



Annie Holland Art

Education through engagement with the arts



My current work as an artist and photographer is primarily concerned with highlighting and addressing our single-use consumer culture. However I am also aware that we as a society are overwhelmed by media stories with their sad images of death and choked oceans and it's easy to feel as if individual and local actions won't matter.

So I am now using art as a means to engage people from all walks of society and start meaningful conversations about what we as individuals can do; as I believe that it's a problem that can truly be solved on an individual level.

I am a registered teacher and have 25-years experience working as a part-time art teacher in schools and in the community. Through a creative engagement process I have worked/am working with primary and secondary schools, early school leaver centres and youth nationwide and have begun really meaningful conversations about how to edge our way out of the current plastic crisis.

What I offer is up to date interactive displays, film clips about the current plastic crisis whilst also offering solutions. But best of all an opportunity to do your own 'making' with your own single use plastic materials. This hands on approach gives participants a better understanding of what materials they would want to avoid and why.

In these creative sessions, listening to participants own stories about how they use plastic at home, in school and while travelling can also be enabling. Having control over their story lets them spot where changes can be made without having someone preach to them. So by beginning with the plastic material itself, then moving to participants own stories, my aim is to help people create, innovate and responsibly reuse, reduce or replace plastics in their everyday lives.

I WORK WITH PEOPLE BY:

Listening to them

Building plastic literacy

Making new headdresses/facemasks from single use plastic (collected from schools/centres and family homes) Giving them a photographic portrait of the experience

Empowering them to change

Encouraging them to become Climate activists

Creative Educational Plans**Half day ZOOM online workshop using DISPOSABLE MASK FORMAT**

This workshop has been designed in response to the need for online engagement during the Covid-19 pandemic. I am now conducting half- day workshops on zoom platform

Tools required :

- A stapler with staples
- A disposable mask
- Single use plastic items from the family recycling e.g. crisp packets, sweet wrappers, dental floss sticks etc
- Sheet of A4 paper and a black marker

Early Morning 9-10.30am

Annie will invite participants and their teacher-(optional) to attend zoom workshop at 9am. After a short introduction to her own arts practice and an introduction to the **People against Plastic** movement (www.peopleagainstplastic.ie), she will give an interactive slide

show which includes up to date film clips of the current plastic crisis alongside examples of art pieces made in response to it.

10.30-11 am break - Students will break for 30 mins

11am – 12.30 Annie will share a video demonstration of how to make a mask adorned with single use plastic and examples of ones previously made. Participants will be invited to turn on cameras at this point and Annie will check progress and give advice on construction. For the final stage of the workshop students will write a fact on their A4 sheet of paper with thick black marker and share a screen shot of themselves (with their teacher) wearing the mask and holding up the fact like in the image below.

Climate change is very real An intellectual understanding of the scientific facts is simply not enough – and I firmly believe that if we want to move forward and effect meaningful change, we need to engage the other side of our brains. This creative workshop will enable these young people to approach the problem of single use plastic with their imagination, but the lasting message should be that Climate action is now what's needed. This workshop is about empowering these young people to look at the problem with fresh eyes and realise that they too have a voice.



Two day workshop using the HEAD-DRESS format

This workshop is now only possible when Covid -19 restrictions are not in place

Day 1

Early Morning Annie will meet with the participants and their teacher/leader. After a short introduction to her own arts practice and an introduction to the **People against Plastic** movement (www.peopleagainstplastic.ie), she will give an interactive slide show which includes up to date film clips of the current plastic crisis alongside examples of art pieces made in response to it (no size limit on participants for this introductory part).

Late morning and afternoon The creative process begins by looking at some plastic raw materials that Annie will have brought along i.e. food and cosmetic packaging, different kinds of confectionary wrappings, bottle caps etc. She will also explain the tiny numbers on the bottom of bottles. These are the Resin Identification Codes - 1 through 7. The RIC

doesn't mean a product is always accepted for recycling, but it does guide you as to what material it is made of and its chemical composition. Annie will then show some A3 prints from previous participants wearing headdresses constructed of waste plastic to get the creative juices flowing, then we will begin to make the headdresses themselves. Participants will work with plastic that Annie will provide and also that which will have been collected in advance by themselves at home and in their school. Participants will be given a permission slip to have signed by their parent's guardians if under 18 to allow them to have their portraits taken on the second day of the workshop. Participants will be encouraged to work in groups of four, so peer learning will also be at the heart of the creative learning process. Annie has extensive experience in creating three dimensional sculpture from plastic and will supply the tools and solutions to bring ideas to completion.

Day 2

On our second day of the workshop participants under Annie's guidance will compete the headdresses. Annie is also a professional photographer and she will set up a portable photobooth to take a portrait of each participant (that has returned a permission slip) wearing their headdress. As participants will be working in groups of four, depending on their use of time, they may have produced more than one headdress between them. However one headdress can be styled in 4 different ways to produce four entirely different photographs. Participants will be directly responsible for the styling process for each photograph with Annie behind the camera.

After the workshop Annie will complete post production work i.e. editing photographs and preparing artwork for A3 prints.. Annie will also document the workshop if requested and images can be shared on school website/ class dojo etc. and shared with local media if so desired.

To finish the day, as part of a Climate Action strategy, I have developed a second short slideshow showcasing visual artists who use their work to highlight problems and offer solutions to effect change. We will discuss how to use their images e.g. how to start an online petition, have an exhibition in their school to get their message across to the their peers, what changes can they make themselves at home /in school.

One Week Later

High quality A3 size images will be printed full colour 1 side and matt laminated on 350gm silk (i.e. a hard durable card that won't need framing) and will be posted to the school a week later and can be hung as a temporary exhibition at school/club to celebrate their achievements.

Costs

Half day workshop on Zoom will cost €175

Full-day workshop day will cost €300 and this includes travel within 50km

What will your participants get

Development of basic plastic literacy i.e. participants will learn about the component parts of plastics and the harmful effects to the environment of certain types.

Opportunity to work with an artist making headdresses from single use plastic.
Photo-booth which includes editing and post production of photographs with plastic facts printed upon it. Final exhibition of the experience.
Each participant receives a plastic diary chart to record current plastic usage and plans to replace/reduce.

F.A.Q.'s***Are there any extra costs?***

Additional costs will include photographic prints on 350gsm silk paper/laminated hard card priced at €5 each

How many participants can you work with at any given time?

Apart from the introductory day group, size recommended is no larger than 25 participants and this is with a teacher/leader present.

Can you work with a few different classes in the one day?

Yes I can work with the school's timetable and accommodate whatever works best for the greatest learning experience.

Are you Garda vetted?

I am a fully registered member of the teaching council and am Garda vetted

What is your availability?

I have teaching commitments on Wednesday and Thursdays but am available all other days

Are you insured?

I have my own artist and photographer insurance in place

If you, your school or local community group are interested in working with me, through engagement with the arts to help navigate our way out of this current global crisis - please contact me at : annie@anniehollandart.com , ph. (087) 916 3160 .