

## The Army of Devices Fighting the Digital Disconnect

At Main Beach Byron Bay, 16 life-size human figures will stand with their heads bowed staring at their mobile devices. They are oblivious to the beauty surrounding them. The figures will be made from recycled plastic using 3D printers. A screen shows the audience what the figures are watching; the beach, headland and lighthouse.

At nightfall the images change and the screens change in colour. The audience hears a buzz vibrating through the Army. This melody of digital data floats through the space.

This Idea is inspired by a Leunig cartoon in which a man and his son look at the sunset out side on their TV. The Army concept is inspired by China's Lost Terracotta Army and the Archaic Kouros period of Roman sculpture.

This Idea is to illustrate that people are more captivated by technology than the actual natural beauty that surrounds them. The modern dilemma is; how do we reconcile our desire to consume and use technology against the desire to protect nature and enjoy a pristine environment. People have a natural desire to be engaged, but ironically, are disconnected in the digital age.

The installation uses the medium (figures made of recycled plastic) to illustrate a solution to the problem. The intersection of technology: mobile devices, 3D printing, plastic recycling is an innovative use of materials and resources.

The idea of using the most cutting-edge technology makes this idea stand out from the crowd. This local project could have a Global impact: "Act Local, Think Global".

Due to the use of 3D printing the project could be replicated world-wide. The project needs to happen as part of a solution to a huge problem.

I come from a long line of established artists, going back three generations. For as long as I remember I have always had a passion for public art. This is because public art can move large groups of people who may otherwise not be exposed to art and its capacity to create change and unify a community.

After studying art at Shearwater Steiner School Mullumbimby, I commenced formal art studies at the National Art School.

I am inspired by the sculptors Anish Kapoor, Patricia Puccini, and Janet Laurence. I particularly like Laurence's use of the relationship between nature and the built environment. I am now 19 and taking a gap year from formal art study and pursuing self-directed learning and my own artistic practice. I have a great commitment to protecting the natural environment. I am a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and the Free West Papuan Movement.

**My team** comprises a group of dedicated, young, like-minded up-and-coming creatives from the Byron Shire. Together, we share a passion to use our creativity to protect the environment.

To involve local organisations, I would invite Byron Community Recycling Centre, Byron Resource Recovery Centre to be involved with sourcing materials to be recycled into the sculptures. Nationally, Shapeshifters are involved with raising the profile of 3D printing in art. Creative Road Works Australia conducts Sculpture by the Sea Byron Bay and would be an invaluable resource in mounting the proposed exhibition. Because of the connection between plastic waste and its effect on marine life I would seek the support of Clean up Australia for the project. As a member of Australian Youth Climate Coalition, I would

involve this organisation. Internationally, Reflow is an Amsterdam-based collective that produces a range of recycled materials for sustainable 3D printing. They recycle plastic waste from locations all around the world into a range of sustainable materials for 3D printing. This collective would be invaluable in assisting with the production of the sculptures. For the sound track to accompany the exhibition, I would seek the involvement of locally based, internally renowned New World Doctors Music Production.

Because of Byron Bay's reputation as an environmentally conscious community, its scenic beauty and its capacity to attract media attention, the first (pilot) exhibition would be mounted at Main Beach, Byron Bay. 3D printing would make it possible to replicate the exhibition at other iconic sights of natural beauty around the world.

The exhibition because of its universal themes, creative execution and location would appeal to a wide audience of all ages and backgrounds. Byron Bay attracts more than 1 million visitors per year. Although the exhibition would run over a finite period, the timing of the exhibition during the peak tourist period would have the potential to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors. If mounted on a global scale the exhibition audience would vast.

Because of its environment theme, the exhibition could appeal to commercial sponsors such as waste management companies. As a local tourist attraction, the Byron Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NSW may be interested in financial involvement. In addition, a number of philanthropic organisations that promote public art and environmental causes may be sources of funding.

Crowdfunding from all over the world could be a source of funding. The exhibition lends itself to sponsorship, there are many opportunities. It could be possible to use the life size sculptures to collect coins from viewers. A sculpture could be made to light up or make a sound when a coin is inserted. The exhibition could be sold in the form of an algorithm to be constructed in different locations.

I envisage the project will take between 3 and 6 months to be constructed and organised. The initial exhibition at Byron Bay could run over several weeks. There are infinite possibilities to hold the exhibition at many scenic locations all over the world. This means the exhibition could run almost indefinitely.

As a young person who is passionately committed to the environment. I want to apply my knowledge of art to inspire others to take positive steps to reduce the harm humanity has inflicted on the planet.

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