SEA FLOWER INSTRUCTIONS

Sea Flowers are plastic bag compositions created from the below instructions that will be integrated in the Current Collections public art sculpture debuting at the St. Petersburg Science Festival on Friday, October 17th. A sculpture that brings awareness to litter in our communities and it’s affect on our environment. We thank you for participating in this exciting project!

www.seatheunseen.com, info@seatheunseen.com

Sea Flower Size: 1 foot x 1 foot

Color Palette: 1 color (mixed shades) with clear and/or white

What you will need:
1. Plastic bags. Any grocery, shopping or dry cleaner plastic bags. Thin, flimsy ones work best.
2. Parchment paper
3. Dry iron
4. Scissors
5. Flat area with a used towel you can iron on.

Making it:
It is important to work in a well-ventilated, outdoor area.
Start creating your panel by placing a piece of parchment paper (big enough to hold your 1 foot x 1 foot piece) on a flat surface you can work on before you are ready to iron.

Flatten out the bag and trim the bottom seam and handles off. This allows the bag to be opened up into a larger rectangle of plastic. Don’t throw the seam and the handles away. Use them to create interesting patterns later.

Turn the bag inside-out if it has printing on it. Once the ink heats up, it comes off the bag and makes a huge mess. If the bag has an interesting design that you will like to preserve, try using a clear plastic bag (dry cleaner bags works great) layered on top of the printed one.
Use clear or white plastic bags as base layer generates brighter designs.

We found that that 6-8 layers of plastic gives the best results. Trying to fuse less than 6 layers often results in little holes forming in the finished piece and generally weaker material.

To create interesting patterns tear plastic bags that have contrasting and interesting colors and place them between the base layers. Try to add clear layers on top to better preserve your design and make sure everything get fused properly.

Once you are satisfied with your composition, move your piece to the ironing surface and cover it with another piece of parchment paper.

Next, run a medium hot iron (we set ours to “rayon,” but you will need to experiment a little to see what works best for you) and keep the iron moving constantly. Make sure you get the edges, and after about 15 seconds, flip it over and iron the opposite side for a few seconds.

Peel a corner of the paper back to see if the plastic is fused together. If the layers are not all melted together, iron it some more.

Peel the parchment paper away from the finished piece.

Voila you have created a beautiful panel for the sculpture!

We encourage you to bring your neighbors, friends and families together to make pieces for the sculpture. Or, share this activity to a summer workshop or camp!

Drop your finished piece off at one of these listed sites so we can integrate it into the larger public art sculpture, Current Collections.

St. Petersburg Main Library
3745 9th Ave. N
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Florida Craftsmen
501 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Upcoming Community Art Making Gatherings:
Bring recycled colorful plastic bags, plastic water, milk and juice bottles / jugs
St. Petersburg Main Library
June 28th and July 19th and 26th
10:30am to 1:30pm

St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Art
August 2nd and 16th
11am to 2pm

Dali Museum
September 13th
10am to 12pm
Sea Flowers
Colorful Plastic Bags
Create in well-ventilated, outdoor space