

# CURATING-THE-BEACH by liina klaus

Workshop to intensify Love for Nature and create Sensitivity for Marine Pollution

<b>Name of project:</b>	Curating-the-Beach
<b>Participants:</b>	Min.10 max. 80 (one facilitator per 10 students)
<b>Age group:</b>	All ages, participants need to be physically healthy
<b>Time:</b>	2-3 hours
<b>Materials:</b>	Found objects, man-made and natural
<b>Welcome:</b>	local NGOs, environmental groups, municipal waste management, recycling centre ...



In '*Curating-the-Beach*' participants look at their environment as if it were an art gallery. The findings on a beach range from shells to ghost-nets to driftwood to plastic. Everything is art material, no discrimination made. This workshop can be conducted with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 80 participants. It can happen on a beach, on the side of a road, a river or a dump. Wherever we find ourselves, be it sand, concrete, grass or wasteland it will be our gallery. Whatever we find, marine litter, rocks, flowers, plastic bottles, all will be our art material.

## **Finding & collecting colours:**

*Curating-the-Beach* is visually spaking the opposite of a beach clean-up. The effect is not making waste disappear in black rubbish bags, never to be seen again. On the contrary we are curating that waste like in an art gallery, putting a spotlight on it. Its colours screaming 'Look at me!' in capital letters.

First step *Curating-the-Beach* in is finding and collecting colours (waste/value) that are needed for the installation. Participants will be split into groups and each group will find one colour at a time. Finding, differentiating and sorting various colours will lead to an intensified perception of colour. It is an amazing physical phenomenon that all painters know but which can be experienced by everybody.

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These colours we collect will be natural as well as man-made objects, e.g. styrofoam for whites, branches and shells for browns, drinking bottles and caps for blues, plastic packaging for purples, reds, oranges and yellows, leaves for greens, rubber tires and stones for blacks. Participants will collect into baskets instead of rubbish bags, as the visual experience is paramount.

**Sorting & coordinating colours:** Participants will then be engaged in colour coordinating the found objects into hues, tones and saturations as well as into material qualities, shapes and sizes.

**The beach is our canvas:** This is the most creative and fun part! All the colours collected will be used to create a spacious land-art-installation using the sand as a canvas. There are two ways to do this: I will start with a basic shape and colour sequence and everyone is invited to add their own colour and make that shape grow. Or we brainstorm new ideas together and pursue these. I'm open to whatever inspires us on that particular day on that particular beach!

**Picture taking & documenting:** Social media campaigning is a potent tool to spread awareness and knowledge. Photos taken raise awareness for the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans and spread the message to value more and waste less. These photos impact far beyond the day and the location. In the age of digital citizenship everyone has a voice!

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**Cleaning up:** Taking down the installation is an important part of the concept and learning process. All man-made materials will correctly be disposed of by separating waste into recyclables (glass, PET, aluminium) and non-recyclables. All natural materials will remain on the beach to biodegrade and turn into fertile soil.



On a personal level *Curating the beach* is empowering as it defies the odds of being the culprit. In the face of an immeasurable amount of rubbish caused by human ignorance it is only natural to feel sick, ashamed, helpless, depressed. This helplessness is changed into actively being part of a creative solution: You touch. You are being touched. You see. You are a witness. You do not look away. You care. And what might be a paradox: you are being taken care of. It is the presence of nature that heals, soothes and makes you feel being part of a bigger whole. 'Curating' comes from the Latin word 'curare' meaning 'to heal' in its active form and 'being healed' in its passive form.

Getting people physically out of the office or classroom, and psychologically out of their comfort zones is as important if not more important than the result. "I'm still amazed that rubbish can look so good!" or "Exhausted but happy" are quotes from participants.

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It is as simple as being in an untouched and wild part of nature, using your own hands and visibly changing the environment that makes *Curating-the-Beach* so successful.

If you have questions please email me [here](#)

I'd also love to see some photos of your creations! Please tag me in your posts or send footage to the above email!

Enjoy!

liina klauss