

PLUGGED in

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART.

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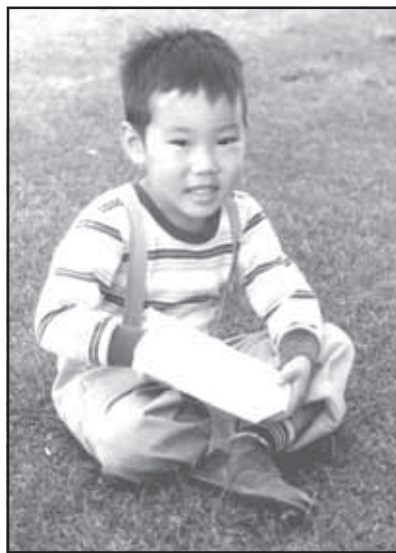
 South Coast Railroad Museum
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This Month's Theme: Recycling

Creative Recyclers: From Debris to Art

By Rita Ferri, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, and Kirsten Friar, Heather Johnson, & Lori Krubsack, Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens

We all know just how important it is to recycle bottles, cans, and newspapers to help preserve our natural resources. You might be surprised to know there are some animals that make a living by recycling resources in some creative ways.



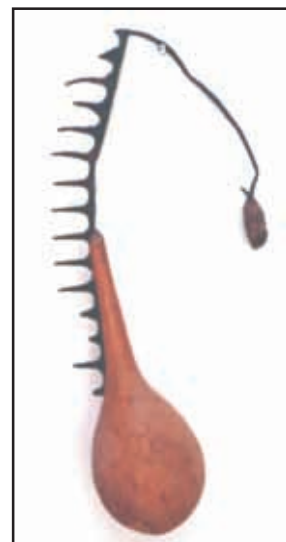
Dug Uyesaka started making recycled art as a child.

Soil has its very own cleaning and recycling crews. Termites, beetles, millipedes, and many other small animals recycle over 90 percent of all leaves, fallen trees, and dead flowers. If you look closely, you can discover special recyclers in your own backyard.

You can also meet recyclers like Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches at the Santa Barbara Zoo. Animals like cockroaches and worms eat dead and decaying stuff that comes out the other end as fertilizer for plants. Without their recycling efforts we would be up to our ears in debris!

Materials we use every day can be recycled to create interesting art objects. Artists who use recycled materials are called *assemblage* artists. As a child, artist Dug Uyesaka loved to collect all kinds of interesting objects and make things out of them. He used foil, knobs, and other "found" objects to create boats, planes, or robots. Now he makes paintings, paper collages, and assemblage art.

Dug says "Look for things that others have thrown away. Take the time to think about how you might recycle it." Experiment and have fun and you may find that you too can be one of the many creative recyclers in the world.



Go creative recyclers!

This untitled piece from 1997 contains a sardine can, silver milagros, loteria (lottery) card, plastic children's toy, wrench, and a sports award plaque.



"Mother and Child" by Dug Uyesaka. This assemblage piece from 1996 is made from a rusty garden rake found at Arroyo Burro Beach and a 20-year old gourd.

Erin Feeney, a student at Santa Barbara High School, made this art project last year when she was in a special art program. Erin told me "it was a mentorship through the Contemporary Arts Forum that my art teacher told me about. It was a really good opportunity." Erin and seven other high school students met with local assemblage artist, Ron Robertson, every Saturday for a few months. He taught them techniques of *assemblage*, which is a way to "recycle" all types of materials that you collect into art projects. This was new to Erin. "I have done art my entire life and this was an experience that was very different from anything I have ever done."



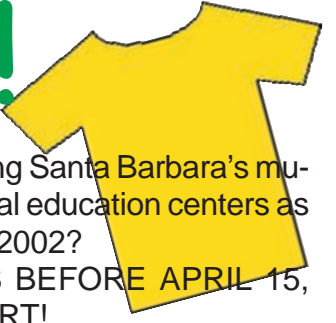
You can make your own assemblage art with interesting things you have found and saved. Just choose things that you like and put them together in a way that looks good to you!

Erin Feeney fashioned this example of underwater-inspired assemblage art.



Erin Feeney fashioned this example of underwater-inspired assemblage art.

Hey Kids!



Have you been having fun visiting Santa Barbara's museums, gardens, and environmental education centers as part of Passport to Santa Barbara 2002?

If you visit 10 INSTITUTIONS BEFORE APRIL 15, 2002, you will earn a FREE T-SHIRT!

Here's how it works:

Step 1. When you visit the 10th museum, be sure to ask the museum staff to **sign, date, and stamp** the first page of your passport to verify that you have completed the program.

Step 2. The museum staff will then ask you to write down your **name, school name, teacher name, and shirt size.**

Step 3. In June, representatives from the Museum Educators' Roundtable will visit your school and bring a shirt for each person that completed Step 1 and Step 2.



TEST YOUR PARENTS!

By Kirsten Friar, Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens

Are your parents "creative recyclers?" Give them this quiz and see how they measure up!

Do they:

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Throw away batteries? | Yes | No |
| 2. Throw away old motor oil? | Yes | No |
| 3. Dump paint down the drain? | Yes | No |
| 4. Throw away spray paint cans? | Yes | No |
| 5. Throw away old thermometers? | Yes | No |
| 6. Ever spill anti-freeze on the ground? | Yes | No |
| 7. Throw away rags with chemicals on them? | Yes | No |

Score your parents! Give one point for each "yes" answer and add up the points. If they scored:

0-2 points: Your parents are "creative recyclers!" They recycle things safely!

3-4 points: Your parents need some work to be "creative recyclers." Make sure they properly dispose all hazardous materials.

5-7 points: Your parents need help! Stay active and teach them what can be recycled.

Everything mentioned above is considered "hazardous waste." Take it to the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center at UCSB. Be a "creative recycler!"

Recycled Art - It's Assemblage

By Cay Sanchez, Art From Scrap

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LET WORMS RECYCLE YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

By Tahara Ezrahti, Community Environmental Council



Worm composting is a fun and easy way to recycle food scraps. Worms eat the scraps and turn them into fertilizer to make your plants healthy.

To set up a worm bin you will need:

1. A plastic or wooden bin with a tight fitting lid. Drill 1/4 inch holes on all four sides of the bin, near the top.
2. Fill your bin half full with **wet** shredded newspaper.
3. Add one gallon of redworms on top of the wet shredded newspaper. You can get redworms from someone who has worm compost, or from garden stores, catalogues, or bait shops. Do not put worms from your yard in the worm bin, because they are probably the wrong kind and will die.
4. Add food scraps on top of the worms. All of your food scraps can go in the worm bin except things that come from animals, like bones, meat, chicken, fish, cheese, and milk.
5. Fill the bin to the top with **dry** shredded newspaper. Put on the lid.
6. Feed your worms about one gallon of food scraps each week. Bury food scraps under

the top layer of newspaper. Add more dry shredded newspaper to the top about once a month.

7. When your worm bin is more than half-full of material that looks like soil, it is compost! Harvest some of the compost and spread it around your garden plants.

For more information on composting, go to your local library or order the Community Environmental Council's (CEC) *Garden Detectives* book that was written for kids. CEC also sells red worms. Call CEC at (805) 963-0583.

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