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A World Free of Plastic Imagined

What will it take?

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A World Free of Plastic Imagined exhibition aims to call attention to and expand our understanding of the issue of plastic pollution through the lens of Bay Area artists and inspire each of us to consider how we can all engage on this increasingly critical issue to secure the wellbeing of our planet.

In a contemporary culture of consumption, the negative consequences of the excessive use of plastic are real and harmful to the environment and our health. If the current pattern is to continue, it would have damaging effects on our ecosystems and threaten the stability of the ocean life. Imagine if we could reverse and change this pattern.

Imagine if we could eliminate plastic dumps into the ocean from the fishing industry estimated at 150,000 tons each year. Imagine if we could reverse the predictions that by 2050 plastic volume in our oceans will outweigh the amount of fish by nearly three times. Imagine that we could adopt alternatives to the consumption of water that generates one million plastic bottles each minute around the world. Imagine if we could eviscerate nearly every piece of plastic ever made for it still exists today! How about expanding on our habits of recycling from 9 percent to 100?

The exhibition brings together a group of artists to send a strong message about the damaging impact of plastic pollution our planet through photography, mixed media work, assemblage, installation, and painting. Some works in the exhibition approach the issue creatively by documenting, repurposing, reusing plastic waste. A number of works bring together arts and science to communicate critical data about plastic pollution, shine light on the innovations and alternative solutions aimed to mitigate the crisis, and help inspire change. The result is an impactful visual narrative that aims to educate, raise awareness, and offer a provocative look at the impact we each have on our world.

While there is no one single answer to the issue of plastic waste and no silver bullet has emerged at this moment, there are some concrete steps we can take to take matters into our hands, from starting to cut down on the circulation of plastics and to advocating for policies and regulations. The works in the exhibitions are a testament to the negative impact of our consumptive practices on our natural environments and an ongoing damage we subject our planet to, and a reminder that small individual changes can bring about major and necessary change.

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