

Sense Making through the Trash Art: Connecting the Arts of Everyday Life Discarded Objects

Govind Prasad

Research Scholar Department of Fine Art
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002
E-mail: govindcrt@gmail.com

Abstract—The world of trash and creativity is going on great progress by using awesome ideas about discarded objects or things. In modern world of creativity many artist ideas has discussed detailed and most fashionable creating with best way to use the old things like, discarded or waste materials, wrappers, plastic bottle, scrap wood, tires, rubber and many others things which are Making a Sense to creating and Connecting the arts of Everyday Life materials through the Trash Art.

Nowadays, due to the lack of awareness about the earth, the people whose are creating many type of pollution with the discarded materials. So, I think it is very important to continue informing the public about the significance of these current issues through any mode of awareness. Several artists all over the world have already been working with waste or scrap material, discarded object type of art; And these artwork deals with a certain environmental issue such as global warming, climate change, deforestation, Water, Soil, Air and noise pollution which is present today. In this way, I will have been able to increase awareness of key environmental issues, while carrying out the very act of recycling through some recycled artwork, artist and its related many more activities. In this issue I will be attempt to express my own personal vision as related to as new ideas or innovation.

Through this work I have endeavoured to analysis the Recycled Art, artist and contemporary art trends. The whole paper will be divided into some major points, which covers Trash art, artists and their art work in details. In this paper also I will refer that how arts-based environmental education can both facilitate everyone in the opening of their senses to nature, with their fears about the ecological crisis, and how the environment can be purified contaminated by recycled art as the new intervention.

Keywords: Trash, Junk or Recycled Art, Hybrid Art, New Trends of Contemporary Art, Ideas, Imagination & Innovation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human feelings get more clear or understandable through Art. Its supremacy is well renowned. Creating art through discarded objects, become world Famous master art piece e.g. **Rock Garden Chandigarh**, India. The first language of humanity is art only. The initial layout of art is found in Mesopotamia and Egypt but Indian Art culture is forth most for its long continuous duration. There is only one reason for

its glorious character that, in India there is presence of art in one form or another, which the whole world accepted.



Fig. 1.1: the Guitar Vadodara has come up with a unique way to deal with scrap and urban beautification.

| Photo Credit: Anuj Poddar

Art has important influence over happy and healthy life. The world of trash and creativity is going on great progress by using awesome ideas about discarded objects or thing. In modern world of creativity many artist ideas has discussed detailed and most fashionable creating with best way to use the old things like, discarded or waste materials, wrappers, plastic bottle, scrap wood, tires, rubber and many others things. Things which we see useless in our day today life like broken glass, ceramic mug, cup-plate, bangles etc; artist through this things can create that things which we couldn't conceptualize. Many Artists in India are using waste materials to create master art piece through Recycled art like artist **Mr. Neck Chand Saini, Satish Gujral, Subodh Gupta** and many more. **Vivan Sundaram**, the Delhi-based artist uses dump yard

junk like surgical masks, tyre tubes and loofahs to create huge installation art. **K Sasikumar** uses metal rods from scrap shops to send out across the message that people should minimise waste and maximize the utility of things. Sundaram presents 45 garments made of everyday stuff like surgical gloves, ties, cycle tubes, Chinese bras, paper cups, collars & wire mesh, **Chitra Mandanna**, on the other hand, does not throw away any trash. She manages to use old gumboots, egg cartons to household waste into beautiful work of art. **Grishma Verma**, an artist who now excels in making collectibles using industrial waste and vintage parts of old fixtures. It was her fascination for junk that challenged her to turn the trash into artistically beautiful objects that can add spice to living spaces. **Sachin Kaluskar**, Vadodara-based art promoter, designed an art show during the road safety week. Artists made interesting art sculptures, installations and artworks using automobile scrap and old helmets.



Fig. 1.2 Artist Babis Cloud aka Babis Panagiotidis creates this beautiful Trojan Horse sculpture made of computer keys.

Recycled art and found art are becoming more and more popular with artists, to create awareness with the general public about reusing and recycling their unwanted or no longer needed items. Art knows it has no bounds. Artists are free to create any art form out of any object or material that is available to them. In the West, artists have been making strong statements via their recycled artwork. The king of trash art, **El Anatsui**, the Ghanaian artist uses flattened liquor bottle caps to communicate his thoughts to the world. He is hailed as a global star and his works are creating a bustling in the global art world. (Source: from Mojart.com)

2. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

I have tried to analysis the challenges to preserving our planet from the present pollution as well as our valuable art, culture into some major points, which covers impacts, challenges, and also creating a people's sense to save earth through the trash art. This study is also draw attention of the people aware about the waste management and recycling through the trash or recycled art.

3. STUDY AREA AND DATA METHODOLOGY:

The significance of study is to recognize the important of Trash art in India, which can be seen all over the country in Indian art Events and Exhibitions. In this research paper I studied, analyze those scripts which helped in revealing the untouched area through related literature, main dimensions of art; current scholar's and artist's work produced till now. I studied those books written by scholar and great writer which are related to Recycled or Trash art and provided the rear and hidden information about the untouched area of Trash art.

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data and use descriptive research methodology. The primary data is based on the researcher, as a student has visited several Art Fair and Art Exhibition in different parts of India so many times e.g. Art Fair at Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad etc. The secondary data has been collected from the articles published in local, National and International newspapers, magazines, e-books, Indian art websites and so many e-resources etc. The Indian contemporary art has so many art activities, which are introduce a number of new dimensions of art to art lovers and as well as its observed by several Art Critic, Art Historian, Researcher and writer, so that it is occupy a prominent places in the newspapers. So, the published articles and news are also main resource of this article.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Realizing the significance of visual art, many writers, scholars and researchers from different parts of India and world have paid due attention on visual Art practices and Innovation through such articles they made all the people aware about the visual art innovation and sustainable development through the different types art and New Media. This type of visual art innovation thought and work we can see in local and national Indian Art fair, Exhibition and Art Galleries e.g. the **DELHI ART FAIR 2-5 Feb. 2017**. Therefore, it is very common that there are some regular articles published in local and national newspapers. Some of them are of international importance e.g. **The Contemporary Canvas (The Indian Express**, Friday, February 3, 2017). In the Other issue exploring visual art new dimensions and practices in tilted 'Art from trash' by Sharanya Gautam (The Times of India, City Chennai, Apr 22, 2012, 02.25 AM IST).

In the article a new intervention in the field art issue has been raised by Vandana Kalra , Shruti Chakraborty '**India Art Fair 2017: 6 artworks you must check out**' (The Indian Express , New Delhi , Published February 5, 2017) and other issue by Poonam Goel "**India Art Fair: A Retrospective**" (<http://unboxedwriters.com/February 2, 2014>) in this article She choose and Explain the top ten art work that stood out for sheer innovation and style in Delhi Indian Art Fair and same type of issue exploring by Usha Hariparsad in their article '**In Pictures: Trash-y art at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival**' (Feb

19, 2014 on www.thealternative.in). Whether it's the demo of e-waste and its hazards, waste management, or creating innovative art out of waste, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival has succeeded in highlighting environmental issues and the importance of recycling.

Many facts about the different fields of art have been described but Indian art in the context of Recycled art has not yet been well explored. Especially with respect to Trash art, we are getting partial or incorrect information about the activities, artist of Trash or Recycled art. Art influence the human mind in a greater extend even if it is made up of garbage or Junk Yard. The historical aspects of Indian Recycled art have been highlighted in the book '**Beauty Renewed: Recycled Art & Artists in India**' by **Robin Passi**. The works of some eminent scholar and writer are:

- Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film, by **Vera Dika(2003)**
- Indian Art at Delhi 1903: Being the Official Catalogue of the Delhi By **Sir George Watt**
- Recycled Sculpture Art by **Denver Keels (2012)**

In brief, Trash Art thought has been such an issue about which there is growing awareness throughout the world. Many artists have been doing invaluable work in the field of Contemporary Art. On global level, everywhere the people are talking about Visual art Innovation, expression, imagination and new intervention in the field of art consciously or unconsciously.



Fig. 5.1: El Anatsui Installation View of Brooklyn Museum (image courstey Brooklyn Museum)

5. CONCEPT OF TRASH, JUNK OR RECYCLED ART

Recycled art can be described as art that is created with waste or reclaimed materials incorporated into the piece in the garbage or our junk yard. Junk has been an integral part of human life since pre-historic times. While most of it has to be actually destroyed, there is still left a considerable quantity that we can use to create art, called Recycled, Trash or Junk Art. This involves looking at trash in new and inventive ways. Capably enough, the recycling of trash and transforming it

into art is like finding treasure out of nowhere. Recycled Art, also referred to as Junk Art, can be defined as an art form that uses old or used items or day to day trash to create something which is brand-new, attractive, and useful in most cases. Recycled Art can also be referred to as an environment friendly art form, as the waste products are re-used, which helps in keeping our environment clean. In the hands of an artist, discarded things or recycled trash is transformed into beautiful new art creations, these works incorporate reclaimed object: an old book, bottle caps.



Fig. 5.2: Orbital-bonsai-close-up- made from electronic scrap

In Recycled Art, you can create beautiful pieces out of your old torn jeans, worn out sweaters, plastic bubble wrap, grocery bags, empty bottles, computer hardware, or any other piece of electronic goods, and the list is endless. Most of the items used in creating this form of art are symbolic of our times and in due period, will be replaced by other materials. The advantage of reusing and recycling materials in this way helps preserve natural resources, and landfill space, while saving money. Recycled Art can carry any tone, changeable, vital, inspiring, useful, beautiful, wearable, humorous, or even hideous or horrible.

Art knows it has no bounds. Artists are free to create any art form out of any object or material that is available to them. Using Recyclable materials to create art is always a win-win situation. The trash is freely available everywhere and doesn't cost a thing, while the art form helps lower the quantity of waste around and turning it into something useful. Recycled Art has close ties with Assemblage Movement or Found Object Artwork Movement. It is not considered novelty anymore and is closely related to Save the Earth movement or Green Movement. Here the artists are inspired by the historical account of the old objects and then they try to create the new meanings out of it for future generations by arranging the objects in completely new idea and ways.

Recycled art and found art are becoming more and more popular with artists, to create awareness with the general public about reusing and recycling their unwanted or no longer

needed items. Artists will commonly use objects such as broken saw blades, old sinks and other objects to create art. Found art was originally described by **Marcel Duchamp in 1915**, when he used the word readymade to describe his own art creation called the *Bicycle Wheel* that was made in 1913. A fountain that Duchamp created was made from an *old urinal* that he then signed *R. Mutt*. This is only one example of an artist using old objects to create found/Junk or recycled art.



Fig. 5.3: Stunning tire sculptures by Korean Artist Yong Ho Ji

Recycled art is also known as eco friendly art, as it incorporates items that would otherwise sit in a landfill. Artists such as **Leo Sewell** create unique pieces of art made from everyday items that most people would simply throw away and not think twice about. One piece in particular called *Teddy Bear* incorporates small pieces of recycled art materials such as buttons, tiny pieces of toys and all were chosen for their durability and shapes. Nails, screws and bolts were used to place all the tiny pieces together to create a real to life teddy bear. Anita Ahuja, Arun Kumar H.G. Brinda Miller, Ilyas Ahmed, Kaushik Mukhpadhyay, Neck Chand Saini, Radhika Khaitan Mittal & Madhvi khaitan, Robin Passi, Sahil & Sarthak, Shabnam Gupta, Sarmila Samant, Shilpa Joglekar, Hema Upadhyay, Vivan Sundram, Shilpa Gupra, Sudharshan Shetty, Mithun Sen, Mirani Mukharjee etc. so many artists are doing amazing art work through the waste materials. Recycled art and found art styles have been around for almost one hundred years but still many artists are doing amazing art work through the waste materials. However, they are becoming more popular in contemporary art trends at the National and International Art Fairs and Exhibition, as more people are going 'green' and trying to be more eco friendly in their lifestyles while eliminating their carbon footprint.

Chitra Mandanna throws nothing away, whatever comes out of garbage house (domestic waste) and she turns them into pieces

of master art. Mandanna belongs to a group of artists who recycle domestic waste, industrial scrap and discarded electrical waste to create art. She is one of 15 artists who are displaying their works at the Re-start Earth exhibition that was inaugurated at Gallery Art & Soul on Saturday on Earth Day. "I try to 'up-cycle' and re-use anything," says Mandanna, 37, whose work using cassette tape, egg cartons and old newspaper is on display. (Source: The Times of India)

Where others simply see disposable scrap in old plastic bottles, broken glass, combs, metal, e-waste, newspapers, and so on, these master creators are pointing their talents to transform them into thought- stimulating art or eco-friendly products. However, this unique spin on recycling garbage doesn't just give birth to stimulating art it also generates revenues of around Rs 5 crore per annum from sale of everyday products made from recycled, reuse waste material or trash. One of the early attempts at making art from waste was undertaken by **Nek Chand**, a self-taught artist who has created the iconic *Rock Garden in Chandigarh*. And they have embarked on a mission to turn waste into beauty, Chand used broken crockery, electric fittings, fluorescent tubes, bicycle frames, bottles, glass bangles, shells, pots, and smashed up bathroom fittings to create a well-crafted wonderland. Much similar like Chand's *Rock Garden* influenced by parquet Guell, Niki de saint phalle decided that she wanted to create a garden of whimsical sculptures inspired by symbols found on tarot cards. Ager more than 20years of work the garden called **Giardino dei tarocchi** (the **Tarot Garden**) in Italian was completed in 1998. Much like Chand, one the junk artist Khambatta has always enjoyed creating art from junk. At his studio in Wadala, (a suburb of Mumbai) along with heaps of recyclable material gathered from streets, garages and construction sites in the local area, stand stunning sculptures made from it. Khambatta, who is going to turn 50, started sculpting in his late teens. He would scout around for scrap metal from around his neighbourhood and weld them into pieces of art he fondly christened 'Sraptures', a word that has become synonymous with his work.



Fig. 5.4: Rock Garden Chandigarh, Trash Sculpture by Neck Chand

The other well-known artist **Debanjan Roy** who uses plastic, discarded parts of appliances and other such junk to make

“Pop and Shock art” is the Kolkata-based Roy and his most recognised works is “*Banana Tree*” in Delhi Art Fair, which was made up of Waste Tube, Waste Tyre & Steel. He said that “In this project, I have taken used and discarded automobile tires and tubes, and recycled them to create a banana tree (a symbol of growth and fertility). This is a tongue in cheek artwork highlighting the problem of disposal of packaged consumer goods and industrial waste materials existing all over the world today.” He has used recycled automobile tyres and tubes to make this masterpiece.

The sister duo of Radhika and Madhvai Khaitan from Jaipur, who have set up Workshop Q which produces “*next generation lifestyle icons from trash*”; Chennai’s Suren Vikash, whose thinks, In India is a start-up that “innovates with everyday waste materials”; and the couple, Anita and Shalabh Ahuja of Conserve India from Delhi, are among the few notable names.

In brief I would like say that nowadays many Art Fair and Art Event several Art work made from vegetable waste, newspapers, bottles and e-waste have been exhibited and appreciated. Recently, we have seen many art works in Delhi Art Fair-2017 which had made of Waste material or discarded object and this types Art project participating artists are Rathin Barman, Anila Quayyum Agha, Avinash Veeraraghavan, Kanu’s Gandhi, Conceptualised By Renu Modi, Joël Andrianomearisoa, Reena Saini Kallat, Mithu Sen, Parul Gupta And Hemant Sreekumar, Francis Limerat, Sudarshan Shetty, Vanita Gupta, No Man’s Land, Thukral And Tagra, Brookhart Jonquil and Akhlaq Ahmed etc. At this annual kumbh of art includes many eminent artist e.g. MF Hussain, H S Raza, Raghav Kaneheria, Satish Gujral, Dhanraj Bhagat, K. S. RadhaKrishanan, Subodh Gupta, K. Laxma Goud, Arun Kumar HG and many others. One Step Ahead has been take by Vogue magazine had invited young designers such as Shweta Sharma, Manoshi Nath and Maxima Basu to make fashion from recycled goods.

All these artists have in a way redefined the way people look at trash. Waste material or trash is not bad as it looks on the surface of the earth. All it needs is an artist’s eye and magical skills to turn into beautiful creation or artistic master art piece. We have described above a brief introduction on Trash art, artist, events and its new Intervention, imagination, expression in field of visual art. Nowadays, Trash art or installation is seen in many sphere of Indian contemporary art.



Fig. 6.1: Arunkumar H G, His Shoes Slipper soles, adhesive, thread, 60×182cm (24×72")

6. CONCLUSION:

In brief, This Research Paper will help in giving a nature sense and information about visual art innovation, imagination in contemporary art trends, artist and its Events with the respect of Trash Art. This Research Paper also showing the current status of Recycled Art and its related art activities in the Indian and world level art fairs and Exhibitions. This work is fundamental and extremely important work in this field Indian Contemporary Art. And this will be useful for current scholar, art student and art lover. The present paper theme “*Sense Making through the Trash Art: Connecting the arts of Everyday Life discarded objects*” has aim to provide detail information about Recycled art and its present activities along with Social Environmental issue, Art, Culture, Literature, Civilization. By showing all the aspect of Trash art through this paper I will attempt to create a new dimension of everyday life Art. I have given proper description of the successful work in the field of Trash Art, with help of this we could compare old and new concept of Trash Art. In concise I would like say that Nowadays, the people are making many more pollution through the daily life waste materials or the garbage house mismanagement and lack of moral or civic sense. In India and globe through these garage house or junk material like, plastic bottle, cold drink cane, rubber, wrapper, and so many other trash materials artist are making amazing art piece as well as making a people’s nature sense to save our earth from the pollution. After watching these types work, people are thinking trash could be good raw materials for the art and as well as good source of the income. Recycled, Junk or found art, Trash art or installation is seen in many sphere of Indian contemporary art.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I bow in reverence to Almighty God, the most beneficent and the most merciful, whose kind blessings led me to complete this work and produce it in its present form.

My special mention goes to my enthusiastic supervisor **Prof. Zeba Hasaan**, Department of Fine Art, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, who deserves the credit for many ideas expressed in this Paper and who has guided me to complete the work with his invaluable comments, patience and encouragement.

I am also indebted to all the teachers, Department of Fine Art A.M.U, Aligarh who helped me in various ways throughout the preparation of this paper. I am hugely appreciative to **Dr. Badar Jahan**, especially for sharing his expertise so willingly. I am also indebted for the support from the seminar library staff for providing me books, journals and other facilities.

Further, I would like to give special thanks to my friends, Mr. Md Azad Ansari, Mr. Saleem Akhtar and Miss Faiza for their immense support and encouragement throughout the work. I also want to acknowledge my heartiest thanks to, our respected senior Mr. Sudhir Kumar for her ingenious nature and support, both moral and practical, which has enriched my life immeasurably.

REFERENCES

- **Amrita Jhaveri** (2005), *A Guide to 101 Modern & Contemporary Indian Artist* (India Book house,)
- **Arnason, H. H.**, *A History of Modern Art*, by Thames and Hudson Ltd. London
- **Bruce, Cole**, *Art of the Western World*, by
- **Denver Keels** (2012) *Recycled Sculpture Art* by
- **Devender Kumari**, *History of Indian Art*
- **Diarmuid Cotello and Jonathan Vickerya**, *Art key contemporary thinkers*
- *Direct Art: Vol.20* by **Aldo Lira**
- **IAN Chilver**, *The Oxford Dictionary of Art* (Third Edition) s pub:- Oxford University Press 2004
- **Kajal Kanjilal**, *History of Indian Art* New Saraswati House (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- **Kanchana Arni , Geeta Wolf**, *Child art with everyday maerials* by
- **Nikos Stargos**, *Concept of Modern Art from Fauvism to post modern* by Thames and Hudson Ltd. London
- **P.N. Mango**, *Contemporary Art in India*, by The NBT India
- **Paul Mattick**, *Art in Its Time: Theories and practices of modern aesthetics* (**Routledge london and New york**)
- **R.D. Choudhury**, (2008-2009) **KALA: The Journal of Indian art h istory congrees value XIV**
- **Recycled Theory: Dizionario illustrato / Illustrated Dictionary** Edited by **Sara Marini E/ and Giovanni Corbellini**
- **Robin Passi Beauty Renewed: Recycled Art & Artists in India**, (Publish by Timeless book)
- **Sir George Watt**, *Indian Art at Delhi 1903: Being the Official Catalogue of the Delhi By*
- **Susan White Sullivan, 2004** *The Big Green Books of Recycled Art & Craft, Leisure Arts,*
- **Trash to treasure 28 recycled crafts** by **Prime Pulishing LLC**
- **Vera Dika(2003)** *Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film,*
- **Website and Internet sources:**
- <https://www.mojarto.com/blogs/when-junk-trash-turn-into-artworks>
- http://EzineArticles.com/expert/Annette_Labedzki/252070
- Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/1453442>
- <http://ezinearticles.com/?Recycled-Art-and-Found-Art-Styles&id=3421752>
- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Art-from-trash/articleshow/12817242.cms>
- date 13-02-2017 IST 9:18
- <http://www.theweekendleader.com/Innovation/2556/art-from-waste.html>
- <http://unboxedwriters.com/india-art-fair-a-retrospective/#.WKGtzDt97IX>