

Eco-Art

From prehistoric times, peoples have transformed the environment, shaping their tools from stone, and, in their cave wall paintings, megaliths and stone circles, seeking ways to connect with the forces of nature. Since those times, artists and designers have been profoundly influenced by the images, colors, patterns, structures and systems of nature around them.

At times of turbulent change in our history, as in Hellenistic Greece, medieval Japan and Europe at the time of industrial and political revolution, new art forms have evolved in order to address the changing relationships between nature and society.

Since the turn of the Millennium, world concern over environmental issues such as pollution and global warming has increased. Artists, in turn, are responding by answering collective cultural needs and developing active and practical roles in environmental issues. The result is "Ecological Art".

"Ecological Art", or "eco-art", might be defined as a contemporary form of environmental art created by artists who are concerned about local and global environmental situations and who address in their works specific ecological issues. As this field is growing rapidly, and hundreds of artists are working around the world, this is just one of the many possible definitions for this artistic current. Generally speaking, however, we can mention some of the feature which mark eco-art:

- It might inform and interpret nature and its processes, or educate us about environmental problems;
- It is concerned with environmental forces and materials;
- It re-envisions our relationship to nature, proposing new ways for us to co-exist with our environment.

A lot of Eco-Artists show their work, and sometimes express their own theories about eco-art, on their websites. Here you have a couple of links to some eco-artists web-pages:

[Leah Fanning Mebane](http://www.fanningart.com/) says: "My recent work began with the desire to continue to paint with oils, but without solvent, toxic paints or unsustainable materials. This soon evolved into also finding my own earth pigments; incorporating ashes from our wood stove; adding creek sand, marble dust and granite dust into the paints; using local walnut oils and exploring sustainable surfaces.... This then lead me into a deeper connection with our natural world as I left the studio and made a connection with these materials..."
<http://www.fanningart.com/> // <http://www.naturalearthpaint.com/>

[Sandra Dowd](http://www.sandradowd.com/) is a Minneapolis figurative painter and performance artist whose recent works merge the human form into the shapes of birch trees. She says "I hope that by combining the trees with human attributes that the viewing public would bond". <http://www.sandradowd.com/>

[Marian Osher](http://www.marianosher.com/) states: "I feel a calling to express my concern and use my art as an aesthetic vehicle for helping to raise awareness of environmental red flags. I have chosen to use solvent free water-soluble media to highlight a diverse range of environmental issues including global warming, threatened biodiversity, forest destruction, mountain top removal, and light and noise pollution".
<http://www.marianosher.com/>

...you are next! Produce your own eco-artwork and provide a description/comment of it using the following table as a general outline.

How to Describe your Eco-Art Project.

THE IDEA: What is the idea behind your work? / What did you want to state (=affermare) with it (i.e., what's your message)?

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

First of all say what your work is; "We decided to represent our ideas with a placard/drawing/collage/..."

Then describe your work telling how you produced it.

Do not forget to mention WHAT YOU USED TO produce your work (fibre-tips/ crayons/acrylic paint...) and why you chose to use it (if you have a specific reason, of course)

Some useful vocabulary:

Colorare: color [<i>colorare qualcosa di blu = color sth. blue</i>]	a destra: on the right a sinistra: on the left in mezzo: in the middle nell'angolo: in the corner sopra: above sotto: below sullo sfondo: in the background in primo piano: in the foreground	carta: paper cartone: paperboard colore: <i>bright/dark/light colour [brillante/scuro/chiaro]</i> paesaggio: landscape shade: sfumatura
Dipingere: paint		
Disegnare: draw/drew/drawn		
Incollare: paste		
Rappresentare: represent		
Sfumare: shade		
Tagliare: cut/cut/cut		

PERSONAL COMMENT

Write here every personal comment about your work and explain, for instance, why you chose that theme, why you chose to represent it like you did, what you like about it in particular....

TAKE PICTURES OF YOUR WORK AND ADD IMAGES TO THE PRESENTATION!!!!