

Plastic Confetti

Hastings Arts Forum

19th September to 1st October 2023

opening private view; Friday 22nd September, 6pm to 8pm.

closing private view; Friday 29th September, 11am to 2pm.

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20 Marine Court

St Leonards-on-Sea

TN38 0DX

The exhibition responds to increasing concerns about micro-plastics permeating the natural environment, the water we drink, our rivers and seas, the food-chain and our bodies; affecting fertility, hormones and blood-pressure as it flows through our veins.

Plastic Confetti are micro-plastics, nurdles and bio-beads, degraded plastic pollutants, found in our drinking water, seas, rivers and marine life; along the tideline; in the soil where we grow our crops; the food-chain and our bodies - accumulating in our blood and organs, including human ovaries.

Savage and Sayers show paintings infused with both the beauty and horror of plastic, the seductive product leaching toxic chemicals, both containing water and dissolving in water; a global phenomenon of failed re-cycling, casual flotsam and jetsam travelling the world on the undercurrents of oceans and seas; surfacing to form islands, bird nests, kindling for bonfires - transforming into a new plastic rock hybrid – Plastiglomerate, a geological marker for the impact of humans on the planet in the Anthropocene.

The artists hope to give plastic pollution visibility.

Helen Savage

examines the tideline accumulations of plastics entwined with organic forms – egg cases, sea-weed and shells; undertaking an archaeology of the tideline.



She is concerned with the pollution of our seas and rivers, re-emerging with each new tide as sea currents push rubbish and plastic debris towards the shoreline, often re-

surfacing over many years, such as the 1997 Lego spill from the Tokio Express in Cornwall; which has spread around the coast of the UK and beyond. Painting the seduction of glitter and confetti that is then ingested, internalised within the body; re-programming hormones and changing behaviour.

Developing motifs from beachcombing finds, transformed within the painting process, which also includes a mix of artists pigments and fragments of toxic beauty.

Savage has just been accepted for the inaugural Turps off-site Hastings Programme in 2023-24, led by artist Matthew Burrows;

<https://www.turpsbanana.com/art-school>.

Paul Sayers

paintings of one-use plastic bottles are seductive, reflecting and refracting light through the closely gathered containers, carefully positioned to make their forms both integrate and disintegrate within

the water they contain. They delight in the smallest of consumer label detail whilst treating the overall forms at scale, suggesting the size of the issue being explored.

The paintings also attempt to pull the viewer inside these ubiquitous consumer items to ask us why we are producing such waste that adds to and causes so much pollution in the Oceans, why do we feel the need to consume 'special' water, are we so seduced by the physicality of the containers?

In a perverted triangular relationship, the plastic ends up not containing the water but in

water that we later drink, or we consume creatures that have themselves consumed plastic confetti.

The paintings, although not true to the brands represented, also help document products that at some future point will become obsolete.

Sayers will exhibit eight oil on canvas paintings and numerous accompanying studies in pencil, pen, watercolour and oil paint. The sixth in the series is currently being exhibited in Room VI at the **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition**, open until 20th August 2023.

