

## DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

### Sayaka GANZ: Bring Plastic Waste to Life

In this issue, I present to you the fabulous artist Sayaka Ganz. She used hard plastic items like one-way cutlery and other utility tools to create sculptures which, in most cases, represent animals. But she breathes life into her sculptures, often running, swimming, and flying. Sayaka provided me with one photo of her recently created sculptures for publication. In any way, you should visit her website to get a much more intense view of her work (<https://sayakaganz.com/>).

"When we encounter the true wonders of nature, the beauty we behold transcends our intellects and reaches directly to our hearts. I desire a similar response from viewers of my work, to provoke a re-examination of our relationship to the natural world".

Of course, we all know about the plastic problem we are confronted with; we use one-way plastic items for convenience and to save money without caring not enough about their final. The results of our behaviour become undeniable in the accumulation of plastics in the oceans. One-way plastic cutlery is often made of Polystyrol, which is relatively stable in the environment and, to a certain extent, resistant to radiation. Depending on the use, different additives, such as colours, stabilisers, trace metals, etc., may be present in the Polystyrol items. As with all plastic materials, they will corrode after some time due to UV radiation and biological attack; in oceans, corrosion will be supported by mechanical forces from wind and waves. As a result, the material turns brittle and ends up as nanoparticles. Mechanical and chemical recycling needs pure materials resulting in downcycling.

The sculptures of Sayaka Ganz draw our attention to the beauty, power and potential hidden in plastic waste. I cite Sayaka Ganz once again:

*"I believe the best way for artists to help reduce waste is to show how beautiful these materials can be and what can be done with these mundane objects and materials. When we think of these things as beautiful, we value them"* (Sayaka Ganz).

The careful reader of my column in Detritus may find these words sound familiar.

Let us look at the beautiful seahorse created using many plastic items; I can identify a lemon press and large forks. It seems like the seahorse is swimming. The light blue colour gives more structure and beauty to the seahorse. In the upper left part of the picture, a medusa floats in the dark, which shines brightly due to internal illumination.



SAYAKA GANZ / Seahorse (Photos courtesy of the artist)

The work of Sayaka Ganz is an exceptional example of art from waste. Her creativity, her eye for finding and selecting the appropriate plastic items and her skills and craftsmanship make these sculptures unique. In Volume 19 - 2022, I presented the fabulous artist Deniz Sađıđıç who created these beautiful portraits from denim with a similar philosophy.



*In the next Volume of Detritus, I will present an example of Street Art. You may ask, what has Street Art have to do with waste? Let us see.*