

Today, when people look at contemporary art they usually do not think where the artist gathered the materials to create their art. Surprisingly some artists create art from materials they find at landfills or garbage sites. Materials such as cassette tapes, newspapers, old circuit boards, etc. are often used by artists. The cost of material for these pieces of art may be minimal, but their meaning is powerful (Schiller, 2014).

Leo Sewell is an artist who grew up in Annapolis, Maryland, and as a child he would often go for hikes to the U.S Navy dump to look for garbage (Conway, 1997). Sewell began to create art in his father's wood shop, building objects out of garbage (Conway, 1997). He used objects such as police badges, barometers, belt buckles, dog toys, etc.

Sewell decides what he wants his sculpture to look like and then finds garbage to build it. He creates a skeleton of the object and then adds soft materials to the frame until he reaches the surface. Leo calls this stage, adding the muscle. After he completes the muscle stage, he adds garbage to the outside of the sculpture. An example of one of his works of art is *Teddy Bear*. This work was made from garbage and is a sculpture of a teddy bear sitting with its arms wide open.

Kyle Bean was born in Exeter, England and as a child he enjoyed creating models and drawings (Moore, 2012). He was influenced by Theo Jansen, M.C. Escher, Fritz Kahn and Cornelia Parker (Butler I, 2012) and was inspired by science and technology. Despite the fact that he uses a large variety of materials, he prefers to use paper because it is easily accessible and comes in many different colours and texture.

The process in which Kyle Bean goes through in order to create a sculpture is that he begins by reading an editorial brief and simplifying it until all that remains of the brief is just the visual concept (Butler I, 2012). He then decides what he should create and

what materials to use. He also sources the materials needed for the project, and then creates the sculpture (Butler I, 2012). One example of his art is "What came first?" This sculpture is a chicken which is made out of eggshells. It is an interesting use of discarded eggshells to make people think about what came first; the chicken or the egg.

Steven Rodrig was born in Havana, Cuba in 1963 and worked in a circuit board factory (One DS, 2013). Ever since he was a child, he was interested in creating art from unique materials. He uses circuit boards for the majority of his creations (One DS, 2013) and gets his inspiration from everyday life. An example of one of his inspirations is Steven was making his son breakfast and broke an egg. The egg white and yolk started to ooze out, and he was struck with the relationship between manmade and organic DNA. In other words, Steven Rodrig believed the egg had data (Clark, 2011). This incident gave him the inspiration to create one of his masterpieces which is called *Attempt at Transferring Data into the Organic World V.9*. This sculpture is made out of circuit boards and egg shells. When the egg shells are cut open, the manmade mechanisms are trying to connect with the egg (Clark, 2011). For Steven Rodrig the most challenging part of creating his works of art is cutting the circuit boards due to the fact that some of the circuit boards are soft and some are rough and stiff. Some of his artwork has been presented at the Rouge Space in New York (One DS, 2013). The message Steven tries to send to the public using his art work is that beautiful art can come from discarded items and we should use them. With some imagination and determination, a piece of art can live in your home and not in our landfills (Rodrig, 2013).

Using garbage to create art is important since it shows us that even items we believe have no use can be beneficial to artists. This benefits the environment as much

as the artist since it is cost effective and sends a message to society to reuse and recycle. When artists use garbage, it reduces the amount in landfills and garbage sites allowing us to live in a greener and cleaner planet.

These artists have inspired me to not limit myself to traditional art, but rather explore various other interesting and creative ways to express myself. Items I could use from garbage, or in a junk yard could become my canvas and my tools to create new forms of art. Art that is vivid, versatile and stimulating. As a student in my school, I can suggest using garbage and recycled items to the art teacher to create lesson plans. In the past students have made jewelry from newspaper, clocks from discarded soccer balls and basketballs, or purses from plastic bags. We can create displays in our school to show other students that the possibilities to create art from recycled materials is endless. This is how I can help effect change in my school.

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