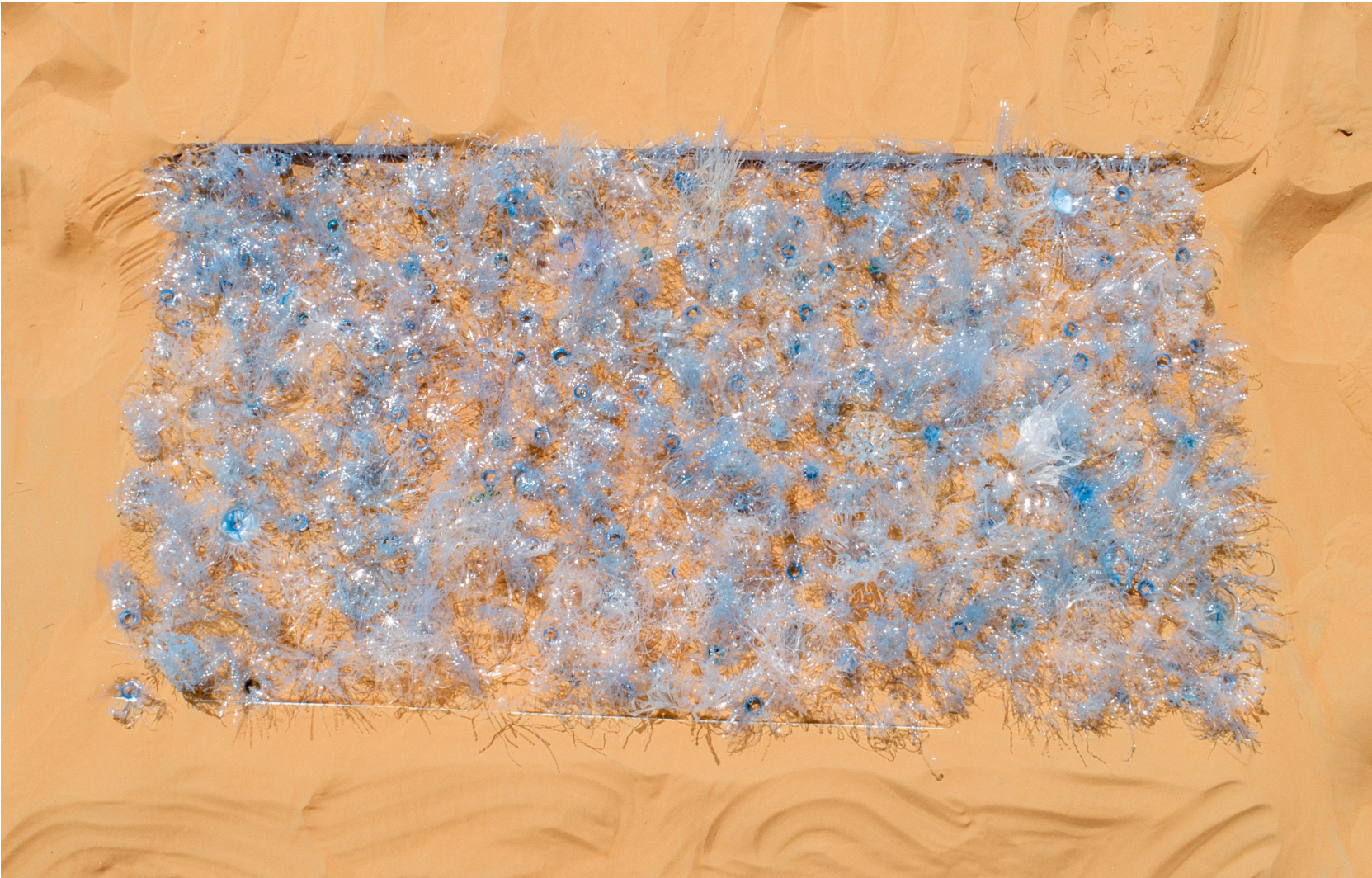
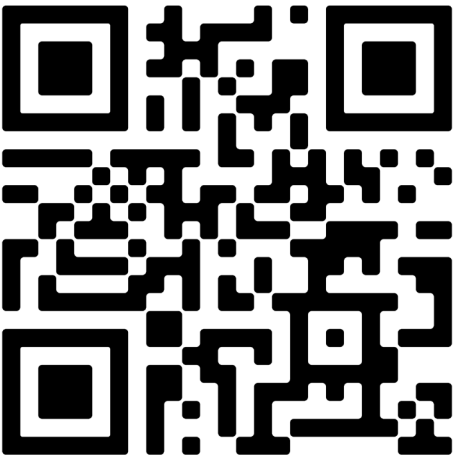
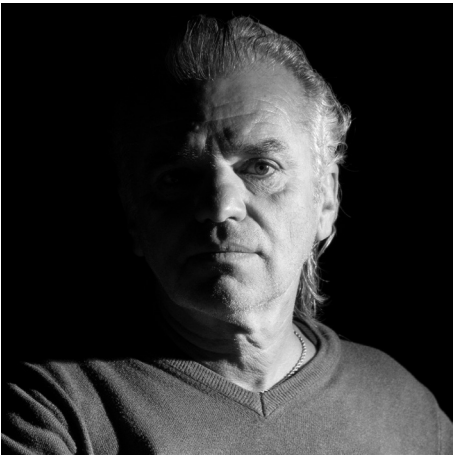
UNDERWATER FASCINATIONS

ATANAS ATANASOSKI

The single use plastic waste often ends in landfills that are a hazard for the environment. This problem is constantly increasing so educating the population for managing this environmental issue is necessary. Recycling and establishing the waste management system is vital for protecting the environment.

This global problem has given me the idea of this art installation to work with plastic waste to bring awareness. My art “Underwater Fascinations” is reflecting the beauty of underwater vegetation, but also warns us about the dangers of plastic waste.

Born in 1961 in Prilep, Macedonia, Atanas graduated in 1987 from Skopje Faculty of Fine Art (Sculpture). Completed his M.A. at the Faculty of Fine Art in Budapest, Hungary, in 1995. He is a member of the Association of Artists of Macedonia since 1987.



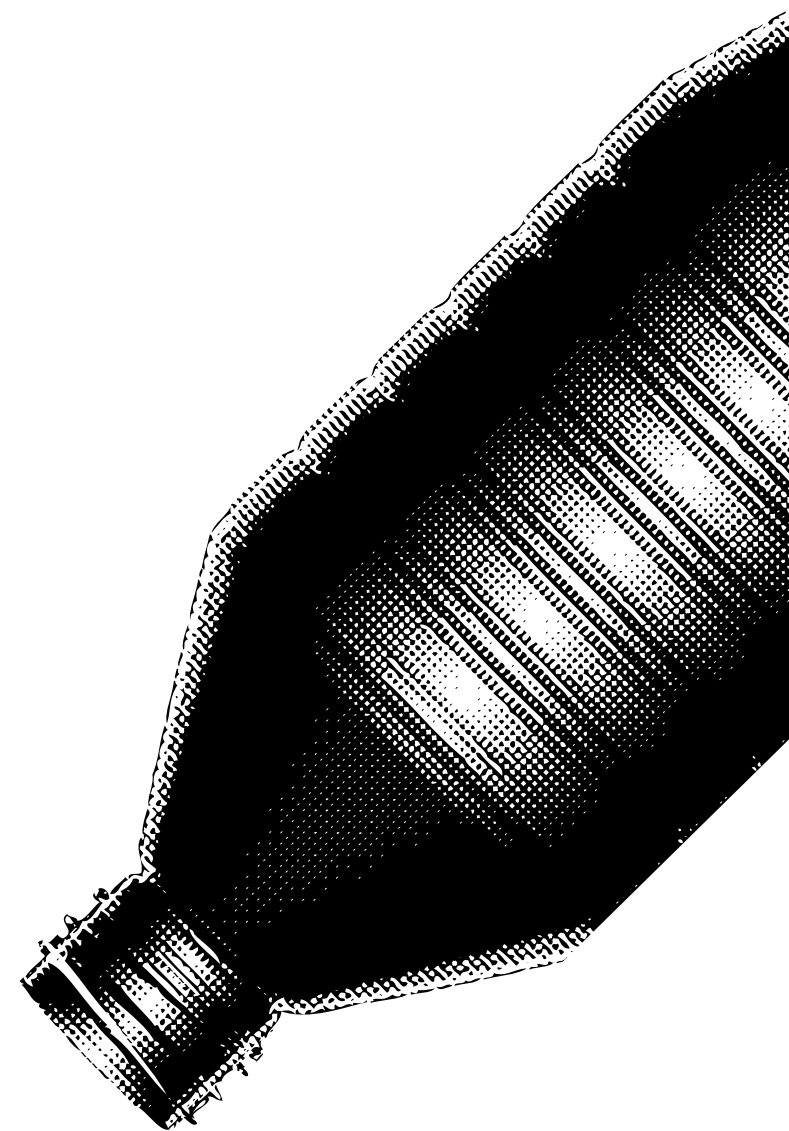
Underwater fascinations - 130 x 230cm | fish net, waste plastic bottles (2019)



Underwater fascinations / details - 130 x 230cm | fish net, waste plastic bottles (2019)







NATURE COVERED BY PLASTIC

MANVEER SINGH

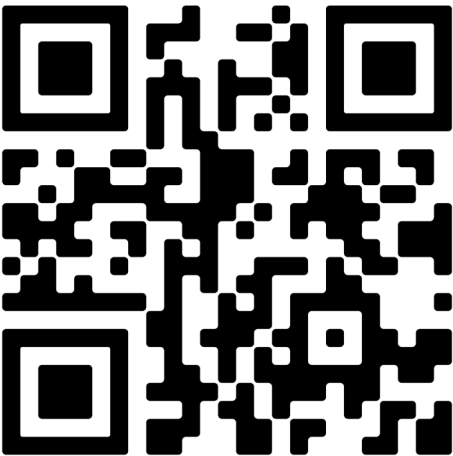
These two works represent the transformation of the scenic natural landscapes into the repulsive plastic landscapes.

I try to explore through my praxis the issues concerned with the situation that bothers ‘me’ in the environment around. In the last two years, my life and works have been centered on how planet Earth is transforming into a planet of plastic.

On the one hand, the invention of plastic has made human life very comfortable and has contributed to increasing efficiency. For instance, plastic is the cheapest packaging material that stores food for a long time. On the other hand, this invention has proven to be a double-edged sword. Our Earth has been transformed into a toxic planet because of it. This is seen evident in our oceans accumulating more and more single use plastic on a daily basis.

In the desperate race of progress and development, we have created landscapes on earth which are hard to confront and above anything hard to inhabit. The life that manifested on earth with all its greenery and was once joyful by songs of birds is now covered with toxic single use plastic waste. An ocean today is no more only water, as it carries plastic in its belly and on its skin. Denizens of various ecosystems are grappling with this material whose pernicious character ruptures various systems of our environment.

Manveer Singh was born on 17 June, 1993 in a small village named Puranpur which is in Haridwar district of Utrakhand, India . Manveer Singh received Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2014 & Master of Fine Arts in 2016 in painting from College of Art, University of Delhi. Currently, he is working as Assistant Professor (Visiting Faculty) in College of Art, University of Delhi. He has been honored by Young Artist Scholarship in Painting by Ministry of Culture Government of India 2018. He was awarded by UNDP & Government of India in Secure Himalaya Competition in the year 2018. He has participated in numerous art exhibitions in India. Currently he is based in New Delhi, India.



Nature covered by plastic I. - 120 x 180cm | waste plastic wrappers, bottles, fish net, rope

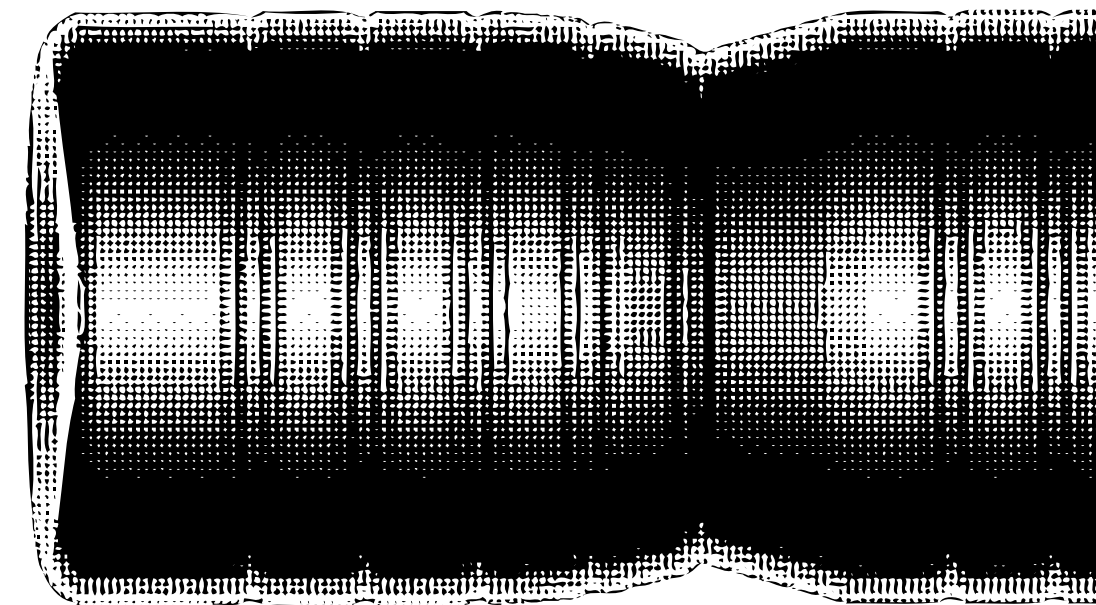
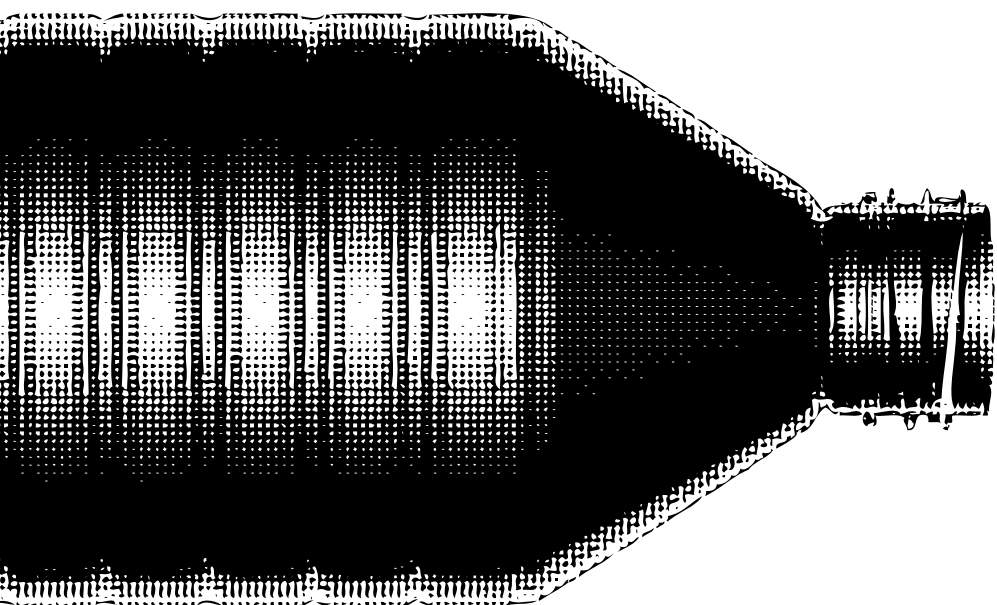


Nature covered by plastic II. / details - 120 x 180cm | waste plastic wrappers, bottles, fish net, rope



Nature covered by plastic II. - 120 x 180cm | waste plastic wrappers, bottles, fish net, rope



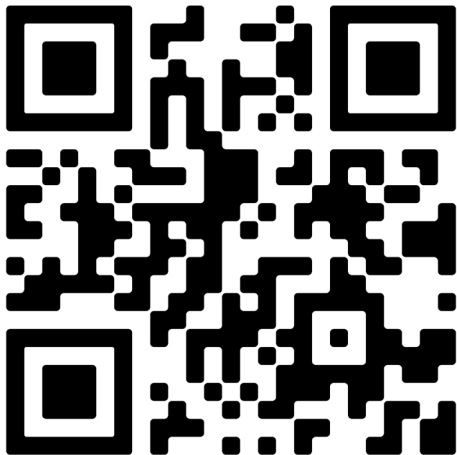


DESIGNER “THE ART OF STORYTELLING” BOOK
NELLI SZABÓ

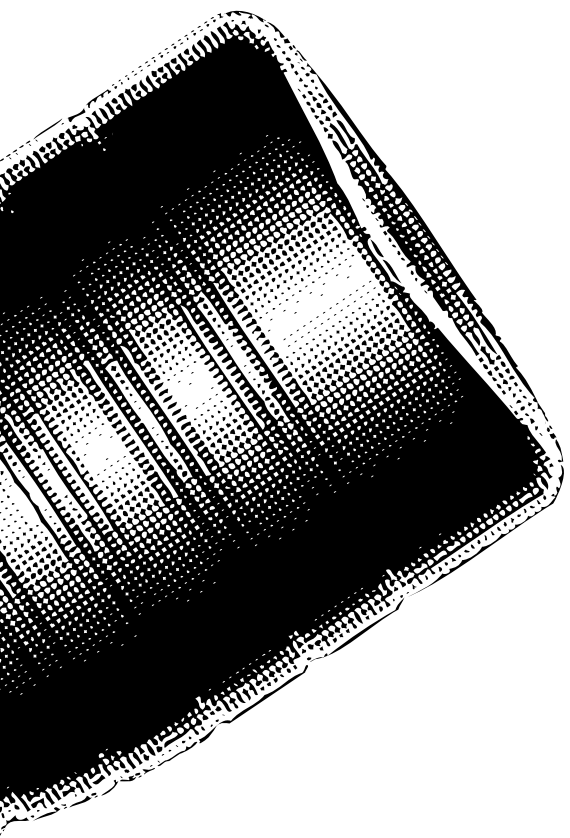
For the design of the book, I used simple and clear symbols, which is reflecting the theme of plastic pollution.
The central graphic symbol is a rasterized 3D pattern made of bottles. It is a returning motif as is the usage of plastic in our lives. I had an association with pop art intentions which often used this technique and reflected to the problems of consumer society.

Nelli Szabó has recently graduated as designer and visual artist from the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, in Budapest (Hungary). She earned her Bachelors in Sculpture / Glass Designing and completed her Masters in Industrial Design. She is devoted in developing creative projects connecting art and design.

She proved herself as a pioneering individual mixing various technologies and techniques concerning the hybridization of design and visual arts, often using 3D technology to extend the possibilities of new artistic expressions. She is a persistent and thorough experimenter who also focuses on high-quality implementation at the same time.



Early morning in the office



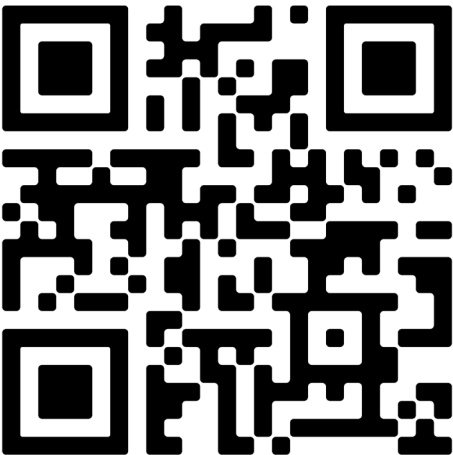
“THE ART OF STORYTELLING” FILM

BENCE PRIBOJSZKI

Bence is a 29 year old filmmaker, editor living in Budapest, Hungary. He completed his education at Óbudai University in 2014 as an Assistant Media Technologist.

He started his career in Békéscsaba as an editor at the local television. He later developed an interest towards working on commercials, feature television series and movies.

He started his own business offering videography and photography services to corporates in 2017. Video making and film making is his biggest passion and he plans to continue doing this in the future.



Normal day in the office



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