



# Jar in Action

## A Community Art Collection





## Jar in Action – Call for Jars

Jars submitted as part of our Call for Jars

### **001** – Joan Smith – Paradise Lost

*plastic detritus found on East Lothian beaches, plastic toy fish, fishing wire*

The world's oceans are polluted with discarded plastic, remnants of our throw-away society. In 'Paradise Lost' tropical fish (symbolising an ocean paradise) swim amongst this plastic detritus. The ecology of the ocean appears to have shifted so that artificial materials dominate - even the fish have turned to plastic. In order to return our oceans to a sustainable, balanced, state where nature can thrive, we need to stop generating and being careless with so much unnecessary plastic waste.

### **002** - Madeleine Shepherd - Hyperbolic Growths

### **003** – Penelope Kay – Acid Tide

*Sand, shells, vinegar, litmus paper*

As the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, more is absorbed by the oceans. Sea water reacts with carbon dioxide to produce carbonic acid and the increase in acidity causes damage to organisms living in the sea, slowing growth, thinning shells and affecting larval development.

### **004** – Richard Buxton – Insecticide

### **005** - Richard Ribchester - Electrolysis in a Jar

### **006** – Tom Pratt – Reliquary

*Wood (oak), gold, glass*

This work brings together two relics from the past, an ancient wood fragment (now gilded) from a demolished medieval cow barn in Tarn, and a glass shard unexpectedly found in my garden in Edinburgh. Although now united in this small glass jar they were once separated by a long plane journey raising questions about the impact of its creation on sustainable living.

### **007** – Robin Hill – Frayed for the Future

### **008** – Sarah Dale – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



**009** – Tom Pratt – Carboniferous

*Clay, metal, wood, glass.*

Carbon that was fossilised over hundreds of millions of years during the carboniferous is being sprung back in the latter stages of our iron age. This is one experiment investigating the interaction between earth and air.

**010** – Tom Pratt – Comms

*Paper, pencil, gold*

Comms is a short form of communications. It is said the tower of Babel was going well until their comms were disrupted. Good comms are vital to develop and support sustainable ways, a different sort of big tower, and also how sustainable are our comms?

**011** – Tom Pratt – Dieback

*Wood, metal, Roslin Glen clay, moss*

Sustainability touches our lives in many ways. This one started out being about ash dieback and that got me thinking on health more generally and the sustainability of our NHS and social care. Let's hope it gets better, hence the optimistic gold.

**012** – David Price - You need it and its coming for you soon if you don't change your ways

**013** Penelope Kay - Ceci n'est pas un Oak Tree

*Oak sawdust*

Oak trees may live for 1,000 years, although 600 years is more typical - an oak tree is classed as ancient once it reaches 400 years old. In the UK, 326 species are completely dependent on oak trees, including 257 species of invertebrates'. (WWF, Top 5 facts about UK woodlands) Once it is reduced to sawdust, it is no longer an oak tree. With thanks to Michael Craig-Martin for his inspirational concept of 'An Oak Tree' (1973) and to Rene Magritte for showing us 'The Treachery of Images' (1929)

**014** - Pauline Gardner - The Persistence of Memory

*Ash, coal dust*

A ban on burning house coal came in for England in May 2023 (not yet in Scotland) but the dreamlike memory of the warmth and flicker of a 'real' fire is difficult to shake off. All that remains of our dreams when we wake is ash and carbon dioxide. With thanks to Salvador Dali for the bending of time in our dreams in his 'Persistence of Memory', 1931



**015** - Janet Philp – Fleece Kit

**016** – Tom Pratt - Honey Trap

*wood, metal, wax, glass, dirt*

This one plays with ideas around being sucked in by a false sense of security and may contain iconography. Should I buy this for a promise to plant a tree? I'm really not sure.

**017** – Zoe McGonigle – Make Your Own

*Twigs, textile*

**018** - Cassie Hopton – Disposable Science

*Soil, sea shell, plastic pipette tips, tube and syringe filled with pH indicator fluid.*

The jar features common items used in a laboratory. These are single-use disposable plastics such as pipette tips, tubes and syringes. Scientific laboratories are one of the major contributors to plastic waste - it is estimated laboratory plastic waste exceeds 5.5 million tonnes per year worldwide. Some laboratories are attempting to recycle and reuse single-use plastics through washing and decontamination steps. However, eventually the plastics degrade and break. There is currently no industry standard solution to this problem. The sustainability issues and possible solutions need to be addressed by official bodies that govern scientific conduct.

**019** – Jan Green – Wrapped Up Tight

*Sheep fleece, paper*

The sheep shed their fleece naturally, which can be spun into thread, knitted or woven to make garments. Also it can be dyed using plant material which can make various shades example Onion skins yellow, woad blue, tree bark greens.

**020** – Jenny Bruce - Microcosm of Flax

*flax seeds, harvested flax, heckled and scutched flax, linen fragments (fine and coarse) and spun linen thread on a spool.*

Flax: A plant with remarkable history from Neolithic to present. Captured within this jar is the growth cycle from seed to production of linen fabric. Flax fibre being transformed and woven into linen after processes of heckling and scutching and spinning garments of damask, household linen, coarse boat sail, and artist's canvas are included, plus a spool of linen thread, thus portraying the developmental stages of this ancient Scottish yet modern sustainable fibre. Flax could play an important and significant part in the economic and environmental impact in agriculture today and



provide sustainable solutions for the textile industry vs the plastic pollution crisis and microplastics in the environment.

**021** - Mihaela Crisan – Trees for Life

*Fake and real trees, fake grass, Lego, paper and glue*

Did you ever plant a tree?

I did! Together with the Friends of Meadows Bruntsfield Links (FoMBL) volunteer group, we planted and cared for more than 100 trees in 2023 with 50 being donated by the University of Edinburgh, Sport and Exercise, Active Live Program (Amanda Marshall)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/537008269744869/permalink/6526827907429512/> and  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10229266963672320&set=pcb.6653617064750595>

So, if you did not plant a tree yet, do it now! It's never late! Come and plant! Everyone can do it! Trees are for life, for you and for many generations to come, but also for plants, birds, and animals. And they can boost our physical and mental health in so many ways!

**051** – Zoe McGonigle – Remembering

*photograph, seashells*

Keeping nature maintained for the future

**052** - Janette Dinse-Harrower - Soy lent Green

*Seaweed (pressed and toasted)*

More and more people are opting for composing burials, thus making them food for the planet.

**053** – Penelope Kay – Climate Poker

*Wooden dice, paper emoji stickers*

In a world of unsustainable consumption the future is chancy. Will we, and our children, be lucky in this game?

**065** - Shayna Seenayah & Lusi Zhao - Tale as Old as Time

*Rose, wasp, superglue, staples, pin, white & brown sugar, blue tac, tissue*

Our jar represents sustainability as everything involved in this artwork, including the jar, were found within the office. The rose, given to us on Valentine's day, was dried to last forever, and the wasp, although dead, kept the ecosystem balanced and sustainable while it was alive. <3



**066** - Ruth Pollitt - Cut Your Coat According To Your Cloth

*cotton, silk, linen, wool (metal & glass jar)*

This 16th Century statement advises us to live within our means and use our resources sensibly. When did you last put a pair of socks in your landfill bin? "Oh it doesn't matter its just an old pair of socks." It matters when millions do that every day. For centuries clothing was gifted in wills, traded, re-sold, re-used and re-made. Today we can buy responsibly, recycle (even those socks!) or re-use, re-make. It's not new but it sounds revolutionary!

**068** – Zoe & Alice McGonigle – The Goodbye Garden

*3d printed teeth, dried flowers.*

**069** – Alice McGonigle – Growing Garden

*Tissue pape, tape, markers*

**070** – Owen McGonigle – Outerspace Nothing

*Paper, markers*

**071** – Jenny Bruce – WILDLIFE MUTATION

*Plastic netting, microchips, wire, cabling, coal, stones and small wooden bird*

Sustainable and better conservation management is crucial with the fragility of wildlife ecosystems in our environment. Continual disposal of non-recyclable metal components, computer chips, cabling and carcinogenic plastics on land and marine habitats places wildlife in a precarious position. The absorption of toxic elements into animal and bird bloodstreams is hazardous. Will mutation of species occur? Will birds build nests of plastic and metal in order to survive this desecrated metal and plastic polluted world we have created? Or shall we see the demise of wildlife as we know it?

**072** – Jen Wu – Harmony

*Cord, bark, stone, button, shell, dead leaves*

I want to create a sustainable ecosystem in the jar to mimic the real nature through trash and natura fading things.

**073** – Penelope Kay - Excessive Redundancy

*Battery, wire, plastic, paper, glue, ink*

Each of the hundreds of miniature Christmas trees are equipped with a switch to light up the tiny decorations. To my astonishment the whole switch mechanism was redundant, made for a sales





demo, used for a few seconds and meant to be disconnected and discarded once the tree was bought. At home the lights worked from a separate battery & switch.

**074 – Tom Pratt – Mixed Meanings**

*coal, gold-paper, resin*

to, encourage (exx. as in SUPPORT; sustaining food, that keeps up the strength); endure without giving way, stand, bear up against, (sustained the shock of the enemy's cavalry; with no 8. comparison with); undergo, experience, suffer, (s. a defeat, severe contusion, loss, &c); (of court or other authority) allow validity of, give decision in favour of, uphold, (s. the objection, the applicant in his claim, &c.) bear out, tend to sub-ststantiate or corroborate, confirm (state-ment, charge, theory, &c.); keep up or represent (part, character) adequately: keep (sound, effort, &c.) going continuously (a sustained note, effort). Hence sustainable

**075 - Paul Skehel – The colour of guacamole**

*glass, water and avocado seed*

The seed is germinating, trying to grow and reproduce. Avocados are the highest calory fruit. But they have high water and soil demands, and their international distribution imposes a large carbon footprint. But they taste lovely! And the farmers that grow them can be well rewarded. We can be as greedy as the jar will allow.

**094 – Norah Spears – Living in a Scoby Hotel**

*Scoby (Symbiotic complex of bacteria & yeast) and its liquid*

Scobys are used to make kombucha (fermented tea). Scobys do live in jars, so this is its batural habitat. With feeds from time to time (usually sugared tea), they will live on happily definitely sustainable. They look odd, and this one will grow and change over the course of the exhibition. I enjoy watching that process - I hope that others do too.

**095 - Lynn Cowan - Bee Diverse**

*dried plants/seeds*

There are so many possible avenues towards sustainability, many requiring human action or reduction. But, without our pollinators, and plants that produce seeds, sustainability seems an unreachable goal. So, this work focuses on bees, and a multitude of seeds, and the abundance of the natural world.



**096** – Marion Kennedy – Mycelium

*clay, leaves, paper, Wundaweb*

Working with nature is key to sustaining the earth's ecological balance.

My jar tries to capture elements of the natural world and the promise they offer us of creating ways to live alongside nature rather than destroy it. The blue paper cut outs represent the sea and its ability to create clean energy. The clay base represents earth. The clay is left unfired and susceptible to breaking to represent the earth's fragility if we are unable to create a sustainable way of living. The leaves represent the trees from which they fell and the role plants play in climate regulation. The Wundaweb represents mycelium, the network of fungal threads which enrich the soil, optimise growth and can act as potent bioremediation agents to break down industrial waste and toxins. Jar re-used three times.

## **Discover! Workshops**

During the mid-term and Spring Breaks, Fusion partnered with the Discover! Programme to bring Jars in Action to children and their families at Gracemount Primary School and Castlebrae Community Campus.

After discussing the meaning of sustainability with the participants, everyone was invited to dive into the supplied materials to make a jar related to what sustainability means to them.

**022** – Claire B - The Twist & Turn of Life

*rope and nuts and bolts*

Everyone has twists and turns in life and have a few loose straws no one is perfect there is beauty in imperfection.

**023** – Hena – Fish Jar

*Jar, paper, rocks*

You can put fishes in it to make them safe from the ocean.

**024** - Hanin – Charlie

*Cables, screws, beads, woods*





**025** – Amira – Sea

*Cardboard, paper, blue straw, tape, green jokey*

**026** – Christopher – Wired

*Straws, wire, salt dough, pipe cleaners*

**027** – Becky – A Few Screws Loose

*Salt dough, pebbles, screws, wire, pens*

Help to relax the brain by using art.

**028** – Aliya – Amazing Jar Sea

*pop-pom, tape, beads, dough, pop paper, cardboard, mechanical things*

**029** - Jordan Shepherd – Fisher in Coral Reef

*Wires, paper, shells, stones*

Man catching fish in coral reef

**030** – Raheem – Untitled

*Cardboard, Paper, crystals*

**031** – Kani – Sparkle

*Straw, glue, pipe cleaners*

It is a kind jar. It is happy. He smiles at me.

**032** - Deserted Desert – Ghena

*Salt dough, tape, string, rope, pipe cleaner*

Don't know

**033** – Karim – Bug Jar

*Glue, glass, dough*

Two happy bugs that are safe

**034** – Skyla – Snake

*Wire, screws, salt dough*

It's very beautiful.



**035** - Cealan RJ - Life Half Empty Time is Always on My Side

*watch, straws, band, pipe cleaner*

time is precious and water is life

**036** - Cealan RJ – Poo Crazy Life

*Clay, nut, bolts, straws*

Shaking my world up and down life is full of crazy.

**037** - Aaron Shepherd – Lazer Panel House

*wood, pipes, stones, straw*

Lazer panel house gets sun light to work

**038** – Mohammed – The Big Sea

*creature, paper, computer chips, straw, cable*

**039** – Quinn – Snoyvieeb

*Salt dough, straw, beads*

A lamp post in the snow

**040** – Kamiar – Ice Cream Jar

Kamiar tried to make an ice cream jar :) He tried to mix some materials together,

**041** – Kenan - Sote, Spotty

*Bits and bobs, wires, screws, beads, chips*

**042** – Louie – Bitty Bobbie Jar

*Organics & wires*

**043** - Rachel Bowes – Industrial Christmas

*Screws, straws, micro chips, pipe cleaners*

I think we should reuse and not buy so many new unsustainable Christmas gifts/decorations.

**044** – Unknown – Untitled



**045** – Bodhi – Chaos in a Jar

*Straws, microchips*

Toddler Fills Jar

**046** – Kaya - Crystle, balls, and some materials mixed up

So Kaya tried to make some different materials and mixed together :)

**047** – Violet – Bob. It's Bitsy

*Screws, micro chips, wire, dough*

It is about connections. The wires to the bits and bobs. :)

**048** – Alex – Jar of Electricity

*Wires, bits and bobs*

**049** – Jenny – Calm Jar

*Corkscrew, Fabric sticks x 3, wires, gem stones*

I was collecting calming materials sea shell and gem stones. Also collecting favourite objects colour wires and fabric sticks also cork screw.

**050** - Owen Johnston - Fish Tank Machine Lazer

*Gems, straws, pipe cleaners, screws, cardboard, wire*

Using recycled items

**076** - Nana Hauwa - water stones

*stones, crystal stones, coal, straw*

my jar artwork represent water flowing on stones of different types.

**077** - Sham Kamakli - Amasing Beach

Everyone is happy because the Beach is clean... for once.



**078** – Anna – The Colours of Nature

*straws, plastic, pipe cleaners, netting*

Hues of the sea with the gold of the sun but all made out of recycled materials - a vision of harmony between humanity and the natural world.

**079** - Eshaal Akbar – Tangled up

*Plastic, wire, glass pebbles and sponge*

My jar represents life under water, when we litter it effects life under water.

**080** – Sham - What my Mum Wants

*sponge, plastic bag, ribbon, wooly ribbon, nature, straws*

She wants to clean. She wants soft and wooly cloths. She wants me sister to put out the garbage.

**081** - Lucy Cormack – Seascape

*glass beads (big & small), yellow, purple and blue pipe cleaners, blue paper straw, blue & white ribbon, pink & blue wire, salt dough, magazine cutting*

my seascape depicts how the ocean SHOULD look and how it should be kept free of litter and pollution for ecosystems and creatures to thrive not just survive.

**082** – Baryal – Danger

*straw, salt dough, sponge, dried plants, string*

try to save the birds from a snake

**083** - Dom Cairns-Gibson – Fast Fashion

*Acrylic Yarn*

We live in an era of fast fashion. Clothes are made by machines or under paid workers, out of plastic and unnatural material. But the average person has no choice but to buy them because good quality clothes are too expensive.

**084** Raggan Weatherby – dirty ocean

*little glass bubbles, wool, rocks, tiny beads, dough*

**085** – Meran – Coralreef

*berrie, salt, beads*



I want the ocean to be clean.

**086** - Elliot Cormack – Underwater Ocean

*glass beads, wire, wool, cables, salt dough, paper plate*

about the ocean and fish

**087** (two jars) – Khilo Ugundare - Ocean

*wires, balls, rock, stones, straw*

**088** – Sarah – Ocean

There is trash in the water and there shouldn't be!

**089** - Callie Ogundare – Jar of Stones

**090** – Ismail – Raffle

*crystal stones*

**091** - Amina Sanusi – A rainbow flame

*coloured straw, dried leaves & fruit, coal incense candle*

My jar artwork is inspired by the beautiful scent of fruits and flowers emanating from burning smokey scented tree barks from different trees.

**092** – Shihab – Michael

*staws, tissue, little gems, berry, ribbon*

**093** – Maggie – Space

*Salt dough, rocks, plastic*

It's space – it's outside of plants. It's all of the rockets and satellites which go into space – some parts are burnt up and some just stay there.



## Eco Workshop

During the spring term, Fusion partnered with Castlebrae Community Campus to bring Jars in Action to the pupils and teachers of the Eco Group over two workshop sessions.

After discussing what sustainability and art meant to them everyone chose from a selection of materials ranging from e-waste to unused dressings and headed out into the workshop to break and build.

**054** - Lewis Benzelin - Sustainable City

*wood, sawdust, circuit board, glue.*

A city that's environmental friendly.

**055** – Daniel West - The Confusion of the Current Climate

*Wires and Water*

The wires are all muddled up and no one really knows what is going on, just like the climate crisis. And the dirty water is because of all the polluted lakes and rivers.

**056** – Stefan - Desert Island Survival

*Sawdust, PVA, circuit board*

What would you take to a desert island?

**057** – George – Recycal

*Mouse*

What do you do if tryna recycal thing you don't need

**058** - Matias Raduta – Green Pesto

It shows how almost everything can be reused.

**059** – Nathan Fisher - WILL YOU CONTROL THE FUTURE?

*Controller and glue*

It uses every last part of a controller to show how much goes into the little things and to show that you control what comes next.



**060** – Priyanshu - Man its long time you I am a man or am I

*Bandage and broken stuff*

**061** – Ollie T- Flooded Wifi

*Wifi box*

**062** – Alex – The Sting of Pollution

*bubble wrap, wire, plastic wrap*

Sea life eats plastic extremely often, it's mistaken with jellyfish and smaller creatures.

**063** – Mr Irvine – High in Fibre

*Wood shavings, saw dust, food colouring*

"Eco"-influencers and "health" influencers often overlap on social media, and the contrast in their messaging is increasingly stark. Considering how sustainable ingredients can support health may be a forward step in bringing these worlds together.

**064** - Yusuf - The Abomination

*Wires, chips, plastic bits from routers.*

For people to make a change and not litter

**067** – Maurice – End of the Future