

# TEACHER RESOURCE

L I F E   A R T   M I N D



Health & P.E.

Technology

Visual Arts

## Creative Recycling

*Permanent Programme*  
Year 4 - Year 8

Explore recycled art and re-use refuse in exciting ways!

Supported by the Ministry of Education

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**Te Manawa**  
MUSEUM GALLERY SCIENCE CENTRE  
L I F E   A R T   M I N D

## INTRODUCTION

Sardine tins, beer cans, plastic bottles, yoghurt pottles and plastic bags. These things belong in the kitchen, supermarket, or later on in the rubbish bin, not the art gallery, don't they?

In most instances, you'd be right. But for some artists, the rubbish we create every time we finish our 'Diet Coke' bottle or build a new fence provides a rich source of art materials.

The programme aims to encourage students to look at the waste they and their families produce every day as a rich resource for creative expression, artistic experimentation and a fun activity.

## ABOUT THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This programme runs for two hours and is suitable for Year 4 - 8 students.

*Creative Recycling* is a programme that introduces students to the work of prominent artists like New Zealander Don Driver, who use found materials (also known as other peoples' rubbish) to create beautiful, imaginative artworks.

We begin the programme with a brief discussion on rubbish produced by households and what happens to this rubbish. We look at the de-composition rates for various types of plastics and discuss the effects of not recycling on the environment.

Children then explore a new way of 'recycling' by reusing rubbish items to create pieces of art. We will look at, and discuss, artist models that use recycled materials before students create their own pieces of sculptured art.

Students will have approximately 45 minutes to complete the activity before sharing with their class what they have used to create their art.

### Special Requirements:

Some prior knowledge of students' level of understanding within this subject area would be appreciated, and can be provided by filling out our pre-visit questionnaire or contacting the Art Educator at [tara.buckley@temanawa.co.nz](mailto:tara.buckley@temanawa.co.nz). This will mean that your students' specific learning needs will be better catered for.

## CURRICULUM LINKS

### **Visual Arts** (Level 1 – 4)

Understanding Arts in Context  
Developing Practical Knowledge  
Developing Ideas  
Communicating and Interpreting

### **Technology** (Level 1 – 4)

Technological Practice / Brief development

### **Health and Physical Education** (Level 1 – 4)

Healthy communities and environments / People and the environment

### **Key Competencies**

#### **Using language, symbols and texts**

Students will learn and become familiar with the specialist language (including symbols and text) associated with the visual arts, and recycling.

#### **Thinking**

Students will use creative, critical, metacognitive, and reflective processes to make sense of and question information, experiences and ideas in regards to recycling and construction.

#### **Managing self**

On a mainly independent level, students meet challenges associated with the process of creating their own piece of recycled art.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

### We are learning to:

- Re use waste products in creative ways.
- Understand that artists can use a wide range of materials to create art.
- Be aware about what we do with our rubbish and how this could impact on our environment.

### We will know we have achieved this when:

- We can produce a sculpture using waste products.
- We can identify different types of materials reused to create art pieces.
- We can suggest reasons why we separate our recycling from other rubbish, and can indicate the consequences of not doing this.

## PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Bring examples of recyclable materials to school, and discuss the process of recycling. Encourage students to think about possible uses for old cans, bottles etc.
- Introduce students to the work of New Zealand artists who recycle  
**Jeff Thomson** uses corrugated roofing iron to create animals, letterboxes, screenprints and more.  
**Don Driver** uses just about anything to create assemblages –giant collages made of many different materials. Old telephones, blankets, garden tools, headless dolls, animal skeletons and more often feature in his unusual sculptures.  
**Chris Booth** uses natural materials to create sculptures and installations of impressive size and durability that also challenge people’s ideas about nature and the environment.
- Provide students with a recycling challenge:  
Supply class with limited number of materials and ask for a specific object to be created E.g.: a drinking cup with handle; a cat’s toy; footwear.  
Provide students with a limited amount of time to complete the challenge.
- Create some wearable art from clean rubbish. (Old bubble wrap and cardboard works well). Encourage students to model their wearable art at a school assembly.
- Make a class visit to the **Arts Recycling Centre** at Square Edge, Church Street, Palmerston North- 06 353 2802. Rummage through their amazing array of materials and allow students to choose one item each (suggested maximum cost \$2). Bring all material back to school and make a class **mural/mobile/sculpture** using your selected materials!  
**Please note:** The Centre has limited opening hours, so it pays to phone ahead.

## ARTISTS TO EXPLORE :

Don Driver

[http://www.artisgallery.co.nz/artists\\_show.asp?id=134#](http://www.artisgallery.co.nz/artists_show.asp?id=134#)

## RESOURCES

### BOOKS:

They are available for loan at the Palmerston North City Library:

*Chris Booth Sculpture*

Chris Booth

David Bateman Ltd, 1993

*With Spirit: Don Driver A*

*Retrospective*

Govett Brewster Art Gallery &

David Bateman

David Bateman, 1999

*Art Exhibition catalogues*

(reference only)

Includes Jeff Thomson Sculpture

1992 – 2000

Bowen Galleries, 2000

*Jeff Thomson – Any Old Iron*

Richard Brimer

Icon Pub, 1992

Check out the Palmerston North City Library catalogue online at

[www.citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz](http://www.citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz)

### WEBSITES:

<http://www.show.me.uk/games/games.html>

A wonderful site with a link to 'Wasted' which has interactive, fun and informative games to do with recycling etc.

[http://www.indigoarts.com/store1\\_recycle.html](http://www.indigoarts.com/store1_recycle.html)

A look at some a very creative and resourceful uses for rubbish, from Africa, Asia and the America's.

<http://www.sharielf.com/gallery.html>

An American artist whom creates pictures from recycled junk-similar to what can be achieved in an art class at school

<http://www.nycgarbage.com/>

This New Yorker's idea of packaging rubbish as a piece of art could be replicated from rubbish around your own school, or from a visit to a local park, etc.

### NATIONAL LIBRARY SCHOOLS' SERVICE

For books, videos and CD roms:

<http://www.natlib.govt.nz/>

Ph:0800 171717

Palmerston North

1009 Tremaine Avenue

Ph: 06 3530475

Online request form: <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/cis-online-request>