

# Health and Environmental Humanities Artistic Expression Portfolio



# HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES ARTISTIC EXPRESSION PORTFOLIO

THE STUDENTS OF HUM2020



*Health and Environmental Humanities Artistic Expression Portfolio by The Students of HUM2020 is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), except where otherwise noted.*

# CONTENTS

<a href="#">STUDENT EXAMPLE: Audre Lourde – Environmental Poetry</a>	vii
<a href="#">STUDENT EXAMPLE: Land Art – "Our Place"</a>	x
<a href="#">STUDENT EXAMPLE: Native American environmental art, dance, and choreography</a>	xiii
<a href="#">Michelle Franco- perspective on environment</a>	
<a href="#">Bruna Passanante - Environmental Impact Photography</a>	3
<a href="#">Bruna Passanante</a>	
<a href="#">Jess Baker - Guerrilla gardening</a>	9
<a href="#">Jess Baker</a>	
<a href="#">Alessandra Capasso- The Moss Lawn</a>	12
<a href="#">Alessandra Capasso</a>	
<a href="#">Kaitlyn Cirullo- Ocean Pollution</a>	17
<a href="#">Kaitlyn Cirullo</a>	
<a href="#">Bradley Post - Landscape Photography</a>	19
<a href="#">Kayla Marcantonio - Pablo Amaringo: "Man and Earth through Visions"</a>	20
<a href="#">Kayla Marcantonio</a>	
<a href="#">Stanislava Melnyk - Animal Rights Activism</a>	26
<a href="#">Kalin Glesner - Trash to Treasure</a>	27
<a href="#">Yahav Shany</a>	30
<a href="#">The Beauty of African Environmental Dance - Alyisia Spaulding</a>	31



# STUDENT EXAMPLE: AUDRE LOURDE – ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY

---



"Audre Lorde Quote" by UNARMED CIVILIAN is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



“Nine Creeks’s spring” by Benny Feng is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



“coal mine set” by foundin\_a\_attic is licensed under CC BY 2.0



Preface: Hi, my name is Alyssa Schroeder and my portfolio is on Audre Lorde’s environmental poetry and how it connects mere existence to actually living. The licensing I will be using is [Attribution CC BY](#). [CC BY 4.0]

Introduction: In my portfolio I hope to shed light on Audre Lorde’s beautiful poetry and how her use of environmental perspectives mirrors the image of society. Lorde’s poetry and environmental poetry in general is important tool used to bring together the dirt of the Earth and all that resides on it. Such poems with the environment at the forefront tend to hold much deeper meanings, as in Lorde’s case, she utilizes her poems to speak on the civil and social injustices plaguing the society at the time.

Themes: There are two themes that take place within Lorde’s environmental poetry. First, the obvious use of Earth (and its flora and fauna) as a representation to tell of the injustices faced by minorities in America. She uses the changing of seasons as a showing of the demise of rights and equality in society. She never shies away from the fact that such cruel, tortures, lynchings took place amongst the trees and nature scenes. Second, the reclamation of nature to mirror the reclamation of equality. The danger posed to nature is the same that is posed to man. Lorde shows that nature is a source of inspiration and motivation and as that dwindles so does man.

Analysis: I chose three images to represent Audre Lorde’s environmental poetry, the first being a woman holding up a sign with a quote from one of Lorde’s poems as a form of peaceful protest at a rally. This image all in one shows the tenacity of Lorde’s words and how these poems that rang true some 50 years ago, still to this day hold even greater meaning. The second image is a photo of flowers blooming in the ripe of spring. This image is to hold a visual representation of the image Lorde painted with her poem “Second Spring”. In this poem Lorde talks about not ever being able to know another spring, almost saying that the “dark ages” are now upon us. The flowers in full bloom, the sun shining down showing the innocence and purity of the spring we used to know, as Lorde says. The third, and final image is a photo a coal mine, this images holds a visual representation of Lorde’s poem “Coal”. In this poem Lorde explores and exudes her identity as a black woman and she uses “Coal” to give a voice to all African Americans. The image seems as such a dull, bland scene, but it is only Lorde who would be able to make coal into a revelation for activism and self-acceptance.

Application: It is a complete understatement to just say Audre Lorde’s poetry is important. Audre Lorde’s poetry is, was, and will always be imperative to the understanding of social and civil injustices and how they have played a role in the destruction of man and the environment that surrounds. With her poetry Lorde is able to perfectly encapsulate the idea of nature intertwined with man and uses that to show how such injustices are universal. She uses her writing to convey the turmoil of the time through the expression of nature and the natural world. Lorde gets straight to the point of truth and fights for what she believes in, her poetry has told generations and generations to come a story of hardship that we can only overcome by coming together.

# STUDENT EXAMPLE: LAND ART – "OUR PLACE"

---

## Our Place



Spiral Jetty by Robert Smithson



Towards Nature by Nils Udo



Woodline by Andy Goldsworthy

**Preface:** My name is Javier Saumell and this portfolio is titled “Our Place”, I will be using a CC BY-NC-ND creative license in this portfolio.

This portfolio titled “Our place” is about Earth art (also referred to as land art in some instances) and the way it affects the audience allowing them to recognize their place on Earth. One way Earth art is especially important to me is through the fact that the medium used in this art is the land itself, giving the artwork a completely different feeling and sense of scale. Earth art is also typically done with an environmentally friendly approach so that after the installation is complete, nature may take over the work and restore the land to how it was before. The artists and works that I will be addressing in this portfolio are Robert Smithson, Andy Goldsworthy, and Nils Udo. These artists all have made earth works that allow the audience to realize their presence in nature and immerse themselves.

Two themes that my portfolio will be addressing are experiencing nature, as well as our place in nature. The first theme of experiencing nature is present in the land art of the artists that are represented in this portfolio. These works draw the viewer to the nature around them and fully immerse them in the experience. The second theme, the audience’s place in nature, is equally important since it allows the audience to reflect on the work and realize that they have a place in this world, that it is not just them on this earth and that they should respect it accordingly.

The first image is of Robert Smithson’s *Spiral Jetty* in Great Salt Lake, Utah. This work uses black basalt rocks and earth from the site to form this counterclockwise 1500 feet long spiral offshore into the water. This spiral resembles the space of a galaxy especially since space was one of Smithson’s inspirations at the time due to the moon landing having happened recently. This, in turn, contributed to the desire for the audience to experience a sense of smallness while walking through this spiral. The second image is of Nil Udo’s installation *Towards Nature*. This artwork uses 4 earth ramps going into a tree in the center to symbolize our unconscious

link to nature. This artwork was meant to symbolize the gap between humanity and nature and attempt to bridge the two together, making humanity more conscious of their link to it. The third and final image is of Andy Goldsworthy's *Wood Line*, this work is located in a large Eucalyptus grove in Presidio, San Francisco. This work fills a space in this grove with curving eucalyptus branches that were taken from projects where trees needed to be removed. This piece was created with the intent that it allows the audience to let these branches "draw" the flow through the space, as well as eventually the eucalyptus branches will go back into the ground and back to nature.

Earth art such as the works discussed in this portfolio are important because they give audiences a non-conventional way to connect with the environment through contemporary art. Unlike art forms that point out things wrong with the environment to achieve awareness, earth art does this through giving the audience connection with nature which leads to the realization that they are not alone on this planet. Which draws another reason of the importance of earth art, the fact that this is achieved through ecological means that do not harm the environment but rather are made with the intent of letting nature take over and allowing the piece to take back its place in nature. The earth art in this portfolio was made with the intention so that we as a society may understand our place in nature and respect it as so.

# STUDENT EXAMPLE: NATIVE AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL ART, DANCE, AND CHOREOGRAPHY

---

The work of Rulan Tangen centers around using dance to express a Native worldview and to inspire younger generations. Tangen has gone to many colleges and Native communities to teach people the art of dance in a way that will allow them to experience Native culture. During her career, she created a group called Dancing Earth that aims to bring awareness to Native culture while inspiring young artists through their dance performances.

Rulan Tangen's work mainly focuses on expressing Native culture and empowering the next generation. She has dedicated her life to teaching people how to dance in ways that mimic healing rituals of Native tribes. She values the way that movement can bring an energetic connection between people. Her Dancing Earth dance group is an inter-tribe group that enjoys displaying their Native culture to people through their performances.



[From Ash Culture on Flickr](#)

Rulan Tangen has a long career in dance. As a leader at a dance workshop on a reserve, she

wanted to give the younger Native people hope for careers as aspiring artists. She gave them this hope and the opportunity to join her by creating the group Dancing Earth. Her career has also led her to do choreography and dance for TV specials. She has stated that her belief is “to dance is to live, to live is to dance.”



[From Culver Center on Flickr](#)

This picture was taken at UCR Culver Center of the Arts, where UCR hosts the Indigenous Choreographers Residency. This picture was taken at the program in 2012. At this program, Native choreographers, such as Rulan Tange, came together to share and develop performances together. At the same time, they talked to Native high school students about pursuing Indigenous choreography as a career. Workshops and performances were a part of the program, all dedicated to teaching the students how to express their Native heritage through the art of dance.



From Ordway Center on Flickr

Rulan Tangen taught more students at Ordway and Rosy Simas Dance in 2016. At this residency, she taught three “Master Classes.” She based her lessons off of the wisdom of Native leaders and their culture. She used these lessons to let students at Ordway experience Native culture for themselves by not only teaching them how to dance, but leading them step by step through a journey into seeing a Native worldview. The dancing is not only a fun activity, but a way to experience a different culture.

Rulan Tangen’s work encourages people to experience a new and different culture by allowing them to not only see but participate in Native American dance. She has provided new opportunities to young Native artists by creating a dance group dedicated to them. Native Americans have faced many issues regarding their culture in the past. Colonialism was only the beginning, as throughout American history, Natives have been incentivized not only to leave their reserves but also their culture behind. Most of the modern world finds Native customs, such as the belief in the spirit of nature and healing rituals, to be unscientific and even silly. Rulan Tangen has shown the world that Native American culture has a role in the modern world. She has demonstrated that expressing Native culture can not only be fun, but meaningful through her dance lessons.

Her work has inspired young artists in that they can keep their cultural identity intact and use it as inspiration for their work. She has demonstrated that artists can create their own place in the world through her creation of Dancing Earth. Rulan Tangen has dedicated her life to dance. She wants to let others know that they can follow their dreams and express their cultural identity at the same time. Her work is proof of that. At the same time, her work has not finished as she still performs with the goal of inspiring even more of the new generation.





# MICHELLE FRANCO- PERSPECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENT

1. My participant is a friend. I met with him over the phone to discuss this assignment.
2. I have asked him to take three images as he already provided me with them.
3. Yes, I asked my participant to write at least one paragraph per photo. He has already provided me with his statements. I also asked them to state their candid opinion as well, as well as stated to him that he is not required to reveal any personal information or discuss anything that might make him feel uncomfortable.
4. My participant has given me permission to use his first name for this project.
5. Yes I do have another person in mind in the event that my participant could not provide me with the images and statements as requested. However my participant has already shared his images and statements with me already.
6. My participant has agreed to write a statement that he freely consents to sharing his photos and written statements with me about his perspectives on the environment and/ or health. I have included this request in my communications with my participant.



Pic 1- Seeing the picture of sunset, I believe it's so beautiful how natural it looks. The way the sky can make colors you never expect to see. Seeing sunset makes me feel peaceful in a way. Makes me feel extremely relaxed and be so thankful for the world I live in today. Being able to wake up and being able to be free without any restrictions. Seeing those beautiful colors makes me enjoy where I live and experience my everyday life.

Pic 2- The PPE masks make me feel not normal. Nobody was used to that lifestyle, it all changed one day to another. Due to the worldwide virus we are all still wearing masks. They make me feel not free, any place we go we have to wear a mask by law if not you are not allowed to enter that place. I understand the mask is to keep everybody safe, but they are getting very uncomfortable. Covid has changed not only my lifestyle, but everybodies also. Changed the way of working, we even got a curfew. At one point if you were not an essential worker you were not allowed to leave your own house.

Pic 3- Seeing almost the whole New York city boarding up including the Empire State Building is honestly scary. That our own state is boarding up in fear of protest and riots due to the election. I believe with how not only the state, but the country is handling everything looks very weak on their part. The government should be able to be tougher than most people with the amount of power they own. I do think they are taking safety precautions, but they should be able to do it in another way. In previous years the government did not have to board up the city to protect the people and themselves.

I freely give consent to sharing my photos and written statement with you about my perspective on the environment and health.- Alejandro

# BRUNA PASSANANTE - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT PHOTOGRAPHY

Bruna Passanante

---

## *Environmental Impact Photography*

My name is Bruna Passanante and this portfolio is titled “Environmental Impact Photography” and is licensed under CC BY-NC.

This portfolio was written to showcase photographs that were shot with the purpose to bring attention to environmental issues. Specifically, I chose to showcase Benjamin Von Wong, an artist who has been known to create surreal images to start important conversations around issues impacting our world. In the TED Talk below, Von Wong talks a little bit about how he got the idea to use photography as an approach to activism and the importance artists like himself have in our society today.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin\\_von\\_wong\\_does\\_the\\_world\\_really\\_need\\_more\\_art](https://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_von_wong_does_the_world_really_need_more_art)

In his art, Von Wong brings light to several different issues regarding our environment in today’s world. Specifically, the main themes he covers revolve a lot around recycling and climate change. In his creations, Von Wong creates incredible, eye-catching images to bring attention to plastic use (including straws and bottles) and its effects on oceans and maritime life, waste coming from electronic materials and how they end up in landfills, endangered species, fast fashion and how it hurts the environment, climate change and pollution, between so many other causes. His major goal is to show the effects we suffer from climate change and how recycling can help our world.



*Mermaids Swim in 10000 Plastic Bottles by @Von Wong*

"Feel free to quote and publish the photos on your online publication (please credit & link back to the original)."

<https://blog.vonwong.com/mermaidplastic/>

This campaign was focused on human plastic use, specifically bottles. Von Wong used his creativity and art here, with the help of other artists and volunteers, to bring the attention of viewers to the fact that plastic takes around 450 years to degrade, and with that, by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the sea. He uses the mermaids here to illustrate maritime life being affected by the sea of plastic we're creating daily. His movement called for viewers to take the pledge to recycle and reduce their own plastic use.



*Clothing the Loop by @Von Wong*

“Feel free to quote and publish the photos on your online publication (please credit & link back to the original).”

<https://blog.vonwong.com/fastfashion/>

This campaign was created with the intention of fighting fast fashion. Von Wong here wanted to bring attention to what really goes behind the clothes we constantly consume and dispose of. There is a huge environmental cost and number of natural resources that goes into producing a single piece of clothing, specifically fast fashion pieces. Moldy clothes from an abandoned factory were used to create these photographs and to bring attention to shoppers to be more ethical and do research next time they buy a new outfit.



*Mad Max Meets Trump's America by @Von Wong*

“Feel free to quote and publish the photos on your online publication (please credit & link back to the original).”

[https://blog.vonwong.com/mad\\_max\\_trump/](https://blog.vonwong.com/mad_max_trump/)

This campaign was brought together with the help of volunteer models and other artists to bring attention to pollution and the tolls it takes on our planet and ourselves. Specifically, Von Wong wanted to start a conversation on the negative impacts on the use of coal and the importance of supporting renewable energy. These crazy photographs suggest that if we just simply do nothing, one day we will probably end up fighting for oxygen like the models are.

Benjamin Von Wong is a photographer with a background in art and engineering, which combined have helped him go viral in benefit of environmental causes. He has partnered with brands such as Nike, Starbucks, Dell, between many other, to promote change. With the help of these companies, coworkers, and even volunteers, Von Wong has created sculptures, exhibitions, and campaigns with his photographs, all of which have helped raise thousands of dollars to environmental causes, signatures for petitions that strive to enact

change, and maybe most importantly, started the conversation between so many people on how these issues have such a great effect on the world and how it is up to us to do something about it. He has also inspired numerous artist's around the world to use their own voices and creativity towards the cause. An example is seen below of a fellow photographer at one of Von Wong's exhibitions.



CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 RICO Lee *Plastikophobia* <https://flic.kr/p/2gWS8ve>

Environmental photography is just one in many art expressions that have become more and more popular every day. Art as a method of activism is very engaging as it goes beyond an expression of creativity for entertainment, but it's effective as a simple yet impactful way to deliver a message and educate viewers. Von Wong's art is very distinctive and unconventional because of how shocking the images he creates are. Not only does he use the items related to the issue (such as the electronic waste or plastic bottles) to create greater than life images, but they also shock you in how they make you really think. You might not think that plastic straws are really that big of an issue until you see the waves he created with only a small percentage of what actually ends up in the oceans daily. You wouldn't think that electronic waste is such a big deal until you see the sculptures he created with only a small amount of what ends up in landfill every day. It's the shocking images of everyday activities being done in front of a hurricane that makes viewers stop and question themselves. It's the group of humans, including a baby, in the toxic and polluted air, needing oxygen masks to breathe in the images he created that make you wonder how long before this is our reality. Recycling is a big factor that can help slow the speed of climate change, and artists like Von Wong are using their imagination to try and bring attention to these issues before it's too late. We can't ignore our world and the problems we created

any longer. Visit Von Wong's website for more information on his studies and accomplishments through art:  
<https://www.vonwong.com>



# JESS BAKER - GUERRILLA GARDENING

Jess Baker

---



“Spaccanocelle-guerrilla gardening Avellino il 13/11/11” by [Guerrilla Gardening](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

My name is Jess Baker and my portfolio is titled: ‘Guerrilla gardening: the world in bloom’. The type of licence that I will be using is a CC BY-NC-SA licence.

Guerrilla gardening is described as ‘the act of gardening on land that the gardeners do not have the legal rights to cultivate such as abandoned sites, areas that are no longer cared for or private property.’ It has the aim of improving the environment or producing vegetables or flowers for people to use and enjoy. The art encourages a sense of community by providing food supplies to those that need it as well as celebrating the beautiful creations made by the gardeners. Other purposes of the art include political and social protest interest which provides a peaceful form of activism.



“Spaccanocelle-guerrilla gardening Avellino il 13/11/11” by [Guerrilla Gardening](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

The themes present in the art of guerrilla gardening are transforming natural resources and community. The first theme of transforming natural resources is present in the natural process of guerrilla gardening. As you can see in all the pictures, but particularly in the third picture, you can see the work put into transforming the wooden crates – it is likely that the crates will have gone on to be placed in and around the city in which the gardeners live. Also evident in all 3 pictures is the sense of community present. Teamwork is required to achieve the goal, for example the two people planting and digging in the first picture. Guerrilla gardening can therefore be seen as a bonding experience between communities and cultures by bringing people with the same passion together. This will have knock on effects for the community, such as an improvement in happiness and mental health.



“Spaccanocelle-guerrilla gardening Avellino il 13/11/11” by [Guerrilla Gardening](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

All three images are from the Italian Guerrilla Gardening community from 2011. This particular community began in 2006 thanks to a group of young people from Milan. They describe themselves as a group of green enthusiasts that decided to positively interact with the urban space through small demonstrative acts that they call ‘green attacks’. With this information, it provides valuable context to these images – we can see these ‘green attacks’ being demonstrated and the strength of community in Italian guerrilla gardeners.

Guerrilla gardening is important as a form of activism– as mentioned before, it is an example of political movement as well as having a purpose of connection within a community, without forgetting the imaginative and picturesque impact of the art. It represents an idea of bonding and using environmentally friendly ways of changing one’s community for the better. The simple act of planting flowers and working together is a prime example of how a community can have so many impacts on all counts and proves to be an aspiration as to what we can all do in improving our world.

# ALESSANDRA CAPASSO- THE MOSS LAWN

Alessandra Capasso

---

My name is Alessandra Capasso and my portfolio is titled "The Moss Lawn". This piece is licensed as CC BY-NC.

## A Preface to Moss Lawns

The beauty and benefits of moss lawns are thought-inducing for surrounding communities. Those who witness it will likely consider the value of sustainability and ecological biodiversity in our environment. Moss lawns are simply lawns that use moss, a fitting alternative to grass used commonly in a community like the United States. Grass requires an exhausting frequency of upkeep with the common results of an imperfect lawn. Moss, however, can maintain itself and use less of our resources providing a game-change to landscape architecture that will provide health to our environment. One country that could teach others about how moss can positively embellish lives in Japan.

## Themes Connected to the Work of the Moss Lawn

Moss lawns encompass the theme of the significance of sustainability and the health of the environment as well as the theme of the beauty of our nature (which embraces artistic expression). Moss lawns fit the theme of **sustainability and health for the environment** since they require far less care than grass lawns in exchange for more benefits than grass lawns. For example, grass requires many more accommodations as it fits a specific type of environment, needs to be cut frequently, needs fertilizer (which is a pollutant), and patience. Moss could use some accommodations such as acidic and compound soil which can be solved with sulfur, but it needs much fewer resources than grass does. Moss is also supportive of biodiversity since it attracts many

animals that could be considered visually pleasing including insects, reptiles, and birds to create a healthy food web and an appreciable biodiverse environment. The theme of the **beauty of nature** created by moss lawns is supported by could by the view of each component of the moss lawn as an artistic expression because of their serene appearance and how they have the capabilities of attracting more beautiful life creating a feeling of unity and tranquility. Additionally, moss lawns can be personalized by any artist who wants to start one up in a unique way of expression.

## Media Representation and Analysis of Moss Lawns



Japanese garden featuring the use of moss, likely in the Kansai region. This photo is by [Chi King](#) and licensed under [CC BY 3.0](#).

This image showcases a moss garden as a product of typical Japanese Gardening. Japan is known for its work in Zen gardening for the public to enjoy. The origins of this image are not clear since all cities Kyoto, Fukui, and Tango are listed, but the region Kansai could be denoting where the image was taken. It was uploaded on January 1, 2014.

---



A moss carpet is displayed in Triennale, an art and design museum in Milan. The texture and life in the real moss carpet reveal the diversity and beauty of nature. According to Makoto Azuma, “my work for this exhibition shows the encounter and coexistence of two lifeforms with different origins. Living things connect strongly and straightforwardly, and conceal unlimited possibilities.” The Japanese artist Makoto Azuma additionally has an extensive history of botanical sculpting to show nature as an art form and will continue his work in the future. This image was uploaded on April 25, 2009.

A moss planter created by Makoto Azuma displays that moss truly can be an art. This photo is by [Inhabitat](#) and is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).



Previously home to the famous actor Denjirō Ōkōchi in Kyoto, Okochi Sanso is now open through admission fees for public enjoyment featuring beloved moss lawns. This photo is by [Geoff Whalan](#) and is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Although visitors may come to visit the Okochi Sanso Garden in respect of the actor Denjirō Ōkōchi who previously lived in the home, visitors also enjoy the garden for the Zen feeling created by nature by Japanese Cultural standards. This includes the simplicity of the soft and self-sustaining moss which compliments the architecture it surrounds. This image was uploaded on November 3, 2016. Amongst the garden and villa are a

museum for the former owner and a temple to meditate at. It is a salient characteristic that the appreciation of nature and mediation go hand in hand in Japan.

---

Looking at further research at the images displaying moss, they all can be traced back to the same origin. All images display the long-lived gardening culture of Japan. Part of Japanese culture is the intimacy and respect of nature leading to higher incorporation and protection of nature. Japanese Zen gardening consistently uses moss and it is not solely because of its abundance in Japanese nature, but for its ideals of transience and imperfection, also known as wabi and sabi. The simplicity of moss is also tied to Buddhist nature-appreciating values finding a moss landscape perfect to meditate with. Moss is so embedded into the culture of Japan that it is mentioned in its national anthem.

These images are inspiring to both appreciate nature as an environmental gift and celebrate it as an art form. After all, moss is incredibly talented at sustaining both itself and life around it. The exponential potential of variety in the ecological environment it creates the artful gift of unity in nature as well. Just after a sulfuric and dense base of soil, moss is self-sustaining and attracts a wide variety of insects, then a variety of reptiles and amphibians, then a variety of birds, then a variety of mammals, and more. One could potentially attract colorful beetles, fireflies, birds, and create breathtaking scenery. People outside of this community who depend on grass could learn from Japan's use of moss since grass is not nearly as supportive of other lifeforms, is far more demanding of water, uses harmful pesticides and fertilizers, and needs constant upkeep all to result in the eventual dying patches and balding.

All practices used in the images above use a clearer answer to an insufficient practice of grass. A reliable base like moss can be used to improve and embellish human and environmental life.

### **Application of Moss to Society**

The culture and use of moss in Japan are integral to understanding its community values. The close bonded relationship between nature and people is unique to Japan and moss is among the adored parts of nature for Japan. Moss is considered significant for its appreciable transient, imperfect, and subtle beauty and it is celebrated by displaying moss in many gardens all around. Japan's relationship with moss is also indicative of support for a healthy environment and appreciation of the beauty of nature which could be helpful for other surrounding communities. People apart from Japan, especially those who use too much grass, could take a look at its practices related to moss and learn to consider practices that allow sustainability within an environment, promotion of ecological diversity, and a celebration of nature's exquisite qualities that all lead to the strengthening of a happy human environment.



## Sources

- “Azuma Makoto: Flower Art Installations, News and Projects.” *Designboom*, 31 Dec. 2019, [www.designboom.com/tag/azuma-makoto/](http://www.designboom.com/tag/azuma-makoto/).
- Burk, Cathy. “The Benefits & Ecology of a Moss Lawn.” *Habitat Network*, 7 May 2018, [content.yardmap.org/learn/benefits-ecology-moss-lawn/](http://content.yardmap.org/learn/benefits-ecology-moss-lawn/).
- Choi, Leeji. “Azuma Makoto: ‘Time of Moss’ for Tokyo Fiber Senseware at Milan Design Week 09.” *Designboom*, 21 July 2014, [www.designboom.com/design/makoto-azuma-time-of-moss-for-tokyo-fiber-senseware-at-milan-design-week-09/](http://www.designboom.com/design/makoto-azuma-time-of-moss-for-tokyo-fiber-senseware-at-milan-design-week-09/).
- Grant, Bonnie L. “Moss As Lawn Substitute: How To Grow A Moss Lawn.” *GardeningKnowHow*, 18 Apr. 2020, [www.gardeningknowhow.com/lawn-care/lawn-substitutes/moss-lawn/how-to-grow-a-moss-lawn.htm](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/lawn-care/lawn-substitutes/moss-lawn/how-to-grow-a-moss-lawn.htm).
- Hammett, James. “Japan’s Intimate Relationship with Nature.” *Masami*, 14 Jan. 2020, [www.lovmasami.com/blogs/our-blog/japan-s-intimate-relationship-with-nature](http://www.lovmasami.com/blogs/our-blog/japan-s-intimate-relationship-with-nature).
- P, Miki. “Okochi-Sanso Villa – The Most Breathtaking Villa in Arashiyama Kyoto.” *Tokyo Creative Travel*, [www.tokyocreative.com/articles/20560-okochi-sanso-villa-the-most-breathtaking-villa-in-arashiyama-kyoto](http://www.tokyocreative.com/articles/20560-okochi-sanso-villa-the-most-breathtaking-villa-in-arashiyama-kyoto).
- Triennale Milano, [triennale.org/en/visit/plan-your-visit](http://triennale.org/en/visit/plan-your-visit).
- Wong, James. “Blade Runners: the Joy of Moss Lawns.” *The Guardian, Guardian News and Media*, 3 June 2018, [www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/jun/03/blade-runners-the-joy-of-moss-lawns](http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/jun/03/blade-runners-the-joy-of-moss-lawns).
- Yoshitaka, Oishi. “Japan’s Emerald Carpets: The Cultural Importance and Environmental Promise of Moss.” *Nippon.com*, 30 May 2020, [www.nippon.com/en/japan-topics/b02350/japan%E2%80%99s-emerald-carpets-the-cultural-importance-and-environmental-promise-of-moss.html](http://www.nippon.com/en/japan-topics/b02350/japan%E2%80%99s-emerald-carpets-the-cultural-importance-and-environmental-promise-of-moss.html).



# KAITLYN CIRULLO- OCEAN POLLUTION

Kaitlyn Cirullo

---

## Ocean Pollution

My name is Kaitlyn Cirullo and this portfolio is titled "Ocean Pollution" and is licensed under CC BY-NC

### **Introduction:**

This portfolio was created to showcase artists who use their work to raise awareness to the pollution of plastic that has taken over our oceans. These artists include Chris Jordan, Brian Yurasits, and Angela Haseltine Pozzi.



[“Raise your Voice \(2010\): Midway – Message from the Gyre \(2009\) / Chris Jordan”](#) by [Ars Electronica](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

This image was taken by the photographic artist Chris Jordan in his 2009 project called “Midway: Message from the Gyre.” On the island of Midway, thousands of albatross chicks die from starvation, toxicity, and choking. In the image above, and all of the other images in “Midway,” not a single piece of plastic was moved or altered in any way. These images depict the actual stomach content of these albatross chicks. Midway is one of the world’s most remote marine sanctuaries and is more than two thousand miles from the nearest continent. The parents of these babies collect what looks to be like food, but instead they are confused and bring back plastic from the polluted ocean.



Follow on Instagram [@wildlife\\_by\\_yuri](#), and find more free plastic pollution photos at:  
<https://www.wildlifebyyuri.com/free-ocean-photography>

This image was taken by photographer and marine biologist Brian Yurasits.

# BRADLEY POST - LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

---

# KAYLA MARCANTONIO - PABLO AMARINGO: "MAN AND EARTH THROUGH VISIONS"

Kayla Marcantonio

---

**Preface:** My name is Kayla Marcantonio and this portfolio is titled Pablo Amaringo: "Man and Earth through Visions". I will be using a CC BY-NC-ND creative license in this portfolio.

---

## The Art:



"Pablo Amaringo" by St. Lawrence University Art Gallery is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/> Untitled, (flower people with angels) 1987 Gouache on paper





"Pablo Amaringo" by St. Lawrence University Art Gallery is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/> *Espíritus de los Renacos*, September 2, 1996 Gouache on paper





"Pablo Amaringo" by St. Lawrence University Art Gallery is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/> *Incorporation in a Patient*, 1987  
Gouache on paper

## Introduction:

Pablo Amaringo: "Man and Earth through Visions" is about environmental art focused on the works of Pablo Amaringo through his visionary art and the messages they depict between the relationships of man and Earth. The work of Pablo Amaringo captures very beautifully the idea that man is and should be one with nature and the culture and worship of nature's importance. Pablo Amaringo's art is influenced by his visions obtained through drinking ayahuasca<sup>1</sup>. These visions are very colorful and very creatively show the relationship of man

---

1. A brew of South American plants that has hallucinogenic effects.

and nature with ethereal creature and depictions of humans interacting with nature. These depictions provide a much deeper meaning and understanding of the environment.

### Themes:

The first theme in Pablo Amaringo's work I would like to address is the representation of people as a part of nature. Amaringo incorporates people into nature-like beings, which can be seen above in *Espíritus de los Renacos* and *Untitled, (flower people with angels)*. These two works represent humanly beings with a naturistic features. For example, in *Espíritus de los Renacos* Amaringo paints these humans as tree trunks and branches. Another example can be seen in *Untitled, (flower people with angels)* where Amaringo represents some humans as flowery bush people, a person with snake arms, branches growing out of a head. These representations and the theme of people as a part of nature show where man stands as a part of nature. Specifically in the idea that man is a part of nature and the environment. Or in other words, mans interactions with the environment and nature shows that man and nature are one. The second theme I would like to address is the cultural belonging of humans in this nature. Amaringo portrays this nature-cultural importance and belonging in *Incorporation in a Patient*, *Espíritus de los Renacos*, and *Untitled, (flower people with angels)*. In each Amaringo shows these "normal" human beings worshipping the land and nature around them. Each of the three works shows these humans worshipping the nature around them which shows the centrality of nature in culture.

### Analysis:

All three works presented in this portfolio are by Pablo Amaringo. Pablo Amaringo is a Peruvian artist who came from an impoverished life as a little boy. He began working at an early age to help support his big family which forced him to give up his education. Suddenly, Amaringo began suffering severe heart problems which led him to become very ill and eventually made him unable to continue working. Amaringo sought care from a local healer and while recovering Amaringo learned medicine using Amazonian plants, eventually becoming a healer. At the same time, he began to create art using what ever he could find around him since he could not afford supplies. Due to his knowledge in medicine with Amazonian plants he drank ayahuasca which gave him these visions that he would then depict in his art. These visions were centered around nature and man and the ethereal. These visions had an extremely high influence in his works. The first work, *Untitled, (flower people with angels)*, was made in 1987 and thoroughly depicts these visions he had showing the interactions between the ethereal nature and man. The second work, *Espíritus de los Renacos*, was made on September 2nd, 1996. In this work, Amaringo can be seen employing the idea that man and the environment are one and the worship of the ethereal nature with the humans gathered worshipping in the bottom corner. The tree people are very indicative of the visionary presence of his works and show the influence of ayahuasca in his work. The third work, *incorporation in a Patient*, was made in 1987. This work shows these ethereal beings and the use of ayahuasca. Additionally, it depicts the worshipping of the ethereal nature surrounding the worshippers. The heavenly fortresses above are decorated with flora further driving the idea of the importance of this nature



and the worship of it. All three works and their themes can together be understood today as a message about the importance of the environment and how we humans need to work with the environment and worship it because we are one with it. Without it we cannot exist.

### Application:

Pablo Amaringo's art is extremely important in understanding the Peruvian society in which it was created. Amaringo's work accurately depicts the nature worship that the indigenous Peruvians took part in. This can be seen through the many depictions of anthropomorphized nature, including both animals and plants, even the Earth itself. The indigenous Peruvians depict their deities in this way. Amaringo's inclusion and depictions of these deities center around the Peruvian influence and the indigenous people. Additionally, Amaringo's art work can be seen as a very distinctive way to understand this since all of his work was produced when he was under the influence of ayahuasca. However, it still provides an interesting approach to dive into the Peruvian culture due to his vivid work.

# STANISLAVA MELNYK - ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

---

# KALIN GLESNER - TRASH TO TREASURE

---

## Trash: Natural Art, From Trash to Treasure

### Preface:

This portfolio will focus on trash; Natural Art: From Trash to Treasure.

### Introduction:

The focus of this portfolio is related to how environmental artists are turning trash into art that in some cases is not only being repurposed but also repurchased. For centuries, we have expressed our innermost thoughts through art. From the time man drew with rocks on the cave walls, to modern day when there are various ways of expression. As the twentieth century has crept into view, global concerns have become more prominent. Man has taken Mother Nature for granted and the environment has taken the backlash. Environmental artists are visionary's and some find ways to take the human relationship with the environment and create ways to make the "ugly" more desirable.

### Themes:

This portfolio will include two main themes. The first involves using art to raise awareness of environmental issues and enable a closer understanding of how excessive waste impacts our environment. The second theme is related to taking what was once a part of an environmental problem and using artistic ability to recycle for a new purpose.

### Analysis:

The image depicted showcases different environmental issues through an artistic piece.



<https://blog.vonwong.com/mermaidplastic/>

Von Wong borrowed 10,000 plastic bottles from Tomra, a waste management center to create this piece of art. There was a full day of experimenting different ways of how to represent the bottles from the best artistic point of view. They had come to the conclusion that they would make the bottom look like a beach and lay the

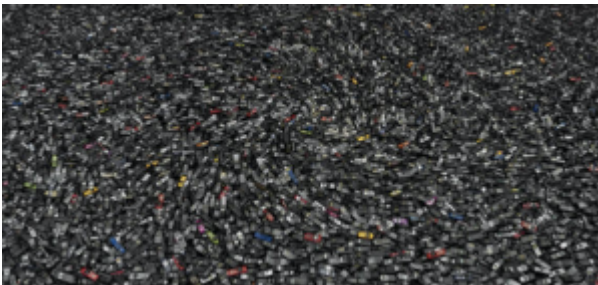
bottles to give the illusion of water. What the artist was trying to allude to was the idea that the plastic bottles are harming the sea life. Eight states so far have banned the use of plastic bottles. The artist hopes to spark a change in the people around us.

In the 1960's and early 1970's there was an environmental art movement which celebrated how artists were able to connect with their vision and work.



"Pandas On Tour"

Paulo Grangeon displayed 1,600 paper michael pandas, which is about the number that is left in the world. He was making an attempt to show the need to protect the endangered species. In *Pandas On Tour*, Paul Grangeon was trying to make an environmental impact through a work of art. The exhibit launched in 2008, and made it to more than 20 countries.



"Intolerable Beauty  
Portraits of  
American Mass  
Consumption"

Chris Jordan captured an image of debris that society leaves behind quantities of cell phones, cars, circuit boards, that are left behind, and just leaving an imprint on our earth. Chris said, "I'm appalled by these scenes, and yet also drawn into them with awe and fascination." This picture, although at a glance just looks like it could be a swirl of colors, at close glance, is a pile of what we throw out and is creating an imprint on our earth and causing distress on our environment. Recycling is a very important part of the future and what is going to help save the environment.

### **Application**

Artists and activists are allowing our community to see angles that they may not have the opportunity to see outside of their daily lives. When given a new perspective, it allows them to take a step back and find a way to

make a difference and think on what they can do. When one person makes a movement in the right direction, it starts a motion. Art is a good way to show environmental issues and perspectives.

YAHAV SHANY

---

# THE BEAUTY OF AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL DANCE - ALYISIA SPAULDING

---

image

African American  
Group Dance. This  
image is licensed  
by Creative  
Commons Zero







Mrs. Josephine Baker aka Black Pearl. This image is licensed by Creative Commons Zero.



Solo African Environmental Dancer. This image is licensed by Creative Commons Zero

*Preface:* Hi, my name is Alyisia Spaulding and my portfolio project is on beauty and the importance/value of environmental dancing through the African American culture. The licensing I will be using is Creative Commons Zero through Google Images.

*Introductions:* In my portfolio project I hope to shed light on the beauty of African American culture and social injustice through dance. One specific environmentalist figure I will be using (along with others) is Josephine Baker (aka The Black Pearl). In her dances she illustrates the social injustice in the American Society with performances such as “Strange Fruit”. These African American environmental dances allow an insight to the world around an individual and provide a deeper understanding thus inspiring a deeper connection. I will also be using other figures that depict African American Dancers telling the story of the Motherland through their dances.

*Themes:* One theme focusing on Josephine Baker dances is the social injustice within the African American. During the 1950s, Baker frequently returned to the United States to lend her support to the Civil Rights Movement, participating in demonstrations and boycotting segregated clubs and concert venues. She

was also worked for Red Cross during WWII and often entertained troops in both African and the Middle East. Due to her bravery and creativity, she was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour with the rosette of the Resistance, two of France's highest military honors. Another theme that ties with African American dances is the connection between the Motherland and self. In these dances they tell the story of earth, wind, water, and fire and how they synchronically work in harmony. They explain how one cannot work without the other and how each element effects the people. They emphasize on the importance of taking care of the Motherland and being grateful for all she provides.

*Analysis:* The 3 images I have chosen each represent environmental dances and messages they aim to convey. Image 1 is group performance that aims to educate the audience on the beauty and importance of African American culture. Each dancer utilizes their bodies and movements to tell a story. Sometimes the dancers are telling their own stories independent of each other and sometimes they are working together to tell the same story. Image 2 is a picture of Josephine Baker who was an advocate during the Civil Rights Movement and often used her dancing and creativity to shed light on the issues. She was an important figure during the 1930's-1950's and till this day is still admired by many. Her performances broke many barriers for young and aspiring African American female dancers. Finally, image 3 is of a beautiful young African American environmental dancer who is telling the story of the motherland and using her fluidity to portray a story. The idea behind this picture and the stance of her body is more than likely to portray how the element of water interacts and provides for the Motherland. However, there's also a possibility that she is dancing as a tribute to her country. One of the many beautiful things about being an environmentalist is that a performance can be ambiguous and can imitate any story so the audience uses their own perception and feelings to understand what the message the performer is trying to tell or, their performance can tell the exact story they want the audience to know. Regardless of which performance it is the result is usually the same – a beautiful, heartwarming story that (hopefully) leaves the audience feeling educated and inspired.

*Application:* Environmental dance is important because its educational and creative. There are so many people who either don't know much about history or want to know more about but don't want to read a book about and environmental dancing is another way for that person to interact. Not only that, but it allows the dancer to express themselves and their use what their passionate about to spread light and positivity. Overall, my selected art form is important to society because it's educational and brings light to issues others might shy away from. Not only that but it's also inspiring to "hear" these stories be shared in various ways. There's so much to learn through environmental dancing (and other creative ways) that is guaranteed to not disappoint.