

Plastic Free Manifesto

We wrote this with a plastic pen
And again
With a plastic keyboard

We made a manifesto
It was very sober
and responsible
It acknowledged Country
It pledged to take responsibility
and eliminate plastics
where possible

But then we saw you everywhere!

You are irresistible, Plastic
You're in the guts of fish and birds
You wrap yourself around necks
You float in the troposphere
You are a guest in our bodies
We buy you, we eat you, we eat with you
We inhale you, we shit you
We are ungrateful, we throw you away!

Our hair falling out:
plastic.
The invisible particles of skin that flake off everyday
Accumulating as piles of dust under the bed and behind the
couch:
plastic.

What will we do?
We will make art!

We had a look at some manifesti
Mierle's Maintenance Art Manifesto
Captured something of what we're grappling with.
The banality of maintenance:
After the revolution, who's going to do the washing up?

We
As it happens

Are trying to "sell"
Washing up –
As an art activity

It may be a hard sell

The seven year old girl
Knows about this stuff
Sometimes
She does "news" talks at school
About plastics
About balloons and the turtles that choke on them
She recommends lobbying council
She recommends contacting scientists
She recommends not having balloons at your party

She knows about this stuff

But when the supermarket
starts to give away "Ooshies"
These little plastic collectible Lion King characters
She begs us to shop there
So she too
Like all her seven year old friends
can collect them

She knows about plastic
She knows about this stuff
But she still wants Ooshies.

We Are
Collectively
Civilisationally
A seven year old girl

We know about this stuff
We know it's going to end up in landfill

Ooshies are never going away
Because there is no "away".

And
We still want Ooshies.

or maybe not.

Maybe we try to do things differently
We have a crack at Plastic Free July

Shop at the food co-op
Bring our own bags
Make our own hummus
Get a "Keep Cup"

But the river of plastic has not stopped flowing
DESPITE!
our efforts

We cannot stop it
It is who we are

So what will we do?
We will make art!

We will think about you, Plastic
What do we really need from you?
We will stalk your molecules
We will follow you from the factory to the sea
We will pay attention to you and we will ignore you

We will slow down
We will eat our food on china plates
Drink our drinks from china cups
Wash up after ourselves, paying attention
Let critters eat our scraps and make rich soil

We will return to you
We will talk with you in public
We will dream you out of our bodies
and waterways
and economies

and we will not stop thinking about you