

The World After Us  
Catherine Armistead

Contents include an infographic created from various research sources, artist statement, images of installation, and scans of materials.



Particularly in the U.S., the speed at which materials are discarded creates an invisible but massive accumulation. Paradoxically, remnants of the plastic cups, forks, plates, and bags that are used once and immediately forgotten about can remain in the ocean for centuries. The fleeting is remarkably permanent.

I manipulate plastic bags almost beyond recognition to hypothesize what they may look like after centuries in the ocean. By focusing on the overwhelming quantity of plastic waste that ends up in the water, this body of work highlights the growing, complex connection between our waste and natural ecosystems.

This installation questions the constructed barrier between humans and the earth. The intention of the work is to re-establish a connection to the ecological world that surrounds us, while invoking a sense of wonder and respect. I am using that connection to incite awareness of the greater ecosystems that humans inhabit and harm, blurring the lines between natural and unnatural and offering a different perspective on the impact of our waste.



























