

prime amazon

2.17 Kgs

Project:

RE =

CONSTRUCTED

Climate 17B - Group 7

2024

What do you do when you discover your favourite jumper has worn through at the elbow?

What if your dishwasher is past its warranty date and your plates have started coming out with food scraps still stuck to them?

What happens to the cardboard box that your online shopping was delivered in?

What about the tinfoil that you hurriedly wrapped your sandwich in this morning?



If they're lucky, objects like this are taken to a recycling facility. If they're less lucky, they end up in a landfill, suggesting that their life cycle has, from a human perspective, come to an end.

This book aims to challenge that perception:

We argue that the life cycles of objects do not end the moment they are discarded by their consumer.

The objects we surround ourselves with exercise their agency through the way in which they influence human interactions and relationships.

By contributing to the climate crisis and disrupting ecosystems, rubbish continues to exercise its agency on a much larger, often invisible scale. As individual consumers, we are encouraged from a young age to recycle as much as possible in order to reduce our impact on the environment.

This messaging can come from various sources - parents, teachers, the government, or even the businesses that sell the products we are meant to recycle. While it is important

to acknowledge our individual responsibility ("many a little makes a mickle"), it is perhaps even more important to recognise the pressing need for strict legislation that would force these corporations to tackle their own environmental impact.

By exploring different ways in which household objects can be reused or recycled, our project aims to highlight the knowledge, time and equipment required for recycling to be successful in a domestic setting.

The objects chosen by each team member:

- A pleather bag
- A piece of aluminium foil
- An old skirt
- An Amazon box

They are repurposed and given new life by four students with specialist knowledge and technical skills relating to their components.

Taking inspiration from artist books such as Asger Jorn and Guy Debord's *Memories*, this book aims to convey the tactile qualities and

the sensory experience of working with these materials.

To what extent is this approach accessible to the average consumer? Are the appropriate infrastructures in place to allow recycling to happen on a wider scale, and if not, what can we do to make that happen?



Teenage Aftermath

Mia Upton
MA Textiles
2024

Bag origins:
M&S
2015

Make: medium low quality.

Components:
Pleather, cotton, polyester fabric, rubber, glue,
thread, plastic, foam, zips, magnets and other
unidentifiable pieces.

I destroyed this handbag. As the rebellious Art A-level student, I used this as my school bag. I didn't want to be a backpack kid anymore.

It was a terrible attempt at a political statement about bringing in a laptop to school.

Did it work? No.

Due to my stubborn Scottish tendencies, I came to school with my laptop sticking out of the top.

The red spot is from a whiteboard pen that defied gravity and bled upwards.



There was something about this bag that I couldn't throw away. Maybe it's because it was the first thing I used to represent my rebelliousness.

Like many of my generation, I lived at home for a while. Every couple of months, my mother decided it was time for a clean-out. A tug of war broke out with this bag. I always won, but then it continued to sit unused. When our group decided to do this project, my first thought was the bag. I felt excited about the

numerous possibilities. The difficult decision - what to turn it into? Something completely new, unrecognisable? Or try to restore it to its former self?

I chose the second option. I wondered if I had made a mistake. As a person with ADHD, I have a tendency to make rash decisions in the moment and overthink them later. Nevertheless, I pressed on. I easily cleaned the outside with wet wipes (on reflection, I could have chosen a more environmentally friendly option).



Then I made the strange decision to put it in the washing machine, which somehow set in the stains instead of removing them. It was time to go back to the drawing board. What could I actually create,

and how would I do it? I had many ideas, but I quickly realised there was no way of truly knowing what to make until I stripped the bag to its bare bones. I was shocked by what I found. The inside was filled with layers of ...



plastic.

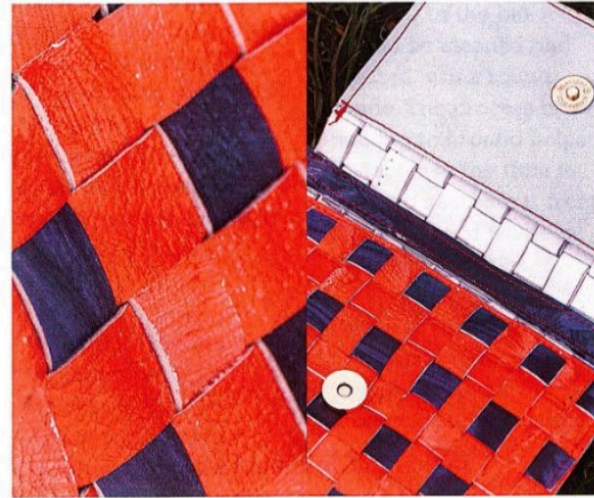
With the plastic gone this is what I was left with.

I started by looking at recycled bags, but then I remembered a gift I received. Elvis and Kresse, a British bag maker who uses waste materials. They work with fire truck hose pipes, which are often thrown away if there is the tiniest discrepancy in the hose. This material cannot easily be recycled, as it has too many components. Elvis and Kresse also collect parachutes that are broken or not

fit for use, along with leather cut-offs. They are focused on quality, design, and sustainability. As they slowly grow their small business, they remain committed to the spirit of "reuse, reduce, recycle".

I was influenced by their dark colours and their hand-manipulated woven leather bags. I chose to create a small bag with my leftover usesable pieces.

I used a simple plain weave, with a red and purple painted leather. The project



cost was only the leather paint (roughly £10), as everything else came from the bag. Most of it was unusable, as it was not a high quality product. I spent far longer than I had expected

stripping the bag and having to peel layers of plastic/ foam away from the pleather. I used a specialist leather sewing machine to create the bag then added the metal clasps.

The mind of recycling

Jakkaphat Bunmachertchai
MA Photography
2024

Aluminium foil is a material I use frequently in my daily life, as part of my cooking process. I have always been conscious of the amount of foil that I use every day, so I looked into how it can be recycled or reused.

I found out that the biggest problem for recycling systems in relation to aluminium foil is not the amount that people use, but the tendency to put incorrect items in recycling containers, causing contamination. The way people dispose of items incorrectly makes the recycling process slower and more energy-consuming. Foil is a material that would in theory be easy to recycle, but many people are unaware of how to

do it properly. Before we take foil to the bin, it should be cleaned and pressed into a round shape. The process of making foil round helps to decrease the time it takes to separate it from other types of waste in recycling facilities.

One way to address this problem is to raise awareness about the process of foil recycling, allowing people to examine their mindset and pass their newfound knowledge on to others.

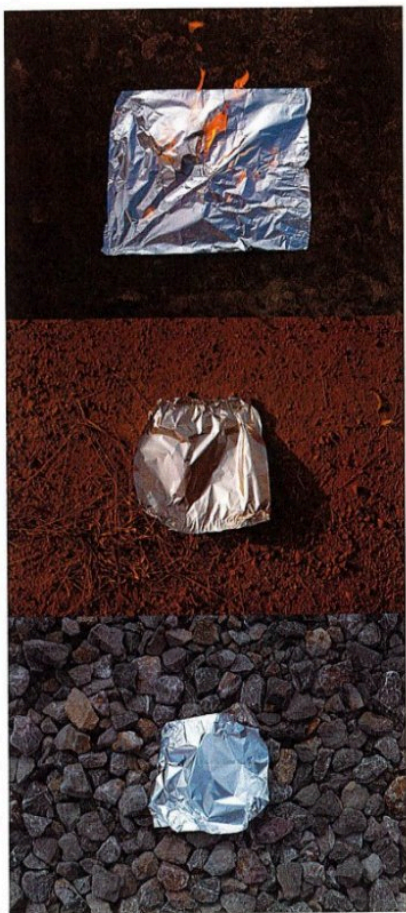
I came up with the idea of "The mind of recycling" because I see the biggest problem in people's lack of awareness about recycling. Once people are aware of this, it will have a significant impact on the efficiency of the recycling process.

Foil photography series

As an artist, I see artwork as a universal language, capable of communicating intricate ideas and emotions without the need for words. Like any language, art has its own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary,

which artists manipulate to convey their messages. Taking this as a starting point, I believe there is a strong case for sending a message about self-awareness and recycling through artwork.





This photography series is about self-awareness around recycling aluminium foil. I represented the effect of throwing foil away without balling it up first. How do we affect the world by throwing foil away incorrectly? The photography series demonstrates the varying levels of damage that foil can inflict on the environment. Each photograph shows the foil in different states and the

environment around it, suggesting that the more compact the foil, the less negative impact it has on its surroundings. Also, in the final artwork, I used aluminium foil from my cooking process to construct a frame for the photographs, representing more about the recycling process not only through the photography series but also through the use of recycled foil as a framing device.



Stitched into place Bori Papp
MA History of Design
2024



My starting object was a vintage wool skirt from
Tricosa Paris, made in the 1970s.

It had a broken side zip,
it was the wrong size,
and there were holes in the lining.



Unpicking and ironing	2 hours
Cutting out pattern pieces	15 hours
Sewing	35 hours
Time taken	7 hours

Sewing pattern (second hand)	£5.00
Elastic	£1.50
Bias tape	£3.00
Sewing machine oil	£4.00
Total cost	£13.50

- Sewing machine
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Scissors
- Thread snips
- Sewing thread
- Flat-headed pins
- Measuring tape



I decided to take the skirt apart completely and use the material to create an entirely different garment. This was successful, but the pattern I chose meant that I could not make use of the lining, so not all parts of the original skirt were cycled back into the final piece. I've set aside the remaining

scraps of wool fabric to use as patches in future sewing projects. As someone who enjoys sewing, I would do this again, but the time taken means it is not something I am able to do on a regular basis, and it is definitely not accessible to someone without the required skills or equipment.



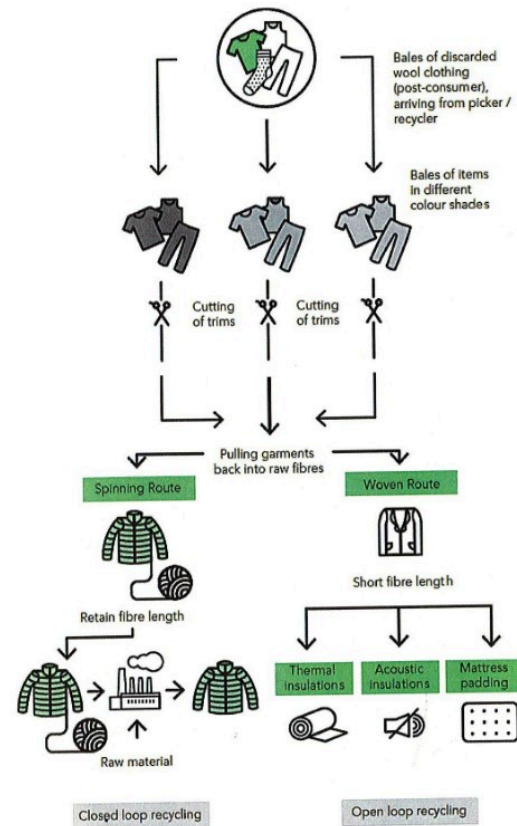
In her article "Closing the Loop", Lisa Griplas highlights how

"natural, renewable and biodegradable, wool is the most reused and recyclable fibre on the planet of the major apparel fibres".

While it is possible to mend or upcycle wool garments in a domestic setting, the material can be more easily and fully recycled with the support of major infrastructure.

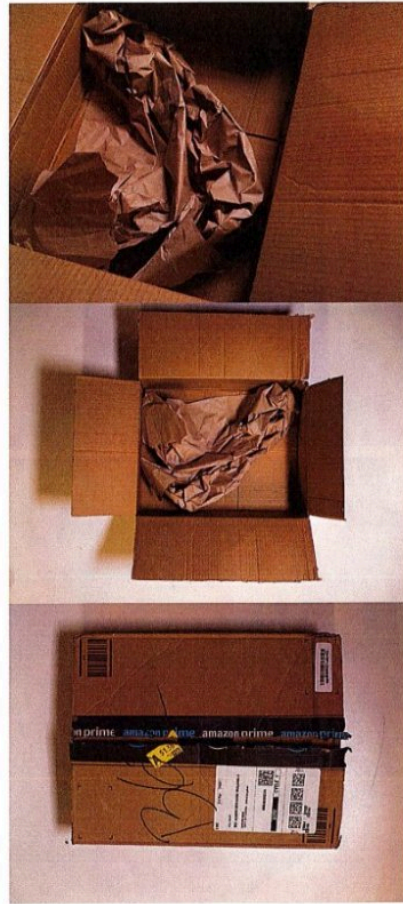
Even the most worn out pieces can be stripped down to their fibres, which can then be used for various purposes.

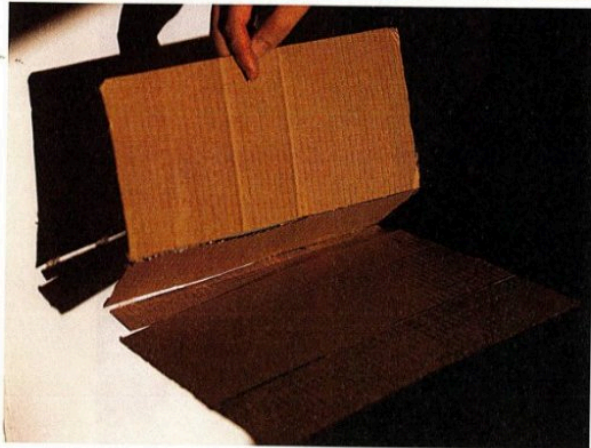
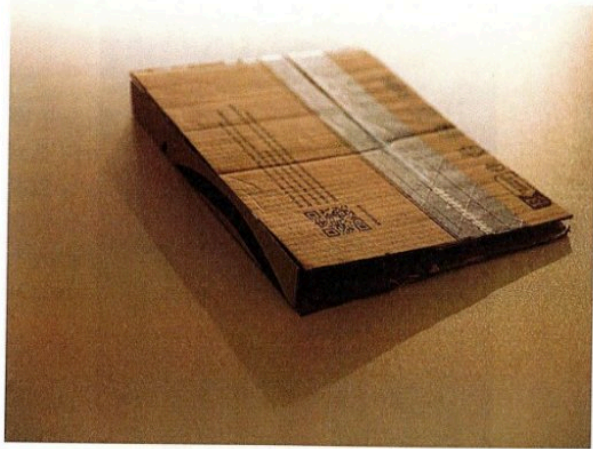
Swedish sportswear brand Houdini, for example, turns their end-of-life wool garments into compost and sells the food grown from this enriched soil. Wool fibres can also be made into blankets, or used as a retardant layer in mattresses.



William Zhao
MA Print
2024

Amazon delivery box
Material: cardboard





The reason I chose the Amazon cardboard box is because I like to do online shopping and the delivery box is an item I am exposed to a lot but don't use most of the time. Often, I would open the box and get the items I purchased, then throw the box away. There are an estimated 7.7 billion packages shipped by Amazon every year around the world. The stack of boxes exceeds the distance between the Earth and the Moon.

So I think encouraging people to recycle Amazon's cardboard boxes is an important and timely project. Although technological developments have led to cartons being made of fiber, paper is still an indispensable component, produced from plants or more precisely, from wood.

Book cover experiment



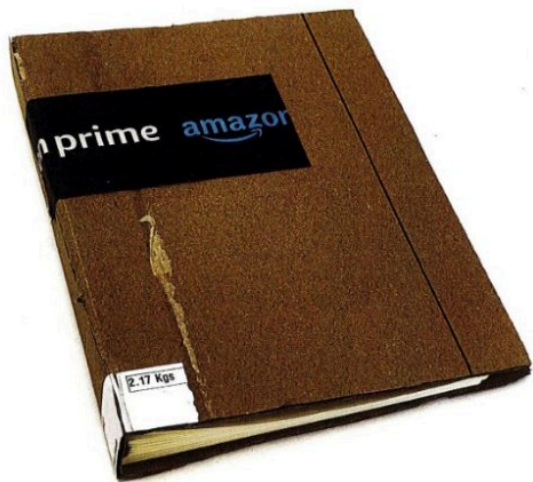
For inspiration, I started by looking at Poor Art (Arte Povera), an art movement founded in 1967 by Germano Celant. Their works are normally made with used objects from clothes to stones.

My initial idea was to create an art device from the Amazon box like Germano Celant, but I changed my mind in the process because I wanted to make the final outcome more practical.

After a series of discussions, I decided to make a book cover with the used Amazon box.

Firstly, in a book which promotes the importance of recycling, using a piece of "waste" as the cover can reinforce the ideas expressed in the text and set a positive example.

Secondly, the material of an Amazon box is suitable as a book cover, as it has the correct hardness to bind up the paper inside it.

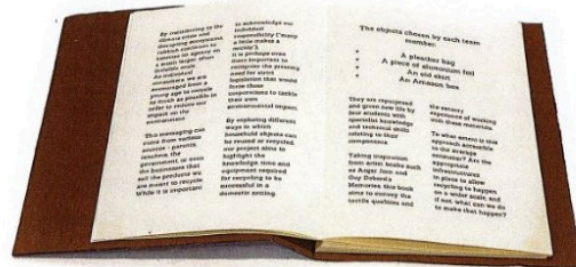


I made a total of three different styles of book covers for the final product.

For the first one, I used a full package, also because the material I used was an Amazon package, which is imitated in the final design.

The advantage is that the pages can be displayed without binding, but the disadvantage is that it will not be convenient to read.

For the second version, I used three-sided packaging. The advantage of this is that it can



protect the pages very well and make it easy to read, but binding may become a problem.

The third and most traditional book cover is simply composed of two covers and a spine. The advantage is that the structure is simple and suitable for binding, but the disadvantage is that

the pages inside may not be well-protected.

What surprised me was that these cardboard boxes are of good quality and can be used for many purposes. Whether it is made into a book cover or a work of art, it is only a small part of its functionality. Either way, it would be very wasteful to simply throw it away.

What's your programme at the RCA? *

Your answer _____

On a scale of 1-10, how important is sustainability to you? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Least important Most important

In your opinion, how much impact do our individual recycling habits have on the health of our planet? *

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Minimal impact Significant impact

Do you have a recycling bin at home, and if so, do you separate different materials (paper, glass, plastic, etc)? *

- Yes, one bin
- Yes, multiple bins for different materials
- No

How often do you come across advertisements from companies encouraging you to recycle? *

See the images below for examples.

- Less than once a month
- Monthly
- Weekly
- 2-3 times per week
- Daily
- Multiple times per day

Do you try to shop with companies that market themselves as sustainable? *

- Yes, this is a priority for me
- Yes, sometimes
- No, this does not usually influence my decision

Do you use second-hand materials in your artistic practice? *

- Yes, for my work at the RCA
- Yes, for extracurricular work
- No
- Other: _____

If so, please tell us more about the materials and post a link to the work if you're comfortable!

Your answer _____

Please tell us about a time you have upcycled / reused / mended a household object that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Your answer _____

In your opinion, what is the biggest barrier to recycling in a domestic setting? *

- Lack of time
- Lack of knowledge related to the materials
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of motivation / feeling of futility
- Other: _____

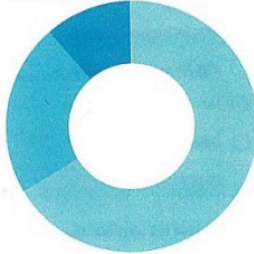
What's your programme at the RCA?

- MA History of Design
- MA Painting
- MA Digital Direction
- MA Animation
- MA Textiles
- MA Visual Communication
- MFA Communication
- MA Photography
- MA Print
- MA Design Products
- MA Interior Design
- MA Service Design

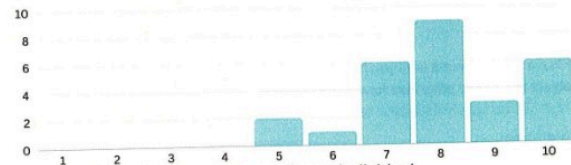


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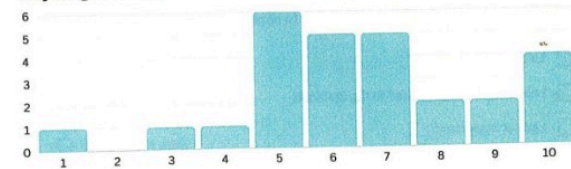
- Yes, multiple bins for different materials
- Yes, one bin
- No



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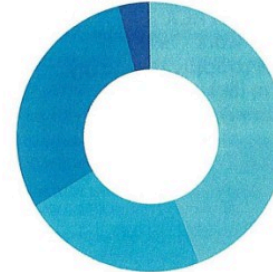


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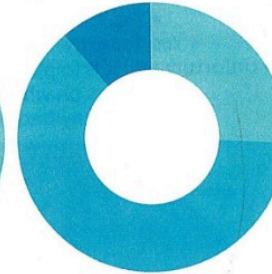
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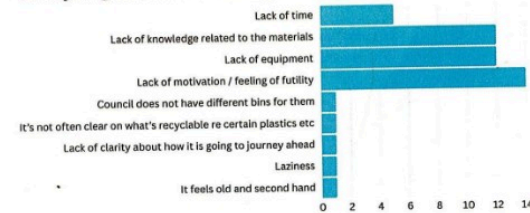


Do you try to shop with companies that market themselves as sustainable?

- Yes, this is a priority for me
- No, this does not usually influence my decision
- Yes, sometimes

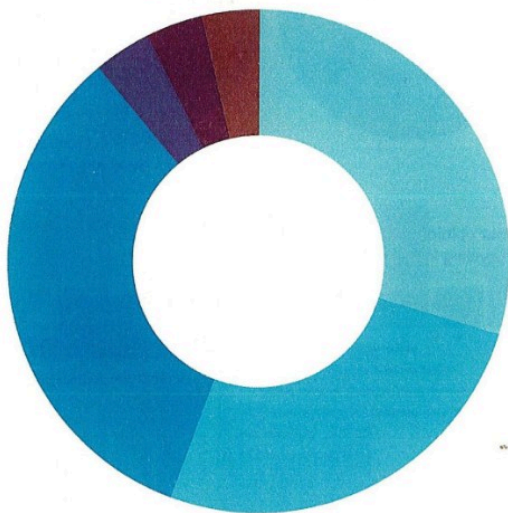


In your opinion, what is the biggest barrier to recycling in a domestic setting?



Do you use second-hand materials in your artistic practice?

- Yes, for my work at the RCA
- Yes, for extracurricular work
- No
- Unfortunately it is impossible to apply that to my...
- Depends on what I'm looking for
- For my Bachelors work



Please tell us about a time you have upcycled / reused / mended a household object that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Mending electrical items with an electrician

I try to fix my clothes whenever possible

I usually mend and upcycle my clothes as much as possible

Most kitchen food storage stuff

Refitted a kitchen with the existing doors just built new cupboards

I upcycle and reuse food containers and clothes very often, as well as toothbrushes and hair product containers

I've used material to stuff cushions. No idea how to up cycle electronics sadly. I wish there was somewhere I could get them fixed instead

I've been dumpster diving at construction sites and collecting cable reel spools rather than using round wood panels

Weekly. I sew, I saw, I fix.

Well I keep all packaging material that comes in with my orders and cut it up and make simple household things for myself and my room.

Mending/altering clothes so I can keep rewearing them

Foil

Furniture such as chair and bookshelf

I've dressed my kids with clothes passed down from the eldest to the youngest. Household glass jars are reused.

Upcycle second hand clothes

I have mended many clothes and even shoes. I up cycle plastic containers for all types of purposes

I reuse fabrics or anything that could be an art supply

We recycle old clothes for cleaning purposes. We harvest rain water and use it for cleaning purposes

Although our experiment may not be representative, it presents a possible direction for artistic responses to the climate crisis.

Repurposing objects that would otherwise be deemed rubbish is not a real alternative to systemic support and government initiatives. Rather, it is an exercise in seeing these objects in a different light, allowing us to recognise their material agency. As Alberto López Cuenca argues in his article "Trashing Scale: Distributed Agency, the Afterlife

of Commodities and Animism in Contemporary Art", works that disrupt the subject-object, human-nonhuman binary play a significant part in encouraging a more complex understanding of the climate crisis. López Cuenca contends that such works are instrumental in helping humans discover "rubble, refuse and trash" as "part of a larger nonhuman lifetime that is deranging our inherited anthropocentric expectations about existence" (López Cuenca 2021, p.338).

By centering the objects and challenging the idea that their life cycle must "end" when they are no longer considered useful, our project aims to further this idea. It also encourages thinking on different scales, holding space for individual action as well as the necessity to campaign for nationwide regulation to affect more impactful change.



Two team members on this project had to use specialist knowledge of material and machines to create their pieces, something the average person does not have, nor should they be expected to.

Many are put off upcycling as they do not believe they have the skill to make something, let alone a piece that matches their personal aesthetic. These anxieties are often compounded by the pressure to consume in a late stage capitalist society. Some companies make attempts to be more sustainable -

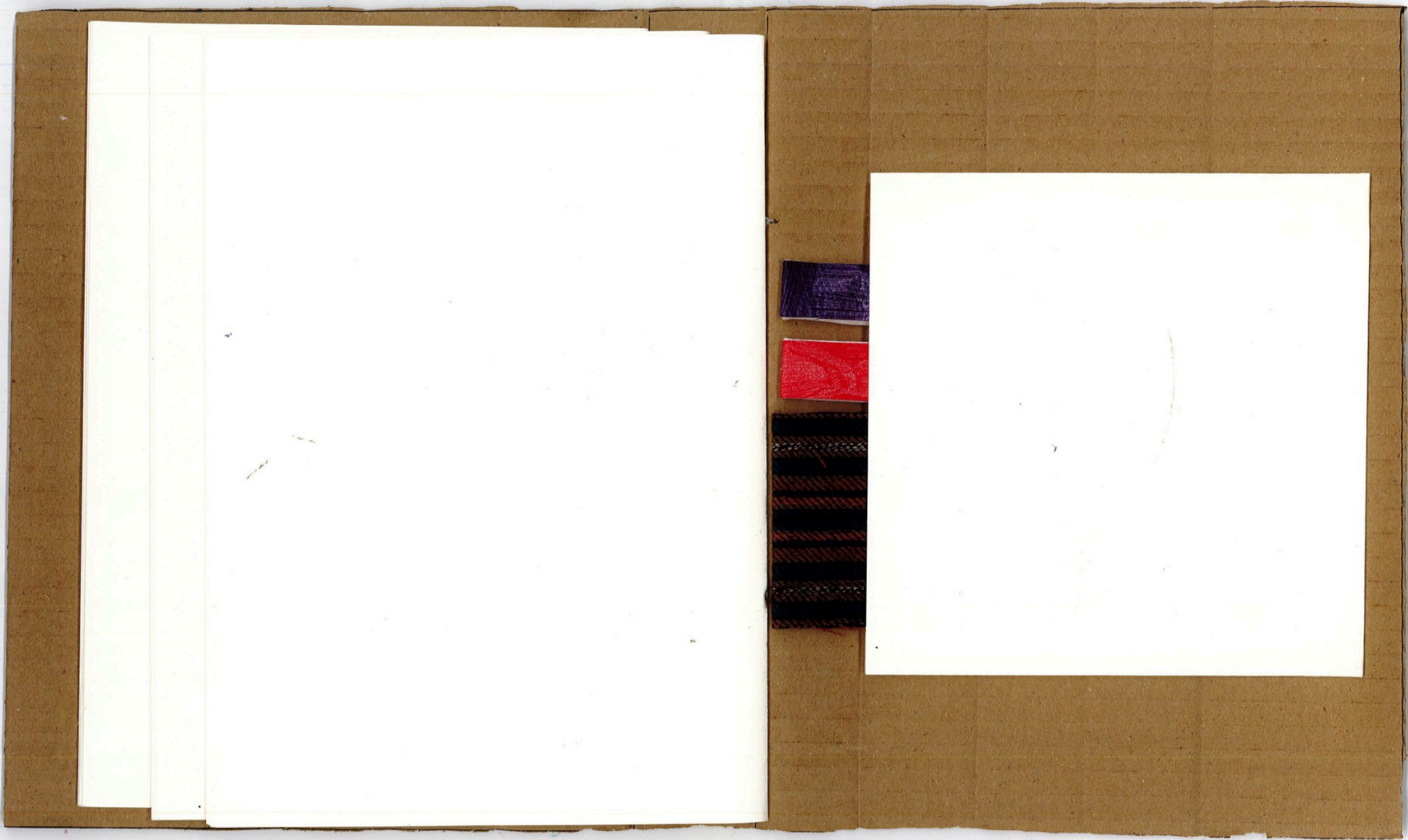
Nike's sea plastic trainers are a good example. However, these initiatives often fail to achieve their purpose - they take something that has the potential to become part of a circular economy and create yet another linear product instead.

In a sense, imagine a rudimentary hat drawing by a child. Due to their "environmentally friendly" advertising, it is easy to gain a sense of accomplishment or pride from buying these products, but they're often no better than their non-sustainable counterparts.

So, is there really a solution without government intervention? Major companies are unwilling to change if it means a cut of profit and billions in investment. The change we do see is mostly led by small businesses whose ethos is centred around sustainability.



So, after reading this zine, is the glass half empty or half full?



on prime amazon

LBA2

2.17 Kgs

zhao zixuan