

THE DREAMER

YOUTH MAGAZINE

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ARE YOU A PLASTIC BAG HOARDER? HERE'S AN IDEA TO DEplete YOUR STORES



Around a month ago, it was just me and Luca here at OTI House. It was due to be yet another lazy Sunday – a late start (we all need our beauty sleep), Luca's familiar mess of coffee grains all over the kitchen, banterful ribbing stretching long into the evening...

But no. On this day, he had other plans! He showed me this most intriguing event on Facebook the night before that initially had me sceptical of its usefulness and ability to better my life. It was a workshop in the city at Home For Cooperation, a most unique organisation because of its curious placement in the UN buffer zone. And what was the topic of this workshop? Turning our plastic bags into wallets, and other miscellaneous objects! Fun, right?

Yeah. See why I was sceptical at first?

I, however, am a woman of adventure, so I swallowed my urge to remain snuggled in my warm duvet cocoon and set off with my Italian partner on our trusty bicycles at a sinfully early hour (9AM).

Upon arriving to a relatively small showing and a disturbingly large mass of plastic bags providing a nice contrast, we were shown a few examples of what was possible and were set loose on the goods after we were given our instructions. We had one hour.

A wonderfully chaotic shambles then ensued as we rushed to finish 1 time – colourful plastic bags everywhere, being sliced and diced with scissors more fit for primary school crafts (I'm not sure they had the biggest budget!) and the sound of sizzling irons provided a nice ambience. 'Irons?' I hear you ask in incredulity. This isn't Home-Ec! Well, let me explain. The requirements for this activity are baking paper, an iron, scissors, a flat working surface and a long, preferably metal ruler. The idea is that you melt multiple layers of plastic together to make a strong material in the shape and design of your choice – get creative! The baking paper is non-stick and acts as a protective layer between your working surface and the iron as the plastic melts. Lay down a sheet of baking paper, then the plastic, then another sheet and then go ham with your iron! The plastic will gain an interesting wrinkled texture as it shrinks from the heat, so don't find this alarming.

I picked up a few bags – one from Zorbas bakery with its white background and a winding, floral design, one with an elegant burgundy hue, one of my own bags from Cyprus' largest online supermarket and one with a pretty black and gold striped design. Starting with the burgundy plastic as a base, I ironed on 3-4 layers of the white plastic to build up strength. This gave one of the sides a slightly lighter colour. Deciding that this side would become the inside of the wallet, I flipped it over and ironed on a cutting from the Zorbas bag. The white background became transparent, leaving the beautiful design behind. I then incorporated the black and gold stripes as a finishing touch.

After this step of the process, you'll be left with some uneven edges. Using the metal ruler to keep your creation in place and act as a guide, open the scissors fully and use one of the blades to cut along the ruler's edge. This will give your wallet a perfectly straight edge that manual cutting is less likely to achieve.

Next step: Putting it together! You'll need the ruler and iron for this part. For my wallet, I ended up with a rectangular piece of plastic which I then folded three times, and one of the folds I sealed along the

Written by: Elise Hadfield-Jones

edges to create the pouch. After folding, place the ruler on top and leave a small sliver of the edge bare. I personally left around 3mm. Then, run the iron thoroughly along this exposed edge, carefully keeping the ruler in place. Gently test its robustness.

After this, another lady took over for the final step, which was punching a hole in the flap and then fitting a popper. And with that, my plastic wallet was finished! Here's the finished product.



This is a very simple design – I personally like keeping things minimalist and sweet, but Luca went the opposite way and created a full-blown plastic replica of his existing wallet, complete with tons of pouches, nooks and crannies. I even saw some plastic tote bags lying around the workshop!

Another unexpected boon of owning plastic objects. I'm sure you've read those statistics of plastic waste lingering in the environment for hundreds and thousands of years, never being broken down due to their non-biodegradability. This means you've just crafted yourself a sturdy piece of kit! The same lady who put the popper in my wallet showed me the wallet she said was made 7 years ago. It was still in perfect shape! She also started a business producing items like this, and I'm sure plenty of others have done the same, so if you're lazy and don't fancy dirtying your hands, support these good-willed folks instead!

Plastic bags come in all shapes, colours and sizes, and the only limit to how we can reuse them and prevent them from polluting our environment is our imagination!

DESIGNING OUT WASTE: A NEW TREND?

Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value.

Few months ago! I was talking with one of my best friends who show me some bags made with wastes. I was very impressed! I look for other items and started asking myself: **Is designing out waste “The” new trend?**

Well, you will be very surprised if you tap this question on your google bar search. And guess what? It is. More and more brands tend to use waste as raw material. *Bethany Williams, Ecoalf Doodlage* are one of them. I have seen a lot of original pieces and others really disturbing! It is very hard to judge someone’s art or creativity. It is all a mood! Another language the one of the hearts.

Honestly, I had never understood Haute Couture! When I look at all these walkouts for the Fashion week, I am usually disappointed. I mean really guys would you wear this every day. Would you go to the supermarket with that? Not so sure!

But leather goods are my guilty pleasure! I think it is genetic because my mother is the same. You should see our dressingfull of bags and shoes. I have two houses to stock my stuffs. Can you imagine? By the way one of my tricks is to give my items to a Charity organization. On my island, (I am from Martinique a French Island in the Caribbean), we have red bins to collect old shoes bags or clothes for the poor. It feels good to know that your items will help people.

But I am not a shop alcoholic, I need to have a heart stopper. If it is not love at first sight, I can’t buy. A bag, shoes, are more than simple things. It is the extension of you, your personality...

Right now, I would like to introduce to you **Bilum** a French Fashion founded in 2005 which gives a second life to salvaged or forgotten materials destined to be thrown away.

I have to say that their products blow my mind. they use tarpaulins and hessians as raw material for examples. It is colorful, awesome and trendy. **Bilum** is a little bit expensive but you can find goods affordable. Plus, you can save a part of your pocket money and make one purchase a year. Most of the goods are unique pieces.

I have chosen to talk about this enterprise because they are « eco-responsible » by common sense and have established a local manufacturing short circuit from the start that fits into a social and solidarity-based economy. Indeed, they are working with disabled persons and everything is made in France. Bilum speaks to those looking for one-of-a-kind, original, iconic, or patrimonial pieces; all the while leaving a positive impact on earth.

Did you know that our natural resources were in danger? According to scientists in less than 30 years we will have consumed everything! But if we change our customs and habits, we will be able to preserve our earth.

So, It is up to you!



PLASTIC VS. PAPER

Have you think about your and your children future when you pack your shopping to bag? A lot of shops offer plastic or paper bag, but is some solution about that choosing. Of course your own bag, in this magazine I want tell you why use your bag save your life and life of Planet.

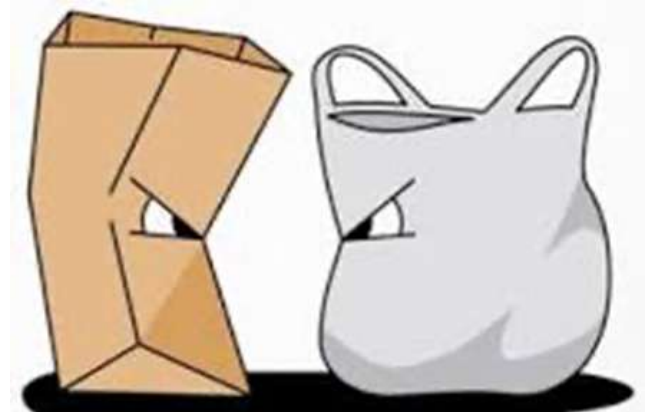
So when you pack your items to Plastic you kill yourselves. I know that's reads very awfully but listen. You take the plastic bag and go to your home, after put your to items or cupboards, you just throw it to trash, next to Big Trash, and them what. All of plastic go to garbage dump, part of this plastic go to burn, and after pollution go to atmosphere, and kill our air to live. Next part of plastic go to water after to sea or ocean, them plastic is eaten by fish and sea animals. So what you think when you eat your fresh fish with chips, that's must taste disgusting. The live is a big circle, so if you use a plastic you kill yourselves.

Paper is better, that's say a lot of people, but it's true? What's before paper? Wood! Production of paper is very complicated, but firstly you must cut the tree. So you kill producers of air, needed to live. A few moths ago, The Biggest lungs of earth were smoked, this was a disaster of our life. Equatorial Forrest is the biggest producer of air but not only. In forest live a lot of animals, which are needed to functioning our planet. So you know when you buy paper bag, you kill yourselves and earth.

So which bag I can take? Is possible you must take your own bag, which was produced to use a lot of time. Always this bag is with cotton or material reused. That's not difficult to do it, you must only remember about your shopping bag.

The statistics say in Europe people use 100 billion of plastic bag in one year, the government introduced paid plastic bag for save use plastic. When you next time will go to shopping, take your own bag and if you can choose product without plastic package. But if you forget your bag, take paper bag, choose lesser evil and think about your future.

Written by NAWRES HADDAD



DO YOU LIKE DRINKING WITH PLASTIC STRAW? IN CALIFORNIA IT IS ILLEGAL!

Everybody use a straw when you drink your favorite drink or beer, but you know what will be with your items? Glass when you finish drink, go to washing machine, and after washing go to another person, but what about your straw? It go to trash and after to place where the government consists the plastic. So our planet is a very big TRASH, because you only use something to drink your favorite drinks. So what you can do ?

A lot of Restaurant offer paper , metal or glass straw to use for your drink. Also for me is better to use paper, but when you enjoy your beer a lot of time, the straw will be not useful. I can give some tricks to save the Planet and your health. When restaurant give you glass or metal straw, you can use the straw after someone, and for sure the straw can't be very clean, because the washing machine don't clean a lot of inside. So for your comfortable, you can use your own straw. You can buy in supermarket straw for you, and when you want go to party with friends, you only must take it with you. (But remember take the small box for straw). In home you can clean this use boiled water and metal will be very clean and without germs.

This is easy to do and you save your future life in earth. In California there is a law about straw. All restaurants should use exchanges, if client want use plastic they can give a plastic straw but only for clients request. When Restaurant don't have exchanges for plastic straw, they must pay 1000\$ penalties or owner of restaurant must go to Prison on 6 months .The California is the most clean area in America, maybe because they use only exchanges for straw. Since 1989-2014 company who clean the coast of California gathered 736 000 of plastic straw. Government of California want to save usage plastic, but this is only straw, so what's about rest? The people use a lot of plastic, coke with plastic, water with plastic, shopping with plastic, everything with plastic!

In the near future all will be with plastic. We must just do it with that, at the moment the island of plastic in Pacific Ocean is like Mediterranean Sea. A few times ago to YouTube someone add film where sailor stretched a plastic straw from nose turtle, that is very disgusting and awful when you watch. Scientist tell if we don't decrease use a plastic, natural will be death in 100 years, so we must thinking about life our children. Go to the shop and use your own straw, and contribute to save earth.



Written by JAN PARAFINSKI

Word Search

R D K E C O L O G Y E E L S M F D S
E I R E D U C E B F N N T I P G S H
C B M N A T U R E E C V R Y L H T P
Y J P R E S E R V A T I O N A M Y O
C B I O D E G R A D E R I H S G U L
L S N E A R T H O S O O W A T L P L
E V E D P H R E U S E N A B I O C U
C O M P O S T I N G D M S I C B Y T
N Y A G R E E N X H K E T T P A C I
N C C L I M A T E M B N E A K L L O
B T C H A N G E B P X T D T E G E N
C H C E E C O A C T I V I S M J A P

Green
Climate
Change
Ecoactivism
Environment
Waste
Habitat
Plastic
Global
Upcycle

Recycle
Ecology
Reduce
Nature
Preservation
Biodegrade
Earth
Reuse
Composting
Pollution

R . . E C O L O G Y . E
E . R E D U C E . . . N . . P . . .
C . . N A T U R E . . V . . L . . P
Y . P R E S E R V A T I O N A . . O
C B I O D E G R A D E R . H S G U L
L . . E A R T H . . . O W A T L P L
E R E U S E N A B I O C U
C O M P O S T I N G . M S I C B Y T
. . . G R E E N . . . E T T . A C I
. . C L I M A T E . . N E A . L L O
. . C H A N G E . . . T . T . . E N
. . . . E C O A C T I V I S M . . .

FANCY TRYING YOGA?

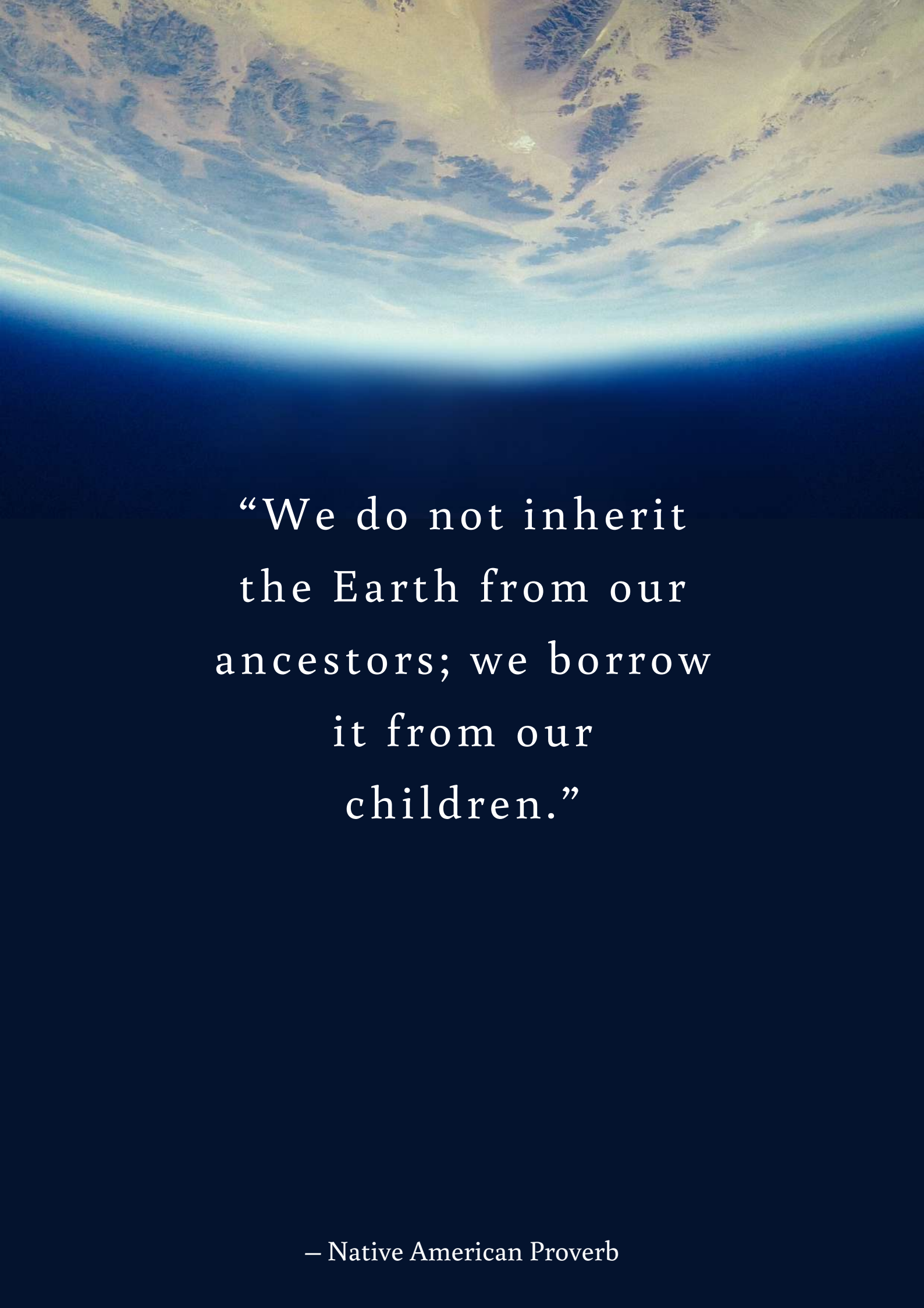
Come along to our free yoga lessons every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in Strovolos, Nicosia!



Free Yoga Classes!

Wellness event in Nicosia, Cyprus by OTI Media on Tuesday, October 22 2019

 [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) / Oct 22



“We do not inherit
the Earth from our
ancestors; we borrow
it from our
children.”

– Native American Proverb