

Knowing and Loving
the other neighbors *(as thyself)*:
**Students' creative efforts towards
Sustainability**



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Introduction

- Sustainability has become an increasingly important topic in our world today.
- Responsible use and management of resources, both natural and human-made, in ways that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, continue to be at the center of political, economic and social discourses.

- **Evidence of seeming human disconnection from nature** abound in many Ghanaian communities through **numerous activities** that lead to various forms of environmental degradation and depletion.
- Rise in careless exploitation of natural resources, indiscriminate disposal of wastes, over-consumption, etc.
- Environmental protection policies by governments and other concerned groups do not adequately address the role of *the individual* in the environmental protection agenda.

- Discussing our neighborhood, without paying attention to *other* important elements such as trees, rivers, the soil, the air, etc.
- Artists' interests in a campaign against waste mismanagement worthy of notice.
- Growing recognition of the role that the arts can play in promoting sustainability and addressing environmental challenges.



ART as a tool for **SUSTAINABILITY**

Art as a tool for Sustainability

- The arts as a means of human expression encompass a wide range of disciplines that have the power to inspire, educate, and create change.
- Arts and sustainability are actually closely intertwined.
- Art raises awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable behaviours.
- Artists can use their work to address topics such as climate change, pollution, and deforestation, and to encourage people to act to protect the important life-given elements on the planet.

- Contemporary art has joined the debate through the recycled art making.
- Whether contemporary art productions are politically motivated, academically motivated, or are simply the offshoots of **Marcel Duchamp's** radical and iconoclastic ideas, they always result in inspirational and original pieces.
- **With recycled materials as their media, contemporary artists encourage their viewers to question the sustainability and ecological impact of the artistic process.**

- Often favoring biodegradable media, their works are both beautiful and ephemeral (Artsper, 2023).
- Typical examples are seen in the works of the likes of El Anatsui, Ibrahim Mahama, Subodh Gupta, Derek Gores, Tim Noble, Sue Webster, Guerra de la Paz, Nick Gentry, Wim Delvoye, Khalil Chishtee, Subodh Gupta, Ptolemy Elrington and many others around the globe.



El Anatsui, *Yaw Berko* (Wall hanging);
Materials: *Aluminum (liquor bottle caps) and copper wire*



Ibrahim Mahama, *Ziza Sullo*
Material: *Scrap metal tarpaulin and metal tags on charcoal sacks*



Derek Gores, *Full Volume Klimt 7*

Material: *Shredded magazine paper, labels and other recycled materials*



Tim Noble and Sue Webster, *Wild Mood Swings*

Material: *Recycled materials and rubbish*



Tim Noble and Sue Webster, Wild Mood Swings
Material: Recycled materials and rubbish



Guerra de la Paz, Indradhanush
Material: *Recycled clothing*



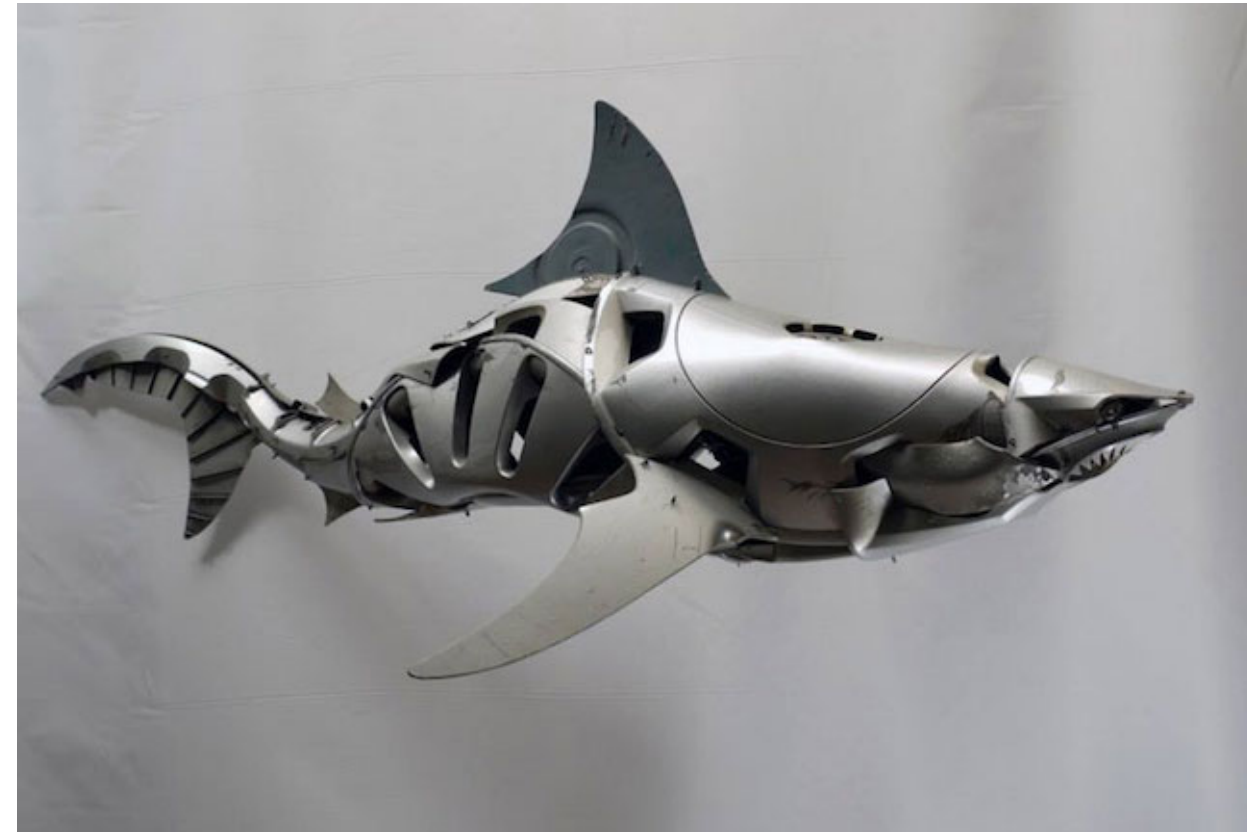
Nick Gentry, Life on Earth
Material: *Used floppy discs (the ancestor of the USB drive)*



Khalil Chishtee, Plastic bag sculptures
Material: *Recycled plastic bags*



Wim Delvoye, Spiral Tires
Material: *Used car tires*



Ptolemy Elrington, Hubcap Creatures (Shark)
Material: *Found objects from manufactured products, such as shopping trolleys or car hub caps*

Sustainability-motivated Art Works **by UEW students**

The following is a highlight on some efforts by the **students of the Department of Art Education in the University of Education, Winneba**, towards reconnecting with the environment through the creation of sustainability informed arts.



Evans Kojo Donkoh, *The Struggling Bull*
Material: Scrap Metals



Eric Kwaku Stephens, *Life is a Race*
Material: *Scrap bicycle parts*



Frederick Ackun, *Superior*
Material: *Plastic Wastes*



Eric Owusu, *You Drink, I Die*
Material: *Plastic and canned drinks wastes.*



Esilfie Banton, Mr. President
Material: Plastic Wastes

Conclusion



Conclusion

- This presentation has shined some light on how student artists and arts educators in the University of Education, Winneba are using their creativity and to some extent, their influence to advance sustainable practices through art making, with the view to creating a more sustainable future.
- Apart from establishing the intersection between art and sustainability, these efforts indeed advocate for the arts as an important player in promoting sustainable economic practices.

- In recent times, many artists and arts organizations are embracing sustainable business practices, through the use of renewable energy sources, upcycling, recycling and waste minimization, to reduce their environmental impact.
- Art works are also promoting sustainable tourism in a manner that showcases local culture and traditions to elicit respect and sustainability of the environment.
- Above all, these art creation practices are providing opportunities for a sustainable career choice. Currently, some of our graduates are into full economic ventures with their contemporary artistic practices.

- By providing opportunities for creative expression and cultural enrichment, the arts contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities, while also providing employment and economic opportunities.
- In conclusion, the arts and sustainability are closely connected, and both play an important role in building a sustainable future.
- Artists through their arts recognize the usefulness of **all the constituent parts of the environment**, and they show them their love through creative sustainable practices **which protect and preserve them for posterity**.

By using the arts to raise awareness, promote sustainable business practices, and provide sustainable employment opportunities, **we can create a world that is both beautiful and sustainable for all.**

Thank You
