

FROM THE COVER

Big Splash with Recycled Plastic Art

By Robin Edgar

The former Executive Director of the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach, David Edgar, “fishes” in his neighborhood recycle bins for plastic containers to create his popular “Creatures from the Plastiquarium®”.



Nationally recognized contemporary craft artist and art educator, Edgar worked primarily with steel for over 25 years before he had what he calls an “art catharsis.” On a lark, he made a mask from a blue detergent bottle to wear to a Carolina Panthers Super Bowl party. Using the organic shapes, bright focus group approved colors and label graphics of detergent bottles and other post-consumer recyclable plastics to make images of fantasy tropical fish, the artist also makes masks, birds, serpents, crabs and abstract sculptural works.

“After a century of increasing pollution of Earth’s marine environment, Plastiquarium® creatures evolved in the image of their packaging forbearers,” quips the artist.

Art critics and curators alike find Edgar’s new work to be a lighthearted, yet effective social commentary about the precarious state of the environment. Kate Lydon, Director of Exhibitions at Pittsburgh’s Society of Contemporary Craft

says, “Through David Edgar’s work, common materials are given new treatment in ways that are exciting, thought-provoking and accessible.”

His new book, *Fantastic Recycled Plastic*, demonstrates how others can discover their creative potential, using recyclable plastics such as detergent bottles, yogurt containers and other plastic packaging. In addition to a history of plastics, facts on recycling plastics and a gallery of 50 international artists working with recycled plastic, this unique book offers 30 projects to inspire creativity while “going green” at the same time.

Edgar says his uniquely-crafted artwork, informed by the American Pop Art movement, exposes the ecological footprint of our consumer marketing culture through the environmental impact of both plastic bottles and the chemicals that they contain.

*Edgar’s art from recycled plastic is available at the Uniquely Yours Gallery at 219 East Ocean Avenue in Lantana, FL. To learn more about David Edgar and “Creatures from the Plastiquarium®,” go to www.plastiquarium.net. David and Robin Edgar’s book is called *Fantastic Recycled Plastic* (Publisher: Lark Books, a Division of Sterling Publications).*

