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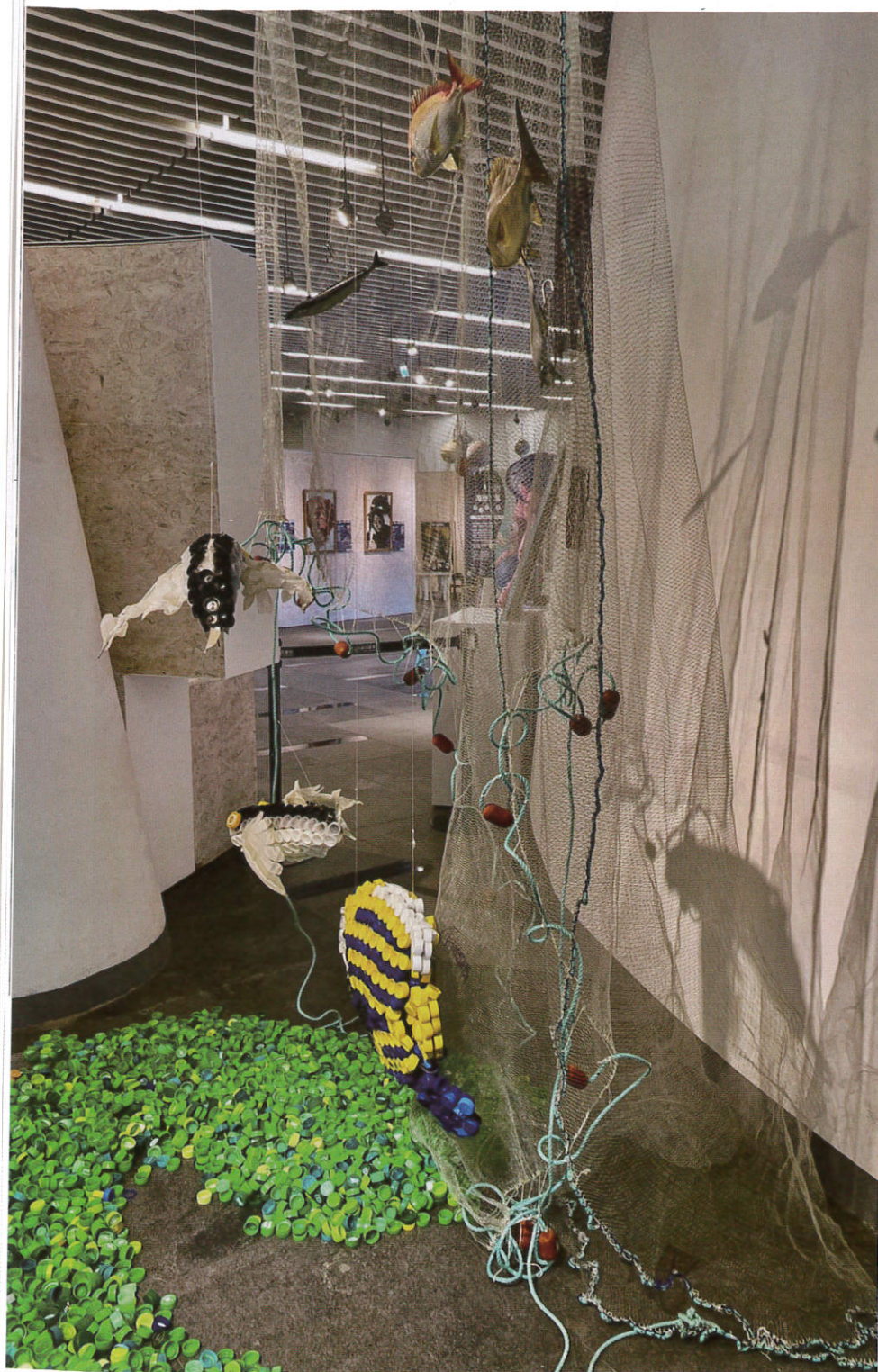
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Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry

A Special Ocean Exhibition

TEXT & IMAGES: SHU-CHING CHENG



Taiwan, an island nation has four main bodies of water that surround it: the East China Sea, South China Sea, Philippine Sea and the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan's economy, culture and the abundant relationship to its marine habitat and life are also influenced by the western Pacific Ocean.

"Keep the ocean clean, preserve its marine environment and natural resources" is the key message of *Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry*, a special exhibition being held at the National Library of Public Information, in Taichung.

Human convenience has allowed for disposable products like PET bottles, plastic bags, plastic wrappings, plastic eating utensils, straws, etc., which have become a big part of our daily lives. They add to a comfortable lifestyle. The rate of disposable consumption items has accumulated to a point that we no longer have a way of handling all the garbage. This is having a major impact on the ocean as well as our planet.

According to recent studies, over 80% of marine waste comes from land. The vast amounts of leakage and illegal dumping of waste that is traveling from land to the ocean can no longer be ignored. Marine waste has become a critical environmental global issue. Our Mother Ocean is suffering and as educators and artists, we hear her cry for help.

Our special exhibition, *Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry* is co-curated by the National Library of Public Information, the Keelung Advisory Committee on Compulsory Education Art and National Museum of Marine Science and Technology (NMMST). Local schools created a site-specific arts project together on the topic of marine waste for this ocean exhibition. They included students from National Keelung Girls'

Senior High School, Taipei Municipal Xin-Yi Junior High School, Keelung Municipal Dingnei Junior High School, Keelung Municipal Jhengbin Elementary School and Mrs. La Benida Hui, an environmental artist from New York.

Students participated in beach clean-up activities held by the National Museum of Marine Science and Technology in Chaojing, Keelung. Their teachers and Mrs. Hui conducted theme-based teaching activities. Collected marine beach debris was then turned into art. Students enthusiasm for these activities appeared in their collages of the Mona Lisa, Marilyn Monroe and underwater scenes of the sea. They also used abandoned suitcases to create stories about the ocean and future food from the sea. They learned the importance of not choosing to use 'one time only' plastic disposable items. Instead, they will now choose to use reusable items.

Mrs. La Benida Hui, a dedicated artist and teacher has been committed



即日起至3月26日 *Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry* 在國立公共資訊圖書館展出，同時1月28日下午2點則由藝術家 Benida 分享海廢創作的歷程，愛海就從認識和參與開始

海，別為我哭泣！

海廢藝術創作展



臺灣四面環海，海洋環境多樣且豐饒，與島上自然生態、人文地理與產業經濟息息相關，「守護這一片潔淨的海洋環境與蘊藏其中的自然資源」應是全體民眾心中的願景。然而，人類為了便利的生活製造出了許多非天然的產物，如寶特瓶、塑膠袋.....等等一次性生活用品，用完即丟的生活形態下，廢棄物幾年來大量且迅速地堆積，卻無從消化，從陸地到海洋的過程也被人們所忽略，因此海洋廢棄物也是世界各國極力關注之重大環境保育議題；海洋為生命之母此時正遭逢海洋廢棄物的迫害，大聲哭泣呼喊著!!

經調查海洋廢棄物八成以上源自陸地，本展特別由國立公共資訊圖書館邀請基隆國教藝術輔導團及國立海洋科技博物館聯合策展，其中基隆女中、信義國中、碇內國中、正濱國小等學校與來自美國紐約的華裔環境藝術家 La Benida Hui（許沁雲小姐）以海廢議題共同策展暨現地集體創作；透過國立海洋科技博物館的淨灘課程及基隆國教藝術輔導團老師的主題教學引導，採體驗式課程模式，親自到基隆潮境淨灘，取得海廢材料後回到學校進行創作教學，學生透過反思後利用廢棄物素材，拼貼出蒙娜麗莎、瑪麗蓮夢露、海底世界等為主題經典名畫，還有以廢棄的行李箱創作的海洋故事及未來的海鮮餐桌。

本展還特別邀請曾是國立海洋科技博物館駐點藝術家 La Benida Hui 參與本次的展出，Benida 長期利用海洋廢棄物創作來關心海洋的環境，透過美學概念將海洋廢棄物重組成藝術品提醒大眾海洋廢棄物的問題日趨嚴重；另外展覽的一隅還有以瓶蓋拼組的海洋生物，展覽中一再的提醒大眾海洋生物因為過漁及環境改變可能消失，而替代這些美麗生物的可能就是你、我使用過後的一次性塑膠製品，本次特展用藝術呈現海洋環境之美與海洋環境問題，讓參加者感受到海洋的美麗與豐富，讓 OCEAN 海別因為我們而哭泣！只要改變生活習慣少用一次性用品，就能為海洋盡一份力。



Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry will be exhibited at the National Library of Public Information in Taichung until March 26, 2023. Mrs. Hui and other art educators will be hosting weekend art workshops and presentations. Please check the following website <https://www.nlpi.edu.tw/English/> for dates and details.



to the creation of environmental art installations, illustrations and the promotion of environmental art education with a focus on ocean and marine awareness for the last decade. Her recent 2021 Artist-in-Residence at the National Museum of Marine Science and Technology art installations continues to draw wide public attention to the environment and the serious ocean pollution crisis.

Another feature of the *Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry* exhibition is the marine animal exhibit made of plastic capsules. These plastic capsules, many of which contain lingering traces of fertilizer, are a popular item with farmers. Covered with a synthetic resin coating, these discarded capsules

have become a threat to the marine ecosystem. The exhibition is to remind people of disappearing marine creatures that ingest ocean debris and through over-exploitation and destruction of their habitat.

Plastic products carry toxins that do not dissolve or disappear when in the ocean. It is through the combination of ocean movement, exposure to the salt and sun that over time breaks these down into tiny particles. They eventually travel up the food chain onto our plate with the seafood we eat, accumulating more and more toxins at every step.

The *Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry* Exhibition uses art to present the beauty and sadness of our marine

environment. We encourage children, parents, neighbors and friends to attend and get a better understanding of how beautiful and filled with rich marine life our ocean is. Then perhaps, you will be deeply moved and will try your best not to let our ocean cry.

.....
Shu-Ching Cheng is a project assistant in National Museum of Marine Science and Technology who led the beach clean-up activities for the student artists and participated the design and display of the "Ocean, I Won't Let You Cry" exhibition.

