

# BEAUTY

## PLASTIC FANTASTIC? BY CECE WOODS

AN ART EXHIBITION OF PLASTIC TRASH AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS SHOWS A DANGEROUS LEVEL OF HUMAN CONSUMPTION LEADING TO A SOBERING REALITY FOR OUR OCEANS AND WILDLIFE.

In August, the Honolulu Museum, Jack Johnson's Kokua Hawaii Foundation and Hawaiian Electric brought artist Makai'i Tubs back to his native Hawai'i to work on a profound plastic art project for the IUCN World Conservation Congress as an extension of the "Plastic Fantastic?" which is on exhibition at the museum through October 2nd.

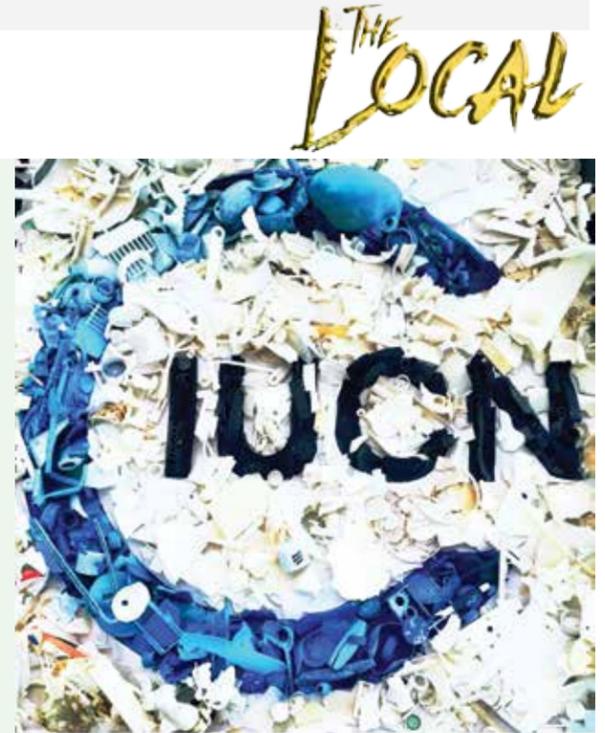
Tubs wrote this on his instagram @thecommoner recently about his experience curating the project:

"In the last room of the exhibit, there is a statistic on the wall stating the average American throws away around 185 pounds of plastic each year which equates to 1 ounce every 3 hours. Visitors are asked to weigh out 1 ounce of plastic, string it with wire and hang it on the walls so they can see, feel and smell it. Tubs was brought in to work with the hundreds of 1-ounce pieces that have been made since February along with about 1,000 pounds of plastic, fishing nets and slippers collected on the shores of our islands by Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i. Thinking about the 185 pounds, I realized it was as if the average American threw away an average American each year, so I knew I wanted to work a human form into the final image. After a few iterations, I decided on a floor installation of the collected debris to be placed at the Hawaii Convention Center for the IUCN Congress.

From the ground floor, you can see the rubbish up close, picking out collections of plastic lighters, bottles, crates, caps and fragments. When you take the nearby escalator to the 2nd floor parking garage level and look down, this is what you see. I chose this image because I felt it represented how Hawai'i is often portrayed to outsiders, a beautiful woman in the pristine waters of our islands swimming with our endangered green sea turtles. But the materials that make up the work spotlight the reality of this idealized paradise. As people get some distance from the piece, I want them to see the bigger picture, the larger impact of their small plastic remains. It leaves our hands and a lot of it makes its way back into the environment, into the marine life and into us. Plastic affects us all and you can help by refusing single-use items like shopping bags, utensils and straws."



*"THE AVERAGE AMERICAN THROWS AWAY AROUND 185 POUNDS OF PLASTIC EACH YEAR WHICH EQUATES TO 1 OUNCE EVERY 3 HOURS." - MAKAI'I TUBS*



## MAKE PEACE WITH NATURE

### A HUMAN AERIAL ART INSTALLMENT TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Blue Water Entertainment, in partnership with the Captain Planet Foundation, Earth Day Texas, TSE Foundation and Spectral Q will celebrated the International Day of Peace with a Human Aerial Art Installation on the Great Hill in Central Park, NY on Wednesday, September 21st in New York City.

Activists, students, indigenous tribes, influencers and well-known personalities were on hand to send a global visual message that World Peace is attainable and that sustainability is integral to the effort to solve the climate crisis and bring balance to the planet.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on the 21st of September. The UN General Assembly has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The Day's theme for 2016 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace."

The event is the brainchild of award-winning filmmaker Greg Reitman, whose new film, Rooted In Peace, challenges viewers to examine their values and question how they want future generations to live. With Climate Action Week and the ratification of COP 21 at the UN occurring at the same time, Reitman asks "Why are we ignoring what's so present in front of us? What is it about our human nature that makes us extract? The earth is not a never-ending resource and needs to be replenished. And the trees are the source of life." Greg founded the One Tree Initiative, whose mission is to inspire, engage and support people into taking personal responsibility for the natural environment. The One Tree Initiative has pledged to plant 50 million trees over the next 5 years, which aligns with Pope Francis' call for one billion people to plant trees!

Trammell S. Crow, founder of Earth Day Texas, the largest Earth Day celebration in the United States and the world's largest annual forum for sharing the latest initiatives, discoveries, research, innovations, policies and corporate practices that are reshaping our world says that "Trees are the largest living things in our daily lives. We need to remember, every day, how important they are to sustaining us and how important it is for us to protect them."

Joining Earth Day Texas in supporting the 'Make Peace with Nature' aerial art installment is the Captain Planet Foundation, which was founded to give the next generation of environmental stewards an active understanding and love for the natural world in which they live. Laura Turner Seydel, Chairperson of the Captain Planet Foundation states that "Trees are the lifeblood of humanity. They cool our cities, provide the oxygen we breathe, pull carbon out of the atmosphere and make life possible for countless numbers of wondrous creatures. They also feed the human spirit with their grounded grace and beauty. And provide a safe place for our children to dream."

The event kicks off at 12:00pm with an Indigenous Ceremony, led by a local New York State tribe followed by hundreds of participants from all over New York City and the world joining together to create the message 'Make Peace With Nature' on the Great Hill. The event concludes with closing words from Greg Reitman.

#### About Human Aerial Art:

Human Aerial Art is a unique mix of human installation and aerial photography and political activism that brings together communities to create large-scale messages for the common good. Focusing on themes of health, human rights, social justice, ecological balance, democracy and freedom, the work strives to liberate the spirit and inspire unity and creative activation through participation.

#### About One Tree Initiative:

The One Tree Initiative informs and inspires people to take responsibility for preserving the environment. Over the next 5 years, the One Tree Initiative pledges to plant 50 million trees. Donate: Text #27722 to give to the One Tree Initiative

#### About Earth Day Texas:

Earth Day Texas (EDTx) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the world's largest eco-celebration. April 21-23, 2017, visit Fair Park in Dallas to experience Earth Day like you've never seen it before. The three-day exhibition brings together communities, educators, businesses, families, government, music, influential public figures and more for a fun and learning-filled Earth Day weekend.

At Earth Day Texas, we believe Earth Day should be every day. Through several initiatives, we keep the conversation moving year-round. During our Earth Day Monthly events – or EDMos – learn sustainable practices and enjoy panel discussions at popular venues and watering holes in Dallas. Bring education and environmental hot topics to the big screen at our EDTx+TEDx-SMU Film Series. Our latest addition, Earth Day Texas Expeditions, will take you on fascinating excursions into North Texas habitats, led by passionate and knowledgeable experts.

