



ART AND ECOLOGY

FINAL SUBMISSION

HOW HAVE YOU ... BEAN?

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1. Kindred Artist

Chris Jordan

My kindred artist is Chris Jordan and I would be focusing on his impactful photos as he documents the aftereffects of plastic pollution in the sea, or Gyre, as albatross mistakenly feed plastic to their young as food pickings off the ocean. The aftereffects vary from physical, slow deaths as these young die a painfully death, choking from within.

If anything, my project is heavily influenced by the macro shots of his projects : “Message from the Gyre” as well as “Albatross” and the close-ups views of the birds, to the point you can see the reflection in their eyes and that really got to me.

<https://vimeo.com/218502282>



osaka metro line - Go x We The Kings - Cl x Subscriptions - YouT x Chris Jordan - Albatr x 'They all have plastic' x Chris Jordan's ALBAT x Chris Jordan - Albatr x

www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway-film/#trailer

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Albatross
(2017)



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about this project

2. Surrounding Photographs

Thought Process: To educate and provide a perspective on the impact of plastic on the environment from the start of the food chain to animals that we would be able to experience or see daily, be it from phones or the Internet or in real life like Zoos. The constant mindset most people wear day to day is “Out of Sight, Out of Mind”, especially in a highly urbanized environment like Singapore, where we rarely encounter wildlife. The highly impactful visuals are to not provoke but evoke sentimental feelings of real-after effects of plastic that we choose to ignore or do not see. Makes us wonder what exactly is happening to the animals, to the environment and to the world.

A slightly deeper level would be to showcase the evidence or scientific impact of facts that are presented to us on a daily basis. The facts transcend from detached to slightly more applicable in real life so that we as viewers would not be left feeling helpless after seeing the disturbing or thought provoking

Level of Impact Assessment: Different Types of Plastic and Its Impacts on Wild Life

Background: Animals Visibly Affected and able to see the impacts

Entanglement or Visible Pollution - Seals/ Oracs /Whales / Sea Horses

“These specific items are linked to more than half of entanglements in Alaska's threatened Stellar sea-lion population, writes Mahdi. They're joined by a host of other killing detritus like discarded rope, fishing hooks, nets, monofilament line, and heavy-duty rubber bands used to keep crab pots shut”¹

<http://tracybrighten.com/animal-welfare/disturbing-truth-behind-australias-shark-nets/>

Sea-horse one - Photo by Justin Hofman / Wildlife Photographer of the Year

<http://www.gregorysweeney.photography/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/whale-shark-conservation.jpg>

¹ <https://www.citylab.com/life/2014/02/plastic-packing-bands-are-strangling-alaskan-seals-and-sea-lions/8361/>

Mid Ground: Animals Visibly Affected but unable to see the direct impacts

The occurrence of these are far and wide but not as noted by us we all adopt the “Out of Sight, Out of Mind” mindset
Sea Turtles / Albatross ☹️

<https://blogs.ntu.edu.sg/hp331-2015-15/pollution>
<http://www.chrisjordan.com/gallery/midway/#CF000313%2018x24>

Foreground: Animals are not visible to the eye and unable to see the direct impacts

Damsel Larva and Planktons digesting the plastic

The degree of impact is really travelling downwards to our food chain and now there is scientific evidence to prove that as well.

<https://www.greenfacts.org/en/marine-litter/l-2/3-micro-plastics.htm>

Facts to place in the booklets / reflecting the scale/impact of these:

Transition from Hard Facts to more personal facts :

In Singapore alone, Some 822,200 tonnes of plastic waste was generated last year, but only 7 per cent was recycled.
Non-recycled plastic bags, whether biodegradable or not, are all incinerated. ²

According to the EPA, the average 4-person household produces 83,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year (20,750 pounds per person).³ -

For a population of five million people, Singapore uses a staggering amount of three billion plastic bags a year⁴

² <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/environment/price-of-curbing-plastic-bag-use>

³ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/rosie-osmun/how-to-reduce-your-family_b_8940860.html

⁴ <http://www.eco-business.com/news/singapore-uses-3-billion-plastic-bags-year-study/>

Consumers splashed out about S\$134 million on still bottled water in 2015, up 24 per cent from five years ago, based on data from research firm Euromonitor International.⁵

A common plastic carrying bag in our household had a weight between 25 g and 40 g. So I took the average of 32.5 g. . Or in other words: For 5 plastic bags you get 1 kg of CO₂.

For every plastic bag you save, you save around 0.2kg of CO₂.

→ Don't completely remove plastic but at least try to ensure that your single-use plastic becomes a multiple use one .
Start small .

Plastic straws? Bottles?

The latest study confirms concentrations of microplastics in 16 out of 17 brands of sea salt from eight countries (with a potential market of 6 billion consumers). If the sea contains plastics, so do the products we harvest from it⁶.

⁵ <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-s-s-134m-bottled-water-addiction-7633342>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/aug/06/the-eco-guide-to-microplastics>

3. Self-Reflection of Plastic Usage [PROJECTION]

“Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.”

— Henry David Thoreau

From the Quote that Prof Shawn brainstormed, the seed that has double connotation, seed that represents a whole lot of hope and that the seed for my case, can be single-handedly destroyed by the hands that grew it.

Thought Process: To get one to reflect and think of everyone's actions as a collective impact, including the artist's own actions in the everyday world. Especially in Singapore where we live in a world that thrives on over-consumption as a lifestyle, perhaps it is time to rethink our actions. This is just one of the many thoughts that I have had as I freely take each cost-free plastic bag from the grocery store, or I see aunties grab a bunch of unnecessary but free plastic bags to load in their handbags or simply the plastic straw which I am currently using to sip my Kopi bing, only to throw everything else in the bin once I'm done.

I have chosen to use mainly macro lenses so that I would be able to showcase the beautiful detail of the green-beans growing as well as the details of the creases in the plastic bags. Stuff that we perhaps overlook. Moving on to the destruction aspect, I have chosen to take on a wider shot size as it would depict the scene unfolding. I also added some music for the mood as well as destruction.



PROJECTION

