
Value Of Materials

Introduction

The project value of materials was inspired by a Polish jeweller Anna Orska and her jewellery collection “ New Stone - By Homo Sapiens” which was made from brass offcuts salvaged from her workshop and recycled plastic. The idea of how we should treasure our resources and not take them for granted inspired my whole project. The goal of my project is to add value to waste materials such as plastics to change the way we see waste.

Throughout this project I looked at different ways in which we assign value to objects. Some of which are: durability, material value/ rarity of materials, beauty, and sentimental value. Seeing as plastics are already a durable resource, lasting for thousands of years and you could also argue that they will soon become a finite resource if we don’t change the way we use and recycle them.

I decided to focus on beauty and sentimental value in order to add value to plastic waste. Jewellery is considered to be beautiful, and it can carry sentimental value, making it the perfect way to add value to plastic waste.

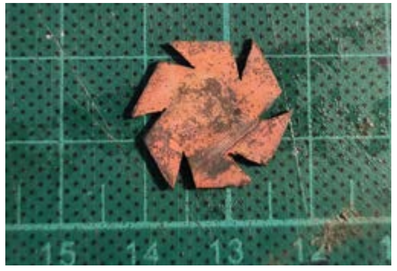
Anna Orska- New Stone By Homo Sapiens
https://boomplastic.com/new-stone-kolekcja-bizuterii-z-recyklingu/

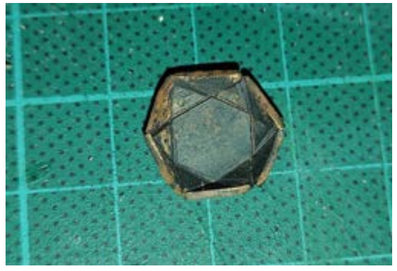
After some exploration into different types of plastic and what I could do with them I realised that this was not the direction my project should be going. Instead of making new plastic waste I needed to find ways in which I could transform waste into desirable objects.

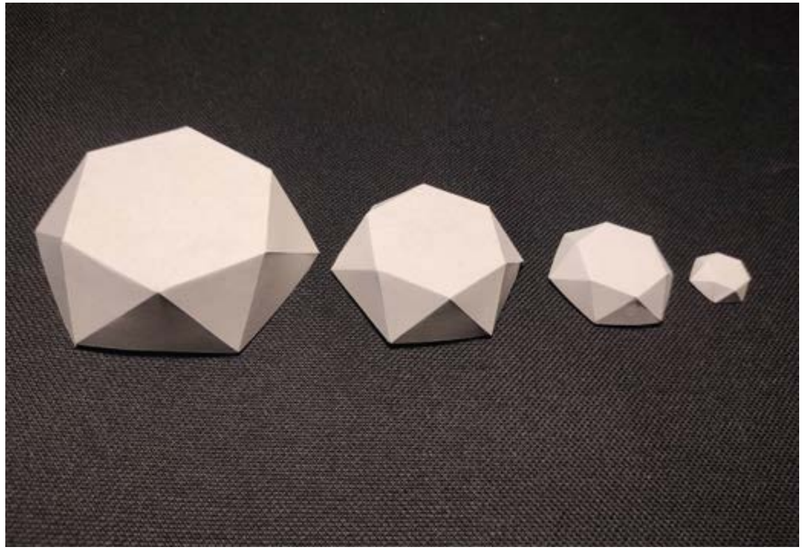
First Tests

- Creating these uniform and quick samples allowed me to explore ways in which the waste plastic behaves and how to heat it to create consistent results. The uniform appearance also made it easy to compare and judge them in terms of beauty.

A compressed block of waste plastic



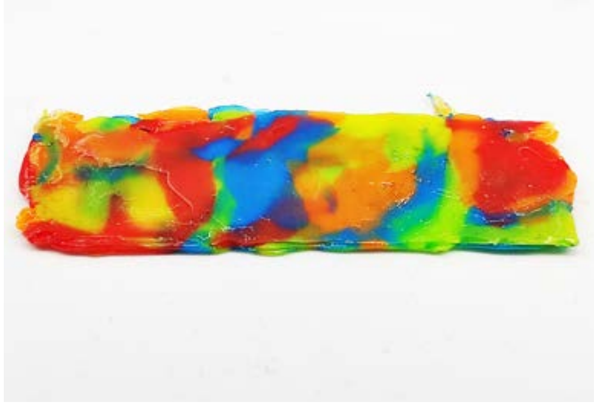




The simple dome moulds have produces beautiful result, so I tried making a more complex mould.

Plastic domes made from used straws

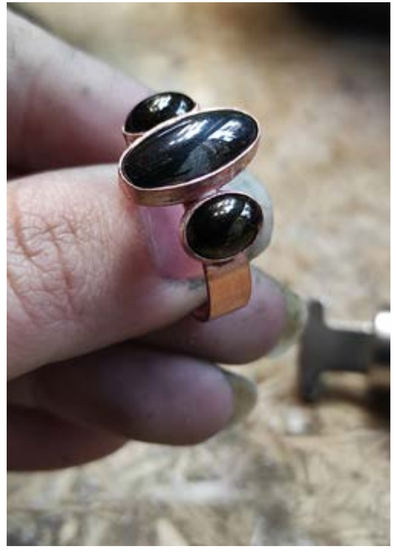
With my new understanding of how I can recycle plastic waste I began to combine it with metal to create more refined pieces. I soon realised that there is a lot of planning involved and the order of how I use the materials has a big impact on how it turns out. To tackle this problem, I enrolled on to a jewellery course to learn more techniques to help me use my plastic to its full potential.



The Jewellery Course

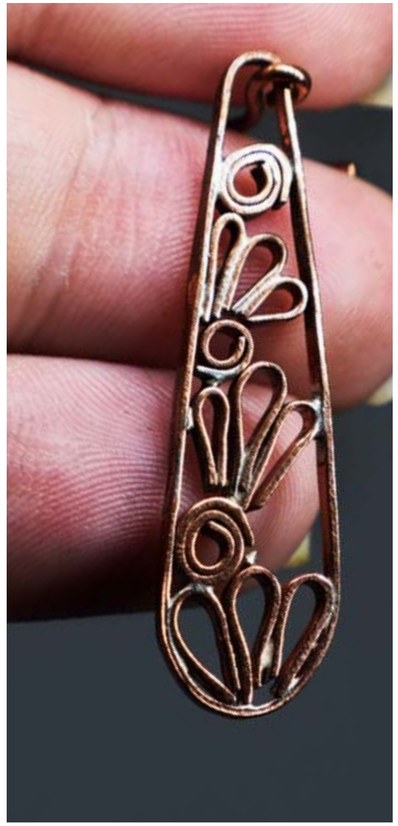
Enrolling on to the jewellery course was very beneficial. Learning first-hand the different tricks and techniques allowed me to see what was possible as well as ask some more specific questions. The 10 days course gave my project a boost drastically changing my approach.



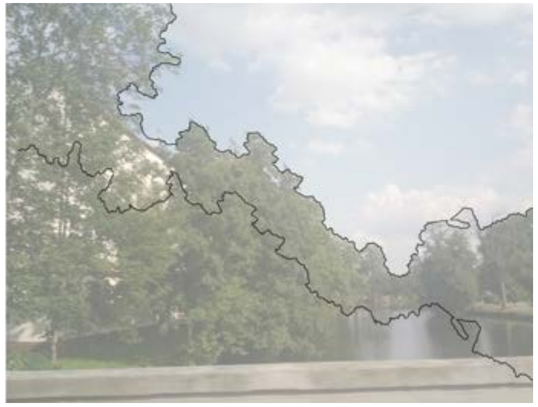


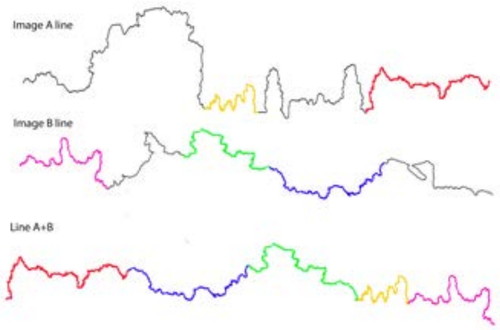






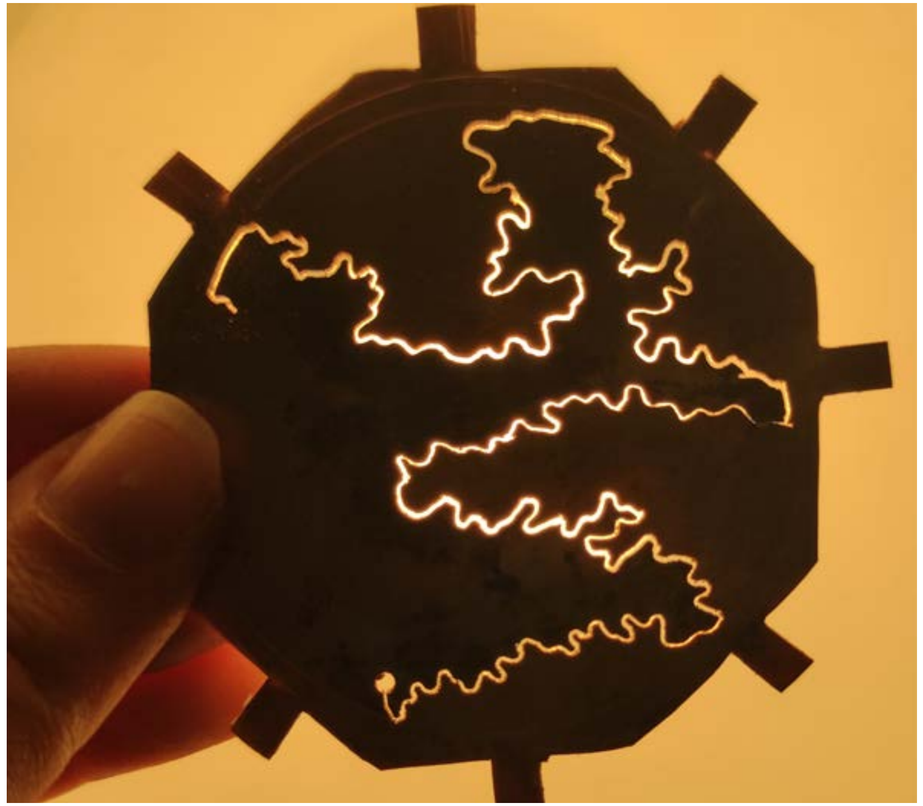
After more experimentation and refining I decided to use a compressed waste plastic block as the main jewel In my jewellery. It was voted the most beautiful from all my samples.





The design was inspired by the environment. I wanted to create a direct link between the plastic waste and the landscapes we are destroying by not recycling our waste properly. I went out into the countryside and recorded the landscape as photographs from which I extracted the shapes and forms I noticed in the landscape. I then took elements from different photos and combined them into a complex line which is a vital decorative element in all my designs.

I decided to make my jewellery look old or ancient to exaggerate the idea of how all we would be leaving waste behind for the future generations. I drew inspiration for the design's shapes from ancient Egyptian jewellery. Egyptian jewellery used a large stone as the focal point which were surrounded by colourful and intricate designs made from beads and other materials.



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By Marta Tworek