



CAPSULE: OCEAN PLASTIC HOURGLASS

BRODIE NEILL



The Capsule ocean plastic hourglass by Brodie Neill is a provocative visual symbol of the current Anthropocene age: a reflection on our collective impact on the environment as well as a warning of the limited time we have to reverse our actions. A timepiece, Capsule reflects the present scene where at some of the worst affected beaches around the world, microplastic almost outweighs sand.

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Neill's Capsule design captures the nostalgia of the traditional hourglass but propels it into a contemporary context by switching sand with fragments of multicoloured ocean plastic. Handblown in London, the large double-walled hourglass is produced with borosilicate glass using the scientific lamp-working technique.

The Capsule features laser etched metal caps that map our earth's north and south hemispheres on either end. The location of where the plastic contents are collected is marked alongside the global coordinates, localising the hourglass within a global perspective. The coordinates are also a comment on the global scale of the problem – nowhere is free from the effects of plastics – and in turn the unity required in the stewardship and protection of our oceans.



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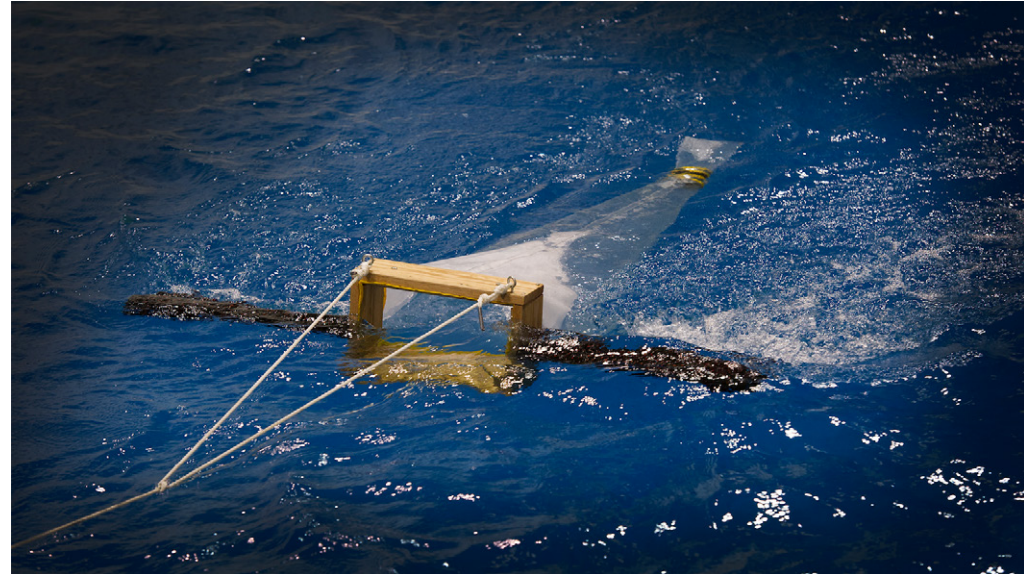
In May 2019 the UK Government declared a climate emergency. However for many decades preceding this symbolic statement, scientists have spoken of the profoundly detrimental effects of human existence on the natural environment. This is most apparent in our oceans, seabeds and coastlines which are littered with plastic – often an indestructible material with a short-term function.





Neill focuses on the most destructive plastic pollutant: microplastics. It is at this small scale that the ocean plastic is most devastating when it is mistaken by sea life for food, wiping out species of migratory birds and sealife and entering human food chain when consumed by fish.



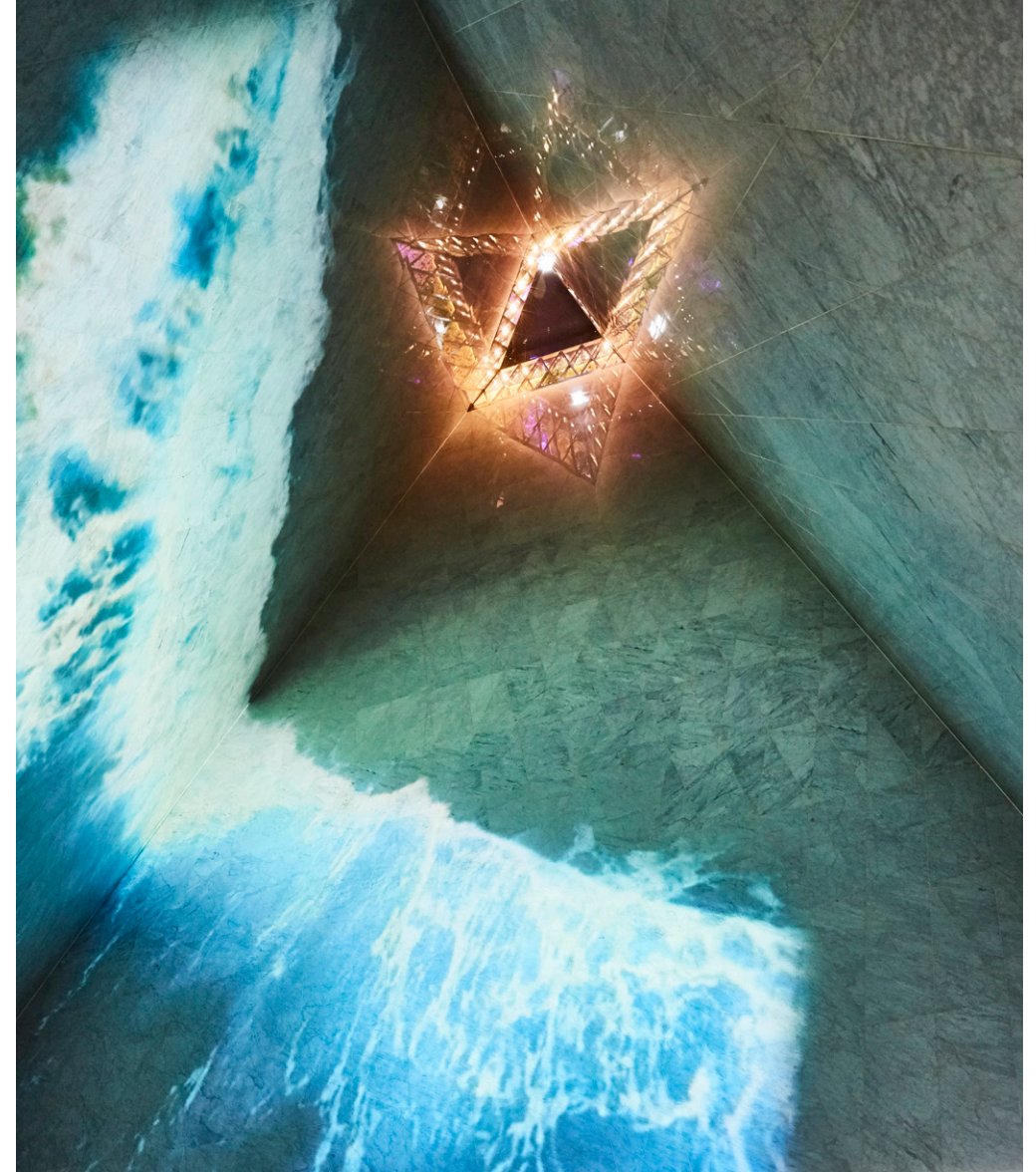


Brodie Neill is currently designing a London edition of Capsule. A drift-net apparatus called a 'Manta' will be towed through the River Thames collecting an array of microplastic granules in its sock-like filter.

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Having gained international acclaim with two notable exhibitions engaging with the issue of ocean plastic waste – Plastic Effects, the Australian Pavilion at London Design Biennale 2016 and Drop in the Ocean, an Official London Design Festival Project 2017 – Neill presented Capsule in April 2019 at Ro Plastic-Master's Pieces exhibition. Curated by gallerist Rossana Orlandi, the installation was showcased at Milan's Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia "Leonardo da Vinci" during the Fuorisalone.

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Brodie Neill is internationally renowned for creating striking, sinuous and sculptural designs rooted in material research, technical rigour and craft know-how.

A longstanding champion of using ocean plastic waste to create new materials, Brodie Neill represented Australia at the inaugural London Design Biennale in 2016 at Somerset House with a critically acclaimed installation Plastic Effects, where he launched a self-created new material Ocean Terrazzo and his now iconic Gyro table. He presented a multimedia installation Drop in the Ocean, an Official London Design Festival Project the following year. Capsule, Brodie's latest design work engaging with the issue of ocean plastic was exhibited at Museo Nazionale della Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci in Milan. Brodie has spoken internationally about his Ocean Plastic series of works, most notably at the European Union Parliament and the United Nations.

A University of Tasmania and Rhode Island School of Design graduate, since establishing his studio in London's East End in 2008, Brodie has worked with an impressive roster of clients including Riva1920, Swarovski and Kundalini. He has collaborated with international brands including Microsoft, Mercedes-Benz and Alexander McQueen, and his limited edition works are included in museums, galleries and private collections around the globe.

