

THE PLASTIC AGE

THE
SOLWAY
HOARD
EXHIBITION

YEAR 3023



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THE PLASTIC AGE

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From the mid-20th century to the middle of the 21st century, the production, use and disposal of plastic left an indelible mark on our world. Plastic impacted every aspect of the environment, from the pollution of rivers and oceans to the micro deposits found within human bodies and in airborne dust.

Although microscopic particles of this material are still with us a thousand years later, very few of the objects that were manufactured in this period have ever been recovered.

All of the exhibits in this collection are artefacts from The Plastic Age discovered in 3022 by two marine engineers attached to the Inter-stream 2 Intercontinental Plasma Pipeline project in the Solway. A steel capsule embedded deep in the silt contained this collection, but who collected the objects and why is unknown. While we have an understanding of the provenance and significance of some, the full histories of others remain a mystery.

The exhibits have had widely different uses, roles and journeys. Some are simply beautifully crafted objects, others mark key periods in history or represent human innovation. All are culturally significant and allow us an insight into this troubling material and its legacy.

As always with such glimpses of the past, we are left to wonder at our earlier selves.

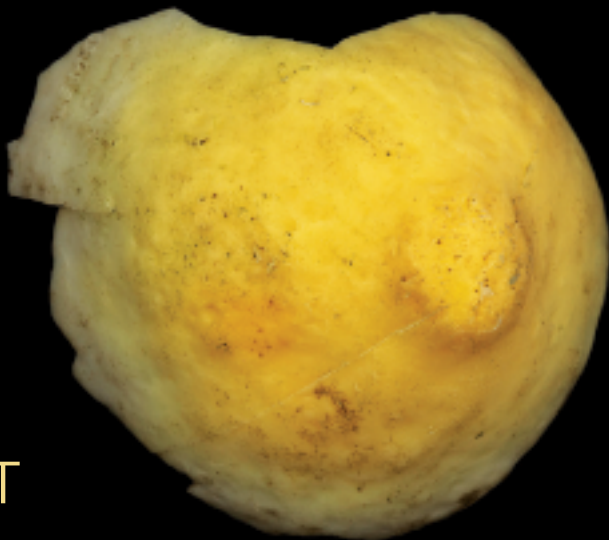
“Every fragment of our past – from the rich light pools of Medieval stained glass to the intricate valves and jets of The Plasma Age, illuminate the twists and turns on our journey to now and our many imaginings of the future”

*El-Dh Mossaf - Director
Museum of World Heritage 3023*

G **DATE:**
2345

📍 **PLACE:**
Archangel,
Russia

EXHIBIT 1: LEMON ORNAMENT (FRAGMENT)



The gradual loss of insect pollinators from the 20th century onwards led to widespread crop failures across the globe. This was particularly felt in citrus crops and it took many years to develop synthetic versions that were acceptable to the public palate.

Facsimiles of lemons and limes in the form of jewellery or table ornaments became highly fashionable and those made from the rare material of plastic were greatly prized and became extremely valuable.

The citrus replicas were particularly sought after in the commercial shipping sector after the return to sail in the 2100s. With its

connections to the first great age of sail (15th to 17th century) and the discovery that citrus juice could ward off scurvy and allow much longer voyages, the lemon motif appealed greatly to sea farers.

This object is part of a 'Jif Lemon'; a limited-edition series of citrus artworks that became as valuable in their day as the Fabergé Eggs (1885 to 1916). It is thought that the item on display was a high-status gift to a Scottish Sea Captain from a shipping company based in Archangel, an ancient Arctic seaport that thrived after the opening up of the new international shipping lanes offered by the melting ice caps.

 **DATE:**
2070

 **PLACE:**
Houston,
USA



EXHIBIT 2: STAR BROOCH

Symbol of The New Eden Movement, a quasi-religious, anthropogenic (human centred) social movement that held the political balance across North America and Europe during the mid to late 21st century.

The movement rose in reaction to the punitive measures brought in to mitigate the effects of climate change. These measures, often accompanied by messages that used shame and guilt as a method of social control, left large segments of the population feeling disenfranchised and resentful.

The Rev. Fassbender, a hugely popular television evangelist, stepped into this volatile political arena with a simple message: Humans held dominion over the Earth and everything in it.

Decades old ecological projects based on the restoration of natural habitats were

abandoned in favour of 'Humans First' policies and a new focus on space exploration. The power of this movement was starkly revealed in the policies of space programmes across the world. Bending to the will of the movement, colonisation of other planets became the objective; forgotten were the mistakes and toxic legacies of the past.

The star symbol, deliberately fabricated in polythene, the most common of the problematic new materials of the 20th century, was used as both a dismissive gesture towards the past and a rallying call to a new future.

The momentum of the movement was lost after the death of its enigmatic founder in 2091, during the launch of a privately financed prototype mass transit deep space exploration vehicle.

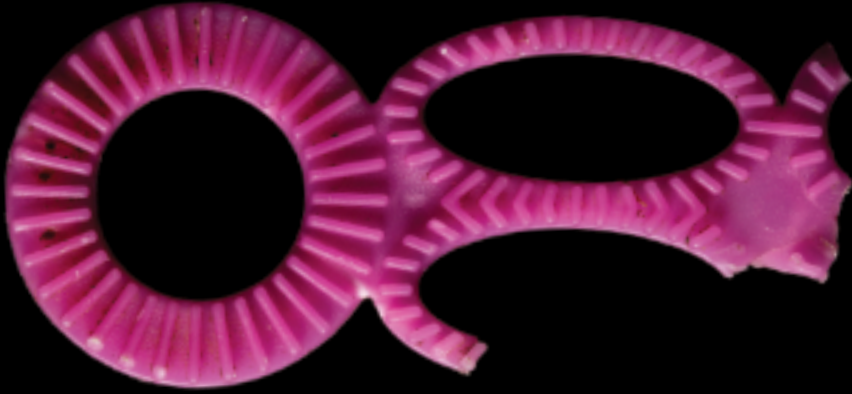


EXHIBIT 3: CHILD'S TOY

 **DATE:**
2115

 **PLACE:**
Reykjavik,
Iceland

After decades of international discussion, the latter part of the 21st century saw legal plastic production decrease and eventually banned. New technologies were developed to replace some plastic uses, but the way that plastic had become central to life in the century since 1950 meant that in practice there remained a high level of demand for the material. Illicit scavenging and illegal recycling became major activities for organised crime, with operations hidden in out-of-the-way areas with low population densities, such as Iceland.

The small fraction of the Icelandic population that owned and exploited the country's mineral resources had continued to flourish, but as fish stocks declined, Iceland's general population suffered from increasingly high unemployment. Reykjavik was an easy target for the international crime gangs, who found a willing – even desperate – work force.

They moved in and rapidly made deals with the local mineral magnates, who provided them with access to existing logistics networks and global shipping in which to hide the illegal plastic exports.

Rare complete plastic objects from before the plastic ban were often kept as status symbols by crime bosses or used as bribes to high-ranking government officials. This beautiful object is believed to be one that was recorded as being discovered in a raid by the tax authorities on the fortified villa of the Reykjavik-based Chief Executive officer of the F-Co mining company in 2100. Found in the CEO's private vault, it was almost certainly subsequently sold into the black market by a corrupt tax official and thus eventually made its way to the Solway retreat of a crime gang boss around 2115. It is believed to be part of a little understood child's game.

 **DATE:**
2203

 **PLACE:**
Odessa,
Ukraine



EXHIBIT 4: SURVIVAL TOKEN

A powerful cultural object created from waste material originally used as insulation in buildings.

The resurgence of extreme right-wing politics across Eastern Europe in 2203 with the resulting civil unrest provoked one of the largest migrations of people since the Second World War (1939-45).

The scale of the unrest, and the resulting armed response from governments and security forces in the region, left few avenues of escape for refugees. One of these avenues was the river Danube. This route flowing through the newly formed city states, militia strongholds and government checkpoints was fraught with danger. Travelling, mostly under the cover of

darkness, on hastily constructed rafts thousands of refugee families made the perilous journey to the Black Sea.

The region around Odessa, depopulated since the Russo-Ukrainian war (2014-29), offered sanctuary and a new start for the refugees. The repopulation and resurgence of Odessa as a major trading port is entirely down to the work, innovation, and vitality of the 'Danubians' as they became known.

The object is a wearable token made from the floatation materials used on the rafts and proudly worn by the original survivors, granting them respect and favoured status in their new home.

EXHIBIT 5: CHAIN



 **DATE:**
2055

 **PLACE:**
Paris,
France

Symbol of the Environmental Justice Alliance (EJA), an anonymous group of activists, academics, journalists and politicians. The aims of the group were to provide ecological justice; to judge the actions of industrialists, politicians and bankers. Those found guilty of the crime of Ecocide, the deliberate destruction of natural systems, were sentenced to death.

The first recorded assassination was carried out in 2039. The victim was Sheldon Trippier, the CEO of TotalADNOC, a company founded on the exploitation of fossilised hydrocarbons such as oil. Trippier was executed outside his office in Bonn and a 'chain' left on his body. The symbolism of the chain relates to the victim's role as part of a continuous chain of eco-destruction and that by not breaking the chain, they were complicit in the crime of Ecocide.

It is made from plastic, itself seen as a symbol of the corrupting power of business, particularly oil and gas.

The group went on to assassinate a further thirty-two 'guilty' politicians, industrialists and bankers over the next 15 years, the very end of the Plastic Age.

The appearance of this type of extreme direct action was in response to the repeated failures of the international climate treaties in the first half of the 21st century and the increasing use of curfews and force to curtail peaceful protest.

This dark period in the history of the ecological movement had all but disappeared by 2060 as the international community began to work together to face an uncertain climate future.

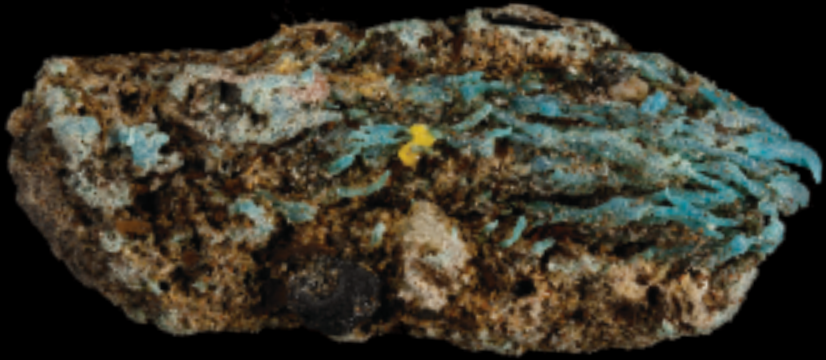


EXHIBIT 6: SEABED CONGLOMERATE

 **DATE:**
2307

 **PLACE:**
Tromsø,
Norway

By 2200, plastic recycling and reuse industries in Tromsø were so extensive that waste products had effectively laid down a new layer in the geological record. Indeed, the *Tromsian chron* is considered by many as the first of the Anthropocene epoch.

This conglomerate of igneous rock inseparably fused with remnants of a plastic rope reflects the proximity of the Håkon Mosby mud volcano lying around 300km north of Tromsø in the Barents Sea. The plastic which was encased by lava while cooling results in this rare rock plastic hybrid.

In a somewhat desperate attempt to prevent further contamination of the food system, this naturally occurring phenomenon was seen to

have potential as a model for a mechanism for clearing ocean plastics. Successful in the laboratory, a pilot site was established in the Solway Firth with the objective of clearing up the Irish Sea.

The exhibit was gifted to the Solway plant by the people of Tromsø as a totem for success.

Unfortunately, it became apparent very early on, that the method would require the generation and distribution of gigawatts of energy to offshore locations, many in extreme and unforgiving surroundings, to create the conditions where rock could be maintained in a molten state (magma).

The experiment was quietly abandoned in 2242.



 **DATE:**
2100

 **PLACE:**
Doha,
Qatar

EXHIBIT 7: CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICE

The huge European bloc, for centuries an economic powerhouse, was reaching the crisis point faced by many societies in the global North, an ageing population and a shrinking workforce. As the economic foundations shook, the young and the skilled increasingly looked outside the bloc for their futures.

Qatar, the last of the great Oil States, long used to importing low-skilled workers to fill unpopular jobs, was now in a position to offer extraordinarily high wages to the highly skilled young migrants from Europe - but on terms dictated to the immigrants by the state. Stringent social controls were imposed on these new workers including rigorous contraceptive measures on all sexes. Complicity in a pregnancy was punishable by forced sterilisation and deportation.


The object shown is a state supplied contraceptive device; simple, effective, and

worn at all times, the device also contains radioactive elements that were easily picked up by handheld scanners. Security forces at airports, public spaces and government offices could identify within seconds whether a European 'guest' worker was wearing their device and would act accordingly.

These deeply unpopular devices were withdrawn from use after extensive and sometimes violent civil disobedience campaigns were mounted by the foreign technology consultants supported by the young middle classes of Qatar.

Despite the levels of violence, The Doha Baby Riots of 2100 laid the foundations for various social justice movements in the region and the subsequent democratic revolutions that spread across the Middle East in the early part of the century.

 **DATE:**
2223

 **PLACE:**
Nuuk,
Greenland

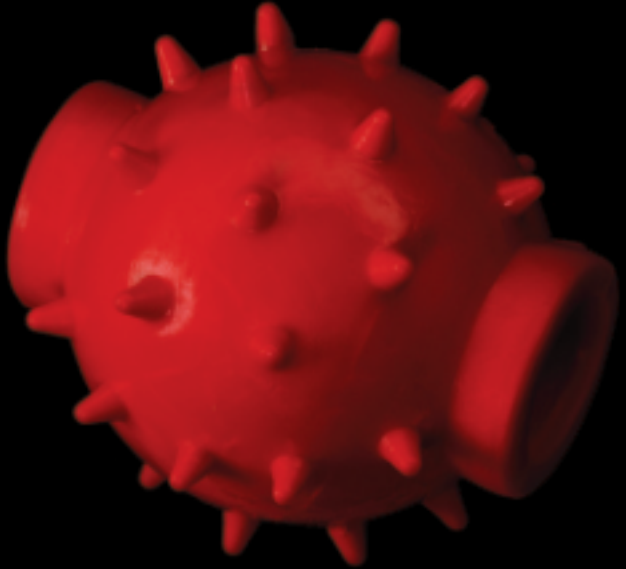


EXHIBIT 8: ORNAMENT (SACRED)

As the navigability of the world's oceans and airways became more difficult due to the frequency of violent storms, Greenland and its economy became increasingly isolated. The convergence of the cold, low-salinity East Greenland Current with the warmer Irminger and Norwegian currents shifted as the ocean warmed and fish stocks quickly depleted. The rich mineral deposits, exposed as the permafrost thawed, were soon extracted and the mining companies moved elsewhere. If it hadn't been for the plastic washed up on its shores, thanks in large part to the Greenland Sea Gyre, Greenland may well have gone the way of St Kilda albeit on a much larger scale. As it was, it became the centre of the world's plastic-based economy in the 22nd century.

Physical access to the different polymers underpinning the plastic standard was only possible through the Bertrándóttirs, a priestly-warrior class. Their ceremonies and rituals evolved to become highly technocratic but borrowed heavily from the earlier animist and then Christian ceremonies that previously had welcomed the fishing harvests.

The original function of this object - dated to 2005 - is unknown. But, regarded as both a symbol of power and a symbol of prayer, sometime in the middle of the 22nd century it was attached to a wooden staff and used in the annual Yule that greeted the return of the sun. Cast into the sea by the Völva (a female seer) at the end of the ceremony, the staff biodegraded while this sacred ornament travelled the world on the oceans' currents.

 **DATE:**
2210

 **PLACE:**
Shanghai,
China

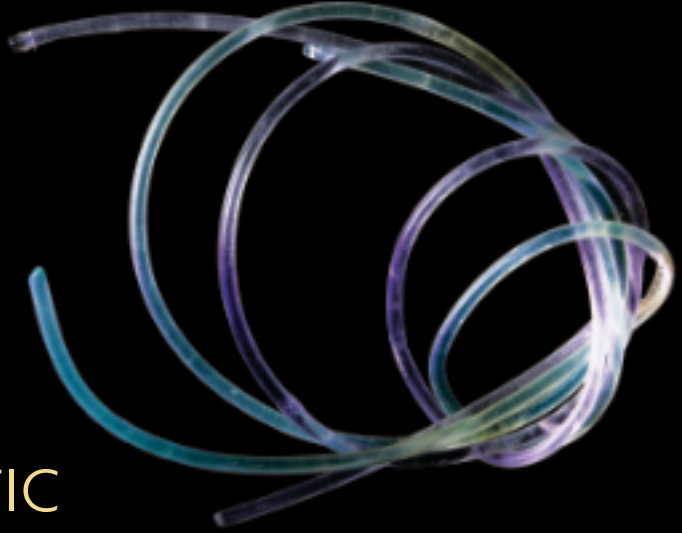


EXHIBIT 9: FIBRE OPTIC CABLE

As humans have evolved, so has our ability to communicate. The basic need to exchange information is vital to our survival, our understanding of how the world works, and our ability to pass knowledge on to future generations.

By the end of the 21st century, there were well over 500 subsea telecommunications systems using 1.5 million kilometres of cable carrying 5 billion kilometres of fibre to connect 1,306 landing points on every continent on earth except Antarctica.

It wasn't enough. More and more information was being generated and consumed both by people and by machines.

Quantum teleportation had first been proposed as a means of information transfer by Charles Bennet and his colleagues at IBM Research - a once dominant technology company - as described in their seminal paper

“Teleporting an Unknown Quantum State via Dual Classical and Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen Channels” in the late 20th century.

It took a long time, but by the late 22nd century the intriguing phenomenon of quantum entanglement had been harnessed to allow reliable propagation of qubits of information over long distances, making it possible to construct quantum networks capable of carrying almost limitless amounts of information.

The final proof was demonstrated experimentally at scale in 2210 when 1 qubit of information was transmitted from Shanghai to Ireland over the 39,000km *SeaMeWe-3* fibre cable and the *Scotland-Northern-Ireland* link running from Portpatrick to Donaghadee.

The exhibit is a braid of cables from transmission stations across the network that was used to celebrate this global endeavour.



DATE:
2300



PLACE:
Stornoway,
Scotland

EXHIBIT 10: POLYMER/GEO HYBRID

This is the only object in the Solway Hoard that does not have a clear cultural or financial value. Samples such as this were becoming increasingly common in this period as the polymer residue of the Plastic Age became embedded in the silt layers at the bottom of most large bodies of water.

Relatively quickly, in geological timescales, this formation of a sedimentary layer also included the formation of fossilised forms of marine life. This plastic stratum provided a perfect material for recording the bones and soft tissues of many now extinct marine species in perfect detail and is still a vital part of the modern Fossil Record and a major study area for academics.

Anthropologists have speculated that the cultural value of the object might relate to 'The End Days'; a widely held belief in the 24th century that humans had sinned against nature and that this scarring of the pristine Earth would result in their own extinction.

Theories of 'Natural' justice were widespread during this period and reflected a powerful sense of unease, described by anthropologist Iri Demele as 'species guilt' in their contemporary paper, *'The End Days - Where Now for the Human Animal?'*

We speculate that this fragment was understood by its owner to be a marker for that period, and powerfully represented a resonant age in both Earth's Geological time and our own fragile history.



EXHIBIT 11: DISNEY SPOON

 **DATE:**
2409

 **PLACE:**
Stornoway,
Scotland

This object, a simple spoon manufactured from plastic, illuminates both the effect of plastic on the food chain and the logical legal endpoint of the 'Polluter Pays' socio-legal stratagem of the late 21st century.

As environmental change accelerated through the late 21st century, sea level rise and increasingly fierce ocean storms continued to break down ocean plastic pollution into particles small enough to contaminate the human food chain.

The extent of the contamination inevitably came to be reflected in the price and availability of food. DCF (Definitely Contaminated Food) was the cheapest and fed those on the lowest incomes, around 80% of the global population. PCF (Probably Contaminated Food) was filtered at source to remove some micro-plastics, feeding around 19% of people. LCF (Low Contaminated Food),

a 'luxury' range only affordable by the richest 1%, was grown in tightly controlled conditions, typically indoors in hermetically sealed environments.

The rising number of serious health issues linked to DCF finally led to action in the International Courts.

It is believed that the exhibit was discovered near Stranraer in 2200. Its provenance (made for the Disney Corporation in China) was so compelling that it became crucial evidence in the class action brought by the Client Earth legal team on behalf of 'The People of the World' against those responsible for the initial pollution. The landmark ruling by the International Court of Environmental Justice in Malé meant that corporations finally became financially responsible for the PET [Polymer Eradication Target] which began in 2209 and continues to this day.

 **DATE:**
2300

 **PLACE:**
Kolkata,
India

EXHIBIT 12: KUMAR KONNECTOR



The Kumar Konnector has an unusually well-documented history for an object from this period and was widely celebrated for its political impacts as much as for its engineering utility. It was developed in response to a communications failure that resulted in thousands of deaths, displacements and near societal collapse in the aftermath of the Indonesian Tsunami of 2300.

Professor Indira Kumar and her team studied agricultural and industrial waste in seawater and its effects on deep sea communication cables. She correctly surmised that this toxic cocktail was drastically reducing the robustness of steel components used on the cables and would eventually lead to a catastrophe.

The outage of the Global Tsunami Warning Network (GTWN) in 2300 and the subsequent devastation brought the work of her team to international attention. The subsequent increased funding enabled the development of

a plastic polymer recycling system that could produce almost indestructible components for use in hazardous conditions.

The Kumar Konnector was famously used on vital communication cables, bridging the irradiated border between India and Pakistan after the war of 2323, ushering in a new age of cooperation and peace in that region.

In her book, *Engineering in Austere Conditions* (2359), Naata Nungurrayi says of Kumar's work, "to create something so valuable from something so worthless was a feat of modern alchemy".

Kumar's image and that of the Konnector was featured on banknotes on both sides of the Indian/Pakistan border for many years.

The Konnector itself was displayed in a museum in the former Pakistan for several decades before eventually being put into storage in 2437. It disappeared from the historical record shortly after.

DATE:
2315

PLACE:
Wuhan,
China



EXHIBIT 13: GYROCOMPASS (FRAGMENT)

By the middle of the 22nd century the depletion of mineral resources had become critical. Metals in particular were becoming hard to find and consequently had become increasingly expensive. Alternative materials were in high demand.

In 2278, following further regulation restricting polymer manufacturing, Dr. Ing Arjen Dijkstra working at the Wuhan Institute of Technology proposed the Law of the Conservation of Plastic. Like energy, given its permanence and ubiquity, plastic could now neither be created nor destroyed. Further, he argued that it would be foolish to rule out its potential value as a 'replacement material', leading to the emergence of make-do-and-mend technologies (MD&MTech) that became adopted as a pragmatic solution to materials shortages.

This object is a gyroscope rotor. Traditionally made from aluminium or titanium,

thermoplastic rotors were equally lightweight with good tensile strength. The anchor points on the edge of the plate are thermoset resin. These had previously been made from hardened steel for strength and required highly skilled, precision machining.

By 2300 the entire process had become automated, from the collection, separation and reheating of polypropylene (rotor) through to the milling of the reclaimed resin (directional pins) to the welding of the two component elements.

Gyroscopes like this would have been used in gyrocompasses in shipping and unmanned aerial vehicles a.k.a 'drones'.

This particular gyrocompass is from the LiDAR drone tasked with remotely 3D- mapping the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which had been completely sealed under an opaque polycarbonate dome during its decommissioning in 2220.

 **DATE:**
2400

 **PLACE:**
Bergen,
Norway

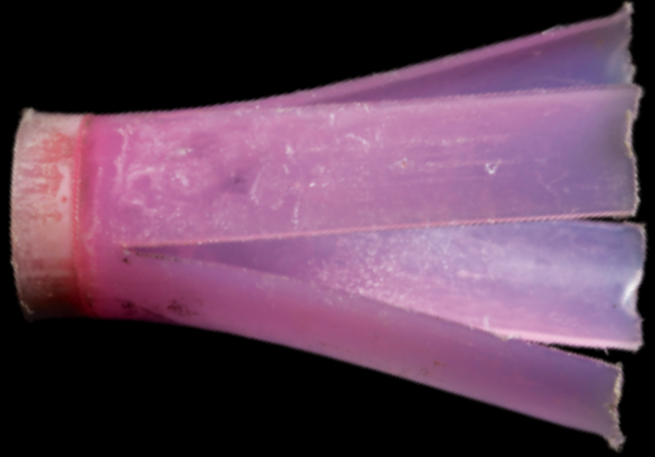


EXHIBIT 14: WHALING HARPOON (FRAGMENT)

The legacy of centuries of industrial pollution and unsustainable farming practices resulted in the almost total dependence on synthetic foodstuffs to feed a global population of 15 billion. By 2400 it had proved impossible to sustain even a modest harvest on the contaminated landscapes and depleted soils of the Earth. Paradoxically, this suspension of industrial agriculture with its accompanying chemical inputs and runoffs, led to a cleansing of the world's oceans and a huge increase in whale populations.

Bergen, historically a major whaling port, began to rebuild its whaling fleet. Driven by the old stories and mythologies around whaling and the profits from the rich and fashionable visitors lured to Bergen by the promise of food

that was 'pure' (i.e. non-synthetic), the second age of whaling began.

Within a few short years, Bergen had become a chic and expensive destination, filled with stylish restaurants serving a huge variety of whale-based cuisine.

In 2400, after tests revealed that the whale's flesh was contaminated with large amounts of microplastics, the trade collapsed and the whaling fleets were abandoned. Bergen's image as a fashionable food destination was irrevocably tarnished and most of the trendy restaurants closed. Ironically, the seemingly pure flesh of the whale proved to be at least as synthetic as the fermentation flasks, algal ponds and mineral fillers at the heart of the synthetic food industry.

 **DATE:**
2298

 **PLACE:**
Sargasso
Sea



EXHIBIT 15: POLYMER SARGASSUM AMALGAM

The historical value of this object and its value to our own contemporary science requires such powerful and sensitive instruments that its secrets are only now being unlocked.

It is thought to be the first known polymer/vegetate hybrid form 'created' outside the laboratory unsupervised and unobserved by humans.

In 2246 Geneticist Prof. Egon Lanier controversially speculated the possibility that some plant genotypes may, in time and in very specific conditions, migrate into and colonise microscopic particles of plastic trapped in natural systems, but it had never been observed and the theory stayed at the fringes of respectable science.

The Sargasso Sea, with its dense covering of floating plant life, provided the perfect

conditions for this extraordinary event. Its borders created by four major ocean currents formed a circulating gyre where huge quantities of plastic waste from all parts of the globe were captured.

The disruption of the Gulf Stream and the other major ocean currents around 2400 due to spiralling water temperatures allowed sargassum, the floating macroalgae that gave the sea its name, to spread across the globe. These new life forms thus migrated through all of the planet's oceans with the devastating consequences we are all familiar with.

Recent studies of the plastic elements of these hybrid life forms reveal the origins of the plastic waste and allow us to plot the lost currents of these oceans and imagine their vibrant ecosystems.

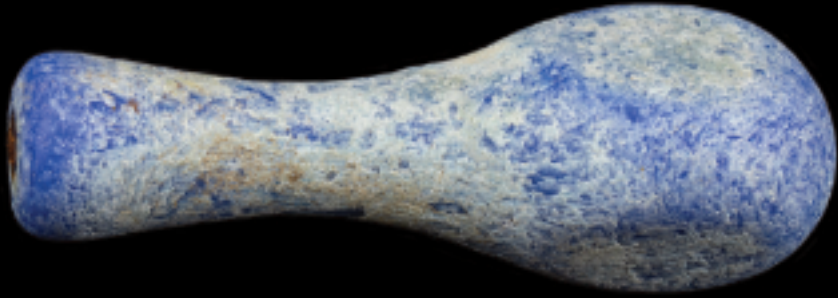


EXHIBIT 16: CLOUD HANDLE

 **DATE:**
2106

 **PLACE:**
Oslo,
Norway

The original function of the Cloud Handle is open to conjecture but its use as a symbol is unequivocal.

Many eco-activist groups had abandoned peaceful protest after the Arctic and Antarctic regions had been opened up to mineral and oil extraction in 2065. These pristine environments, formerly protected by international statutes, were the last of the Safe Haven Biodiversity Parks to fall under the relentless pressure of the huge international mining corporations.

Oil terminals, seaports, mines and corporate headquarters were targeted by increasingly sophisticated and dangerous eco-terrorist groupings. The 2103 firebombing of the Rio Tinto offices in Dresden and the baroque city's subsequent destruction in the resulting fire storm, held too many unsettling echoes for the political classes across Europe and a heavily

militarised crackdown against the youth activists began.

Increasing levels of violence across the developed and developing world forced the ageing environmentalist Greta Thunberg out of retirement. In a powerful and emotional speech from her wheelchair she asked the young activists:

"How can we take the control we need with our fists? – it is only with an open hand can we grasp the levers of power".

The speech was streamed live to football stadiums, concert halls and cinemas across the world, reaching an audience of billions. The response was the creation of one of the most powerful citizen-led movements in history.

The Cloud Handle image appeared on t-shirts, hats and banners - forever linked to this period of uncertainty, anger and change.

 **DATE:**
2495

 **PLACE:**
Prince Edward
Island, Nova
Scotia, Canada



EXHIBIT 17: PLASTIC FRAGMENTS (NURDLES)

Nurdles were a vital part of the Plastic Age, the very material in its most basic form. From these simple beads an infinite variety of shapes and forms could be manufactured. Extraordinary levels of negligence in the global manufacturing supply chains in the 20th and 21st centuries account for their presence in uncountable numbers in the oceans of the world.

Nurdles continued to find new roles and functions over the centuries. One of the most notable was their use in organised crime circles as a secure form of money after the collapse of the digital currencies of the late 24th century. With the global banking system in chaos in the aftermath of The White Out, the vast electromagnetic event caused by unusual solar activity, international crime syndicates created a highly

secret shadow currency to stabilise their operations and maintain their traditional hierarchies. The functioning of this currency was understood by a tiny elite and even now, we have no clear understanding of how it worked.

These very rare specimens in pristine condition are believed to have been recovered from the body of a Sperm Whale during a ritual burial on Prince Edward Island. It was believed that these tiny granules contained the living essence of the whale even after death and were passed from generation to generation as the whales themselves became extinct and passed into myth. This is an example of one of many 'undertaker' cults that sprang up during the 7th Great Extinction Event in the 3rd millennium.

G **DATE:**
2634

📍 **PLACE:**
Polynesian
Archipelago



EXHIBIT 18: FLYING FIGURE

Millions escaped the worst ravages of the climate destabilisation that enveloped large parts of the world in the late 21st century.

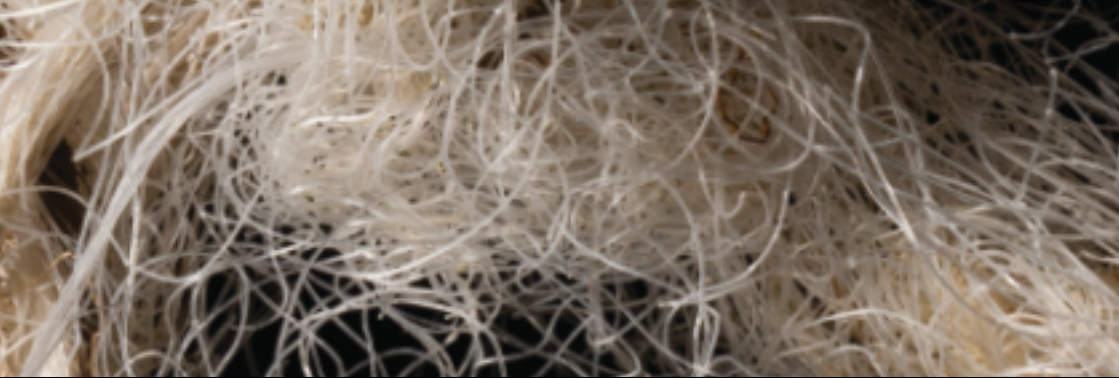
In mostly rural 'survivor pockets' across the world, they sheltered through the storms and the decade long winter that followed. As the snow cleared, these communities began to imagine new futures. What was recoverable in the ruins around them? What memories remained useful? What questions would the children ask them and what could they answer?

In the absence of functioning global communication systems, these pockets of humanity grew and thrived in isolation. As new generations were born, the stories of the past diverged in memory and meaning, until it was impossible to imagine them having shared a

culture before the catastrophe. Each community took what it needed from the past and moulded it into what would be needed in the future.

It is thought that the Flying Figure was a sacred or votive object and had some sort of spiritual or ritual function. Its mere survival may have seemed miraculous. It has also been speculated that it represents a higher form of life, echoing as it does distant memories of flight in this post flight world.

It is one of the few, mostly plastic objects of this period that have been recovered across the world by archaeologists that appear to embody a spiritual or ritual function; perhaps a reflection of a universal spiritual need after the collapse of the world's major religions.



BACKGROUND

The Solway Hoard considers the legacy of our time: The Plastic Age (1950-2050). By travelling to a museum set 1,000 years into the future, we can reflect on this period through the exhibits and their stories.

The stories are based on the imaginings of people across Dumfries and Galloway, who participated in The Museums of the FutureNow workshops between October and December 2022. The Museums of the FutureNow is a participatory process designed to explore the web of factors that combine to create complex challenges for society and environment.

The museum process invited participants to create the fictional provenance of the artefacts presented in the exhibition. The process allowed for the imagining of many alternative futures which are rich, varied and full of detail. Many include themes of ecological loss and mourning, conflict, crime, technological innovation and spiritual salvation, the roots of which may lie in the anxieties of the present.

We hope this exhibition will be a call to action, for both the public and decision makers, to find solutions to the problems presented by our current use of plastics.

The Solway Hoard exhibition is part of the Positive Action for a Cleaner Solway Project created by the Solway Firth Partnership in collaboration with The Museums of the FutureNow. This project was supported by the Scottish Government's Marine Fund Scotland and has assisted volunteer groups make 200 miles of coast cleaner in Dumfries and Galloway.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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LEVERHULME
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