

# Eight Legs of Waste | Yazmin Phillips



*Sculpture: An octopus made of trash collected from the beach.*

## Artist Statement

My project was a combination of few things. I would consider it to be a socially engaged art piece since it did consist of a social gathering. The initial step in my process to complete it was to organize a beach cleanup. After we cleaned the beach all the trash collected was kept (yes I kept it all) to be used as the material to create a sculpture. I decided to compose an Octopus form because just like sea turtles, whales, and dolphins they are extremely impacted by the pollution. The Sculpture is made up of about twelve parts that all come together to produce my garbage octopus.

The main purpose was to encourage others to partake in beach cleanings and hopefully open their eyes to the deeper problem. The beach cleaning I coordinated for my project was the first one I have ever participated in. I really liked the experience and I would definitely do it again. I feel like if my project could give someone just a little push to give a beach cleanup a try it would inspire them to do more. Though pollution is just a small factor on the abundant list of causes to climate change, I feel like every little bit, every helping hand, and every lifestyle change is a step towards change and prevention.

I feel like my topic is relevant to Nancy Grimm's lecture through the idea of urbanization. Unfortunately, the urban world is a big cause for all of the pollution whether it be from

industries or people to recycle and get involved in preventing pollution that will aid in winning the battle between urbanization and climate control.

I would love for my piece to affect others and I know it has had a great deal of impact on me. It is overwhelming if you really think about the negative effect we have on the earth. I have been trying to do my best to change my ways and encourage others and I think that's all I can really do and I feel like that is what this experience has taught me. To see the people I inspired to come out and clean the beach I would have never in a million years thought to see doing so really touched my heart.