

## **THE ART OF SUSTAINABILITY: CREATIVE REUSE**

## SCHOOL TOUR- FALL 2017

We live in a culture of disposable goods. This tour, accompanying two special exhibitions, will challenge students to think about the waste footprint humans leave, and think creatively about the reuse of material goods as route to a more sustainable future. Topics will include the historical change in ideas of adaptive reuse of materials from the 1920s to 21<sup>st</sup> century, contemporary issues associated with human consumption. Discussions will address environmental science standard K-ESS3 and students will contribute to a comment wall on sustainability. Inspired by artists in the exhibitions, participants will reuse plastic drinking bottles and scrap fabric to create useful items for their classroom. Attendees requested to collect bottles to bring with them for this project.



Thrift Style explores the recycling of fabrics in clothing and quilts. The reuse of feed, flour, and sugar sacks in clothing and other household objects became popular during the mid-1920s. Businesses capitalized on interest by introducing bags with increasingly varied printed patterns. The sacks and other fabric scraps from manufacturers served thrifty home sewers during the Great Depression and into the 1960s. Objects from K-State's Historic Costume and Textile collection will highlight the way in which reuse of textile materials mutually

benefitted 20<sup>th</sup>-century consumers and commercial enterprises, a model for young entrepreneurs in today's world.

Sayaka Ganz: Reclaimed Creations is an installation of wildlife sculpture made from reclaimed plastic objects such as discarded utensils. Ganz, a native of Japan, Brazil, and Hong Kong, grew up influenced by the Shinto belief that all things in the world have spirits. Ganz's sculptures of birds, animals, and marine life incorporate discarded objects that have become dangerous to wild creatures. These works foreground the need to rethink human use and disposal of objects in a world driven by convenience



Tours are free, available Tuesday-Friday, last 1½ hours, and can be tailored to all grade levels. Contact: Kathrine Schlageck, Senior Educator, at klwalk@ksu.edu or 785.532.7718

Bus funds are provided by individual and private foundation donations, not government funding. To financially support the bus fund and/or education programs, contact Kathrine Schlageck.

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