



Rescuing Our Oceans Through Recycled Art

— an ArtsLight documentary by filmmaker Johnny Bergmann

A PRODUCTION OF



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Our fragile oceans are plagued with plastics and other man-made trash. This documentary explores how artists have come together to create art out of this detritus in an effort to bring awareness to what individuals can do to help.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



JOHNNY BERGMANN, *Director & Editor*

Johnny Bergmann is a documentary director whose films have been shown worldwide and whose television work has aired on NBC, BBC and The Food Network. He has worked extensively in both narrative and documentary form, in the latter concentrating on both intimate personal histories and musical subjects. In his role as ARTSLIGHT Producer Johnny creates portraits of Cape Cod artists to highlight the many facets of our diverse region.



INTERVIEWS

MARK ADAMS, *Artist*

Mark Adams is a painter, printmaker, and a cartographer with the National Park Service and has been based on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard since 1987. He has taught at the Provincetown Art Association, Castle Hill Center for the Arts (Truro MA), and the Provincetown School Academy program and as a guest in the MFA program of the Fine Arts Work Center/Massachusetts College of Art. He has studied ecology, landscape architecture, printmaking and photography at University of California, Berkeley, California College of Arts and Crafts and studied with artists at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. He also worked as a wildlife field biologist, scientific illustrator, and forest fire fighter.

SUE BEARDSLEY, *Artist*

Sue Beardsley is an artist who works with metal and glass, using recycled materials for both. After retiring from her office job, she began to walk every day in the woods where she found many pieces of discarded metal thrown haphazardly among the leaves. After taking a class in "Art Welding" she began her journey into recycled metal art. Her whimsical found-art sculptures have long been popular among Falmouth residents.

ERIN BRYANT, *Assistant Professor of Ocean and Coastal Policy at SEA*

Erin's interests include coastal and ocean management and strategies for improving ocean health including human interaction with, control of, and valuation of ocean resources; climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies; marine renewable energy; coastal and ocean management; fisheries; ocean-related public health, ethics, and equity issues and solutions; and communication of science to non-scientists.

JAY CRITCHLEY, *Artist*

Jay Critchley's visual, conceptual and performance work and environmental activism have traversed the globe. He has taught at the Museum School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and has had residencies at Harvard University, AS220 in Providence, Williams College, Real Art Ways and Milepost 5. He received an award from the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum/Smithsonian Museum in NYC for his ecological response to Boston's Big Dig – mega highway/tunnel project.

THOR JENSEN, *Artist*

Thor Jensen, yoga teacher and reiki master holds degrees in marine biology and agricultural science. His spiritual practices are leading him to express artistically that science and spirituality are not mutually exclusive. Combining art and science he creates sculptures and embellishes found object through electroforming and electrotyping. His art focuses on marine life and evolution juxtaposed with human artifacts, robotics and the decay of modern and ancient architecture.

INTERVIEWS



LAURA LUDWIG, *Manager, CCS Marine Debris and Plastics Program*

Laura Ludwig is the director of the Marine Debris & Plastics Program at the Center for Coastal Studies, focusing on an interdisciplinary approach to investigate and respond to abandoned, lost, discarded or end-of-life fishing gear, beach debris, microplastics, and other marine plastic debris issues. Since beginning the program in 2012, Laura has grown the “Beach Brigade” to a 400-person volunteer which supports an active year-round shoreline cleanup and debris data collection effort on Cape Cod.

SUZANNA NICKERSON, *Artist*

Chatham native Suzanna Nickerson creates collages of marine debris to illustrate the problem of plastic pollution on our local beaches. Suzanna’s work with beach garbage started as a personal mission to display in a visually clear way, exactly what she found on beach walks. Suzanna grew up in an artistic family with little formal training and describes her artwork as “primitive”.

PATRICK OTTEN, *Artist*





CINDY PEASE ROE, *Artist*

An artist, educator, and marine advocate, Cindy draws inspiration from her lifelong connection with the sea to create captivating paintings and sculptures. She combines various mediums to depict the serenity, history, function, and vulnerability of the ocean. Cindy's artistry took a transformative turn in 2012 when she began using plastic debris collected from the shore to craft sculptural works. Through weaving or welding techniques, Cindy merges discarded plastic, derelict fishing gear, mylar balloons, rope, and marine upholstery, transforming them into organic figures or abstract assemblages. Upon closer inspection, viewers discover the waste items that compose her sculptural works. By juxtaposing natural forms with 100% unnatural materials, her artwork aims to evoke curiosity and confront the massive human refuse washing up on shores worldwide.

DR. JEFF SCHELL, *Associate Professor, Sea Education Association, Professor of Oceanography*

Dr. Schell's research interests include the ecology of marine and freshwater habitats with a focus on distribution, diversity, and species composition of plankton communities. Professional interests include the ecology of pelagic Sargassum and its associated community, marine environmental history, interdisciplinary teaching techniques, and science illustration and storytelling.

ALEUTIA SCOTT, *North District Supervisor of Interpretation & Education*

Aleutia Scott has been North District Supervisor of Interpretation & Education at Cape Cod National Seashore since 2020. She holds a degree in Marine Science and completed an AmeriCorps internship with the National Park Service restoring the salt marshes of Crissy Field in San Francisco, California in 2000. In 2002, she got a full-time position with the National Park Service and has moved to coastal parks across the country from Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the San Francisco Bay area to coastal Louisiana at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

SARAH THORNINGTON, *Artist*

Sarah Jane Thornington is a Cape based conservation and marine-debris artist who believes that one of the most important things we can do for the planet is to see the wonder in it. We protect what we love. Every piece of art, show, presentation and workshop she does is simply to keep awareness on the issues facing our oceans and our planet.



ADDITIONAL VIDEOGRAPHY

NATE GOODMAN
ANGELA McNERNEY
CINDY PEASE ROE

BRIE SANDER
VANESSA VARTBODIAN

IMAGE CREDITS

CENTER FOR COASTAL STUDIES
JAY CRITCHLEY
BRIE SANDER

ROBIN SINGER
SARAH THORNINGTON

MUSIC

ELI WOODS
DIGITAL JUICE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

TERESA MARTIN, *Executive Director, Lower Cape Community Access Television*

THANK YOU

THIS FILM MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MA CULTURAL COUNCIL



ADDITIONAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCILS



MORE IN THIS SERIES

A Shark Lives on Herring Cove Beach

Artist Cindy Pease Roe worked with Laura Ludwig's Beach Brigade from the Center for Coastal Studies Marine Debris Program to source all of her materials from trash collected off of Cape Cod beaches to create "Sugar" who will reside on Herring Cove Beach for several years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sponsored this semi-permanent installation on the Cape Cod National Seashore.

<https://www.artslight.org/herring-cove-shark>



Beach Trash Collage Art

Chatham native Suzanna Nickerson creates collages of marine debris to illustrate the problem of plastic pollution on our local beaches.

<https://www.artslight.org/beach-trash-collage-art>



Thor Jensen and Fishing Line Starfish

Mixed media artist Thor Jensen describes his latest project, creating starfish from clay and fishing line, and how artists can use recycled materials in their art today.

<https://www.artslight.org/thor-jensen-and-fishing-line-starfish>



Jay Critchley - Artist & Activist

Artist, activist, and writer Jay Critchley shares his rich history of creating art with a message in and around Cape Cod.

<https://www.artslight.org/jay-critchley>

