

KRISTIN GORE KILLS HER LAWN | SAILING GREECE | GOSSIP GIRL'S ECO STAR



through The Jungle (right). Robson constructs The Great Indears for Houston's Rice Gallery (below).



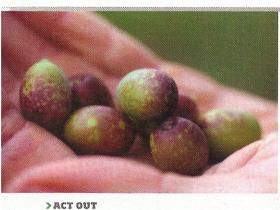
Message in a Bottle

ome might call Aurora Robson a "garbage picker;" but on closer inspection, a "recycling Rauschenberg" may be a more accurate description. Although Robson's sculptures elicit descriptions like "breathtaking" and "otherworldly," the pieces start as trash. Some of her main media include plastic bottles and junk mail. "My goal is to take something negative and turn it into something positive," she says.

That dirt-to-diamond goal also explains Robson's unusual inspiration: She designs her eco-

friendly sculptures, collages, and paintings based on images from childhood nightmares. Robson's latest sculpture, The Great Indoors, is composed of 10,000 discarded bottles cut into various shapes and airbrushed with a water-based polycrylic spray. At the Rice Gallery in Houston, visitors can walk through the 40-foot-by-40-foot installation, immersing themselves in the guts of a strange organism. Smaller, glowing shapes lit by solar-powered LED lights line the inside of the sculpture. "You end up being consumed by that which you consume," Robson explains. The show runs from September 18 through October 26. -Steven K Lee

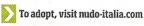
> For information on upcoming shows, visit aurorarobson.com

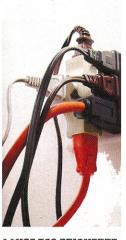


OIL-LA-LA Crusty bread dipped in olive oil sure makes for a tasty snack-but it's better if you know where that oil comes from. Largescale olive production can cause soil erosion and is often chemical intensive. Enter Nudo: The artisanal

olive grove in Le Marche, Italy, uses no pesticides and will soon be certified organic. The farm also allows customers to adopt an olive tree for a year. About \$130 gets you two liters of oil in the autumn, three flavored oils in the spring, plus an adoption certificate and booklet with information about your tree. "We want to move away from massproduced, untraceable produce to very traceable produce," says coowner Jason Gibbs. Added bonus: The farm welcomes customers to visit their trees at any time, providing a built-in vacation destination.

-Nicole Scarmeas





CUT THE CC

energy, I unplug electro when I'm not u them. Is it OK to do the same at friend's house?

t's just not cool to tip around your buddy's home, ripping cords out the wall like some kind o conservation fairy. It's al rather rude to bombard pal with accusations. ("It because of people like yo that this planet is going in a handbasket," won't well-received.) Here are a few tactics that'll make your friend think twiceabout wasting energy, no about your friendship:

BOASTING Casually me how much money you've saved. "About 75 percei of home electronics' ene consumption occurs whe products are shut off bu still plugged in. I've save big bucks on electric bill: unplugging.'

MELODRAMATIC HUM

Make a show of running of to the toaster and yanking cord out of the socket. "[you know that every time forget to unplug your toas polar bear dies?!'

SELF-DEPRECATING HUMOR "I know I'm tota anal, but I'm really into unplugging stuff when I'n using it. Mind if I unplug

TV before we go out? –Kiera E To improve your green m

read Miss Eco Etiquette's

plentymag.com/blogs