9% Workshop

Did you know that only about 9% of plastic actually gets recycled?

Since plastic pollution is a global problem and art is a global language, this workshop is designed to introduce a technique for creating artwork out of plastic pollution with no power tools or expensive equipment required!

Artists and art educators can help inspire more people to reduce their plastic footprints while exploring this innovative contemporary art material and practice. For this workshop, you are invited to collect art supplies for free WHILE helping every living creature on the planet, anything you decide to pick up will make things better – even if you only use a small portion of it for your art object. Unlike bronze, marble, clay or wood, plastic debris is readily available everywhere AND using it is an environmentally loving action everyone can take that makes a profound difference. Removing it from nature and sequestering it into a work of art is a loving meditation and an environmentally conscious action combined.

Recommended MATERIALS + TOOLS:		**Approx Cost:**
Fiskars Titanium Nitride No. 8 Shop Snip		$20
X-Acto knife with #11 blades		$7
Needle Nose Pliers		$7
Comfortable, bamboo work gloves		$10
Dishwashing gloves		$10
Citrasolv Orange Oil Cleaner		$12
Non-petroleum based dish soap	$5	
Glass cleaner (or simply use vinegar)	$5	
Rags		Free
Sturdy reusable bags for collecting material		

STEP 1. COLLECTION (Approx 20 minutes)
Take a walk outside with your sturdy reusable bag/s, wearing your gloves.

Collect a bunch of plastic debris that doesn't belong in nature. Explore local parks, riverfronts, or seashores - even the side of the road. You will find a vast array of plastic objects often just hiding under the surface. You can also collect any used plastic material that inspires you. Most of what you find in nature is HDPE or PET, both of which are great to sculpt with. The chemical composition is identifiable via the number embossed on the bottom. (#2 is HDPE and #1 is PET.)

STEP 2. CLEANING (Approx 25-60 minutes depending on how much material you want to clean)
Wearing your dishwashing gloves, remove any loose labels if possible using your Xacto blade to initiate. Wrap any adhesive coated parts of the bottles or other objects you have collected with a rag soaked with

undiluted Citrasolv and let soak for 10-15min, then simply wipe off any residue. *Keep citrasolv soaked rags in a sealed container for subsequent reuse. Once adhesives are removed use dish soap to thoroughly remove the Citrasolv orange oil residue.

STEP 3. ORGANIZING (Approx 10 minutes depending on how much material you have)

On a clean and clear surface organize and arrange your cleaned materials by color, shape and/or chemical composition. Seeing these objects lovingly organized imbues them with a different kind of energy that lends itself to a kind of creative clarity - similar to having a palette of paint laid out as you are getting ready to paint. As you've slowed down to collect, clean and organize these objects you'll start to notice all the attributes they have that lend themselves to becoming a future-friendly work of art.

STEP 5. CUT THREAD + COMPONENTS (Minutes, hours, years, depending on your goal/vision)

First inspect and if necessary conduct a final cleaning pass with glass cleaner and a rag, then make a 1 ½" - 2" incision with your Xacto blade to get your fiskars snips inside and start cutting.

Your thread can be any shape as long as it comes to a 2-3" thin strand with a point at one end to thread through components with. The strand part of your thread has to be free of jaggedy edges for it to pull through your components without snagging and ripping. Experiment with thread width and hole sizes for fun. You can fold your thread to lock components in place, or if it is thin you can tie it in a little knot. PET thread is incredibly strong but can be very sharp so when pulling it through small holes, wear your protective gloves and use your pliers.

The Fiskars are especially great for cutting PET but a variation on them made by Clauss is the better for HDPE. Both kinds have springs to minimize the work you hand does by half, as well as serrated blades so that they don't slip on the material. They are both very strong so also suitable for tin cans and heavy cardboard and a variety of other materials.

Once you've prepared your PET thread. All you need to do is use your exact-o knife to make a tiny hole in any component you'd like to connect and then to pull the thread through. I hope you enjoy exploring what this incredibly responsive material can do!