

**PERFECT FOR
KINDERGARTEN
TO 2ND GRADE**

but fun for everyone!



Read *The Mess That We Made*, written by Michelle Lord and illustrated by Julia Blattman. Purchase the book from the [Carlos Bookshop](#), check it out from your local library, or [listen](#) to Tiphonie Yanique, award-winning author and associate professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory, read the book in the special exhibition *And I Must Scream*. She sits next to a photograph by Fabrice Monteiro, titled *Prophecy #8*. Look for similarities between the book's illustrations and Monteiro's photograph. Create your own recycled fashion design out of materials you would normally throw away!

**This project
is great for:**



**Learning about
ocean pollution**



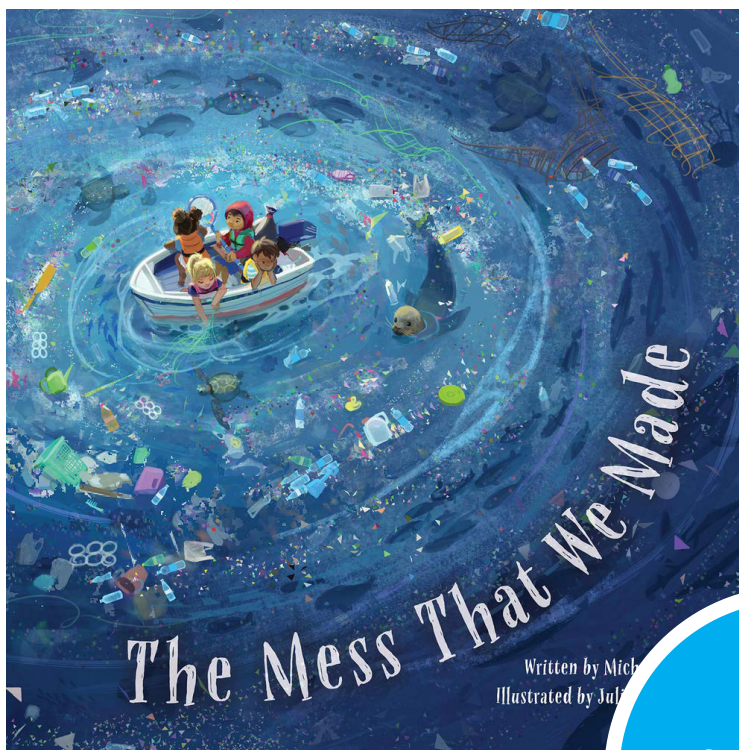
**Understanding art
as environmental
activism**



**Creating multimedia
artwork**



**Recycling trash
as art materials**




**stories
artful
in/jar**



**NORTHERN LIGHTS
BOOK AWARD,
WINNER OF THE
ENVIRONMENT
CATEGORY**

The Mess That We Made

**Written by Michelle Lord
Illustrated by Julia Blattman**

Flashlight Press, 2020 • ISBN (hardcover): 978-1-947277-14-4

Join four children in a little boat as they discover the magnitude of *The Mess That We Made*. With rhythmic language and captivating art, this cumulative tale portrays the terrible impact of trash on the ocean and marine life, inspiring us to make changes to save our seas. Includes a back section with facts about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, ocean pollution, and calls to action for kids and grown-ups to share.



Prophecy #8. Fabrice Monteiro, 2014. Color inkjet print. ©Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.



Things to talk about:

- What objects in Monteiro's photograph do you recognize?
- Are there objects in the book's illustrations that are also in Monteiro's *Prophecy #8*?
- Look closely at the objects floating in the water in *The Mess That We Made*. Are there any that you use every day?
- How does ocean pollution harm marine wildlife and people? Why is it a problem?
- What are ways you can help save the ocean from the mess that we made? If you do not live near the ocean, are there other bodies of water near you that you can clean and protect?

A prophecy is a prediction that something will happen in the future. This photograph, titled *Prophecy #8*, was taken by an artist named Fabrice Monteiro in Senegal, a country in West Africa. What do you think Monteiro is warning us about in this photograph?

Monteiro creates photographs to raise awareness and help protect the Earth from environmental challenges, which is a form of environmental activism. In this photograph, Monteiro is focusing on **overfishing**, a practice that creates pollution in Hann Bay in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Crews from fishing boats toss old nets into the ocean, where they wash up onto the shore or float, sometimes invisibly, underwater. These abandoned fishing nets, called **ghost nets**, can be deadly for marine wildlife and unsafe for people who swim in the water. Monteiro collaborated with his friend Doulsy, a Senegalese fashion designer, to create the dress in this photograph out of fishing nets and trash they found on the beach.

According to Monteiro, the figure in this photograph is a *jinnī*, a supernatural being, sent by Gaia, Mother Earth, to appear to humans and give them a message of warning, but also of empowerment. By including a *jinnī*, Monteiro connects his work to a cultural belief held by many West Africans called **animism**—the belief that everything (plants, animals, places, forces of nature, etc.) has a spirit.

Make it!



CREATE YOUR OWN RECYCLED FASHION DESIGN

To build confidence and a sense of ownership in their art, it's important that children have autonomy. Lead by example by making your own recycled fashion design with your child and let them do as much as they can on their own. The instructions below are guidelines. Children should be encouraged to explore materials and techniques to make their artwork the way they want it to be.

What you need:

Printed copy of the croquis on page 4

A variety of everyday household objects such as:

- Plastic (shopping bags, bottles, lids, eating utensils, straws, bubble wrap, potato chip bags, etc.)
- Paper (toilet paper tubes, cardboard, cereal boxes, egg cartons, magazines, newspapers, etc.)
- Aluminum foil
- Technology (old VHS or cassette tapes, CDs, wire, screws and bolts, etc.)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paint, scissors, yarn, etc.)

Adhesive such as tape, glue, or hot glue

What to do:

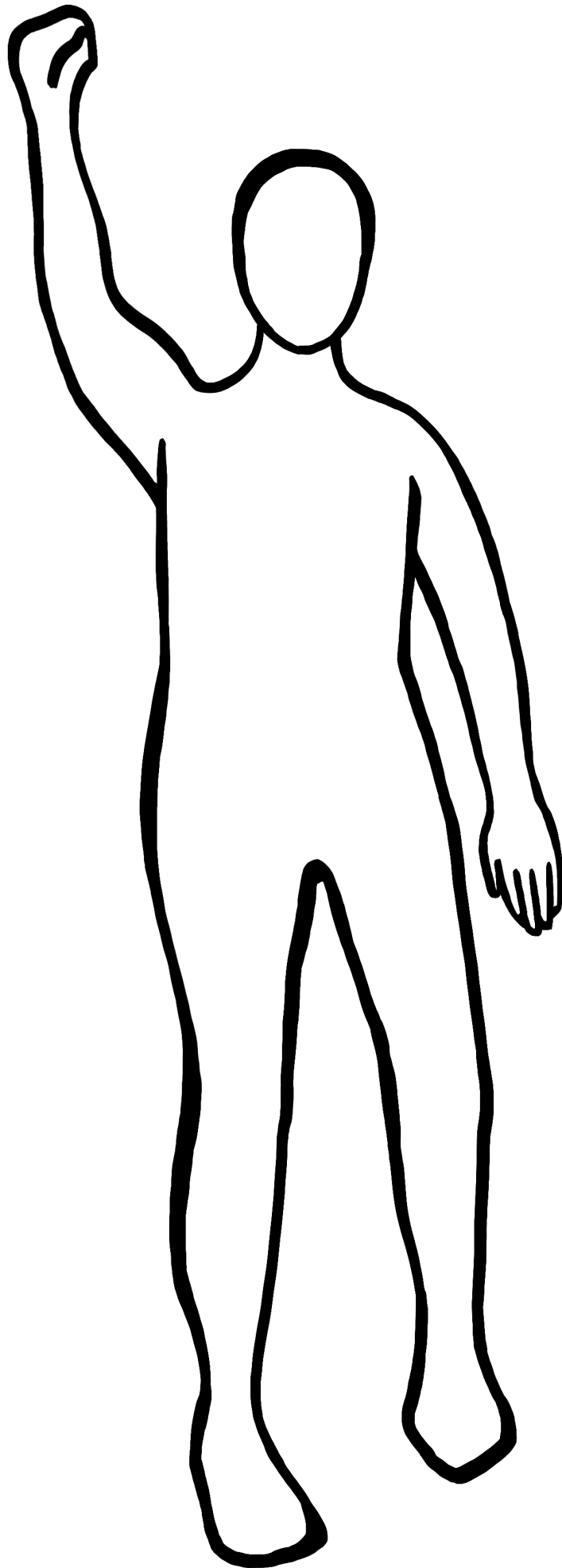
Fashion designers begin with a croquis [KROW-key], a sketch of a model, where they draw ideas onto paper before working with sewing machines and fabric. Doulsy began his designs for *Prophecy #8* by collecting materials and piecing them together. For this project, you will be gathering recycled materials and placing them onto a croquis to raise awareness of a particular environmental challenge. Consider collaborating with someone to help you make your design!

- **Print or trace the croquis** on the following page. For best results, print on thick paper or cut out the croquis and adhere it to a stronger surface.
- **Choose an environmental challenge** that is meaningful to you as the theme for your artwork.
- **Gather recycled materials** that relate to your environmental challenge. For example, if your artwork relates to technological waste, ask family or friends if they have any old VHS tapes, cassette tapes, cell phones, or wires that you could use in your project.
- **Think carefully** about what you want your recycled fashion design to look like. Do you want to create a dress? A jacket and pants?
- **Place your objects on your croquis** and try arranging them in different ways.
- **Use tape, glue, or hot glue** to stick your materials to the croquis.
- **Use art supplies to draw or paint** around your recycled fashion design to add details such as an environment or setting. The setting for Monteiro's *Prophecy #8* is at the beach of Hann Bay in Dakar, Senegal. Where would you want your fashion design to be seen?

You can also adhere support to the back of your recycled fashion design, so it stands up as a 3D model.

- **Take pictures of your recycled fashion design** and share them with family and friends.

**RECYCLED
FASHION DESIGN
CROQUIS**



Learn new words



← Recycling

Making something new from something that has been used before.

Prophecy #11. Fabrice Monteiro, 2016. Color inkjet print. ©Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.

Pollution →

When land, water, air, or an environment is made dirty and is no longer safe for people or wildlife.

Prophecy #3. Fabrice Monteiro, 2014. Color inkjet print. ©Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.



← Overfishing

Catching too many fish so populations dwindle, is the type of overconsumption that Monteiro addresses in his work.

Prophecy #2. Fabrice Monteiro, 2013. Color inkjet print. ©Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.

Ghost net →

Fishing nets that have been abandoned, lost, or discarded into the ocean. Because fishing nets are designed to be invisible in dim light, ghost nets can entangle marine wildlife, smother coral reefs, and damage boats. Any fishing equipment which is discarded in the water is called **ghost gear**.

Prophecy #8. Fabrice Monteiro, 2013. Color inkjet print. ©Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.



Experience all this and **so much more** at the Carlos Museum!



Prophecy #2. Fabrice Monteiro, 2013. Color inkjet print. © Fabrice Monteiro, courtesy MAGNIN-A Gallery, Paris.

This is another photograph by Monteiro also taken in Hann Bay in Dakar. How is this photograph, titled *Prophecy #2*, different from *Prophecy #8* on page 2? Are there any similarities?



[Click here to explore other photographs in Monteiro's *The Prophecy* series.](#)



[Click here to learn more about ocean pollution and calls to action from Flashlight Press, the publisher of *The Mess That We Made*.](#)

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