

Check Point _ Carolyn Cardinet_Can Serrat_Sep-Oct 2016

French-born Carolyn Cardinet is an Australia based experimental artist best known for her large all white installations to communicate and create awareness on societys' single-use plastics consumerism and wastage.

She is passionate about this issue, organises beach clean-up and educates school children with Art & Sustainability workshops where ever she is on the planet.

She holds a Masters of Fine Art from RMIT University Melbourne and a Bachelor of Fine Art from VCA, Melbourne University.

Forest Jewels

My main project Forest Jewels is made with the collected single-used plastic packaged water bottles gleaned over the length of my residency.

Starting this residency I wasn't quite sure what waste I would be able to find in the local streets. Walking within my surroundings as well as during my 3 Barcelona trips, I gleaned the many bottles from the streets. To my surprise water drunk from bottles seemed to be the norm in Catalonian streets and homes.

I collected then cleaned, crushed, flatten and stored these bottles in crates. This is always my art practice process, until enough gleaned materials formulate an idea.

The locality and beautiful gardens of Can Serrat evoked the option to join plasticity and nature together in a possible outdoor installation. The walking path towards Colbatò the adjacent village and Mont Serrat provided me the opportunity to install my work above & along the stream.

One of my surprises was to see how the sunlight refracted once the bottle was crushed.

The abundance of wild bamboo growing locally also was a catalyst in bringing organic materials into my work, gathering the tallest fresh bamboo sticks and removing their leaves. The next 2 weeks were spent cutting 2 square holes with a Stanley knife in the 136 bottles found.

The following step was to thread the bottle small and large. I also had a small numbers of blue bottles that I decided to use as the base for a totem like column. Another 6 spires were produced which were installed on each side of the stream 2 on the left of the grate bridge wedge in between the rock formation forming an eye shape. The other 4 were over the down stream attached to branches in between the trees growing on the stream banks. This installation Forest Jewels was born.

Since Tone mentioned that she removed some fallen bottles and another artist in residence used them for another project I like the idea that this material, is still in existence as a resource for another artist.

RED

Seeing resources in the most common objects, red strong plastic thread from large onion bags was recycled to make a sculpture hanging in the cemented walkway. For the frame, a six-pack beer can rings, which I have used now again and again since discovering the shape of rings being a great component to crochet plastic thread onto. This year I have up-cycled another onion bag onto a dress.

Bottle Tree

The other large-scale installation I came up with was making a bottle tree. For these I used 4-6litre plastic drum containers, which I gathered during my stay. 8 of these plastic drums were squashed from the top and hang in the tree. I can only assume that they are still hanging on this tall tree up on the hill on the same path towards the stream.

Printing Studios

I loved the facilities at Can Serrat as I knew there was a printing press I wanted to try to embossed squashed found plastics onto paper. I had brought some lovely thick and circular paper to experiment with these materials together. I was very pleased with the results of this trial period and in fact I used the same idea to teach young adults last year to create a cityscape with found plastics embossed onto long and narrow strips of paper with great results.

Studio

For my studio I utilised the protected walkway of the square courtyard and assembled a few old tables as a project spaces for the development of my different works. The beauty of this space was that I was alone with lots of sunlight and warmth working outside was amazingly refreshing as I was at one with nature looking through openings and the chooks.

Well Being

During my residency after I decided to clean the gardens and display furniture in a more visual pleasing manner as a nesting period upon my arrival. I organised a yoga group every morning at 8.30 this gave us all a beautiful routine, which finished with the sun touching our faces as a great start to our days in our individual studios.

Networking

The gathering of international artists in one spot was just better than I could have dreamed of. In fact this group was so awesome that this year I had the chance to catch 7 of them across the globe.

One in Washington Tim McLoraine who I did a collaborative residency with in May and in June I met Swedish Pernilla Alm in Finland we spend a night and the next day visiting at museums and I stayed with Ingebord Helgeland who kindly introduced me to Norway and had the pleasure to see Line Berget and Stig Marlon Weston for a dinner, and another dinner with Odrrum and Tone Fjereide (one of the original owners of Can Serrat), Inge and I caught up with Tone again for a museum visit while there.