

NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Alanna Leslie

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World. Today, we're off to Canada, India and Tanzania.

ALANNA LESLIE: But first, Kenya.

Plastic pollution is a massive global problem. Across the world, we get through an estimated five trillion single-use plastic bags a year.

And most of them end up in landfill sites or the sea.

But Nzambi Matee from Nairobi is combatting what campaigners call an ecological crisis by recycling plastic waste into bricks which can be used to build houses.

And she's just been named by the United Nations as one of their Young Champions of the Earth for 2020.

Here's Michael Kaloki in Nairobi with more.

Michael Kaloki: I'm here on the streets of Nairobi in an area of the city known as Industrial Area. There is some plastic waste littering the pavement where I'm standing.

It is waste similar to this that the lady I am visiting just down the road uses to turn into something very useful for Kenyans.

Nzambi Matee: My name is Nzambi Matee from the Gjenge Makeres Limited.

Gjenge Makeres Limited, we manufacture alternative building products.

So, currently what we produce are pebbles. So these are the stones you see in sidewalks, in footpaths and in parking area. Those stones, that's what we make from plastic waste.

So, we have the workshop.



After collecting the plastic, it has been cleaned and crushed we collect them from... some of it from factories and some of it, the people collect from the environment. It comes here.

This is the mixing bit. So, what we do here; we take the sand from the plastic. We mix it. The ratio depends on where you're using the product.

After we mix it here, then you move to the extruder.

It comes out something like dough, like a plasticine or Play-Doh.

This mixture, you take it to weigh it depending on the brick you want and then you bring it here.

This is the hydraulic press. And then once we feed it here we take the small... we fill it here, and then after we feed, we let it stay for a few minutes for like about three-four minutes.

And then when it's pressed, this is the output.

This is the brick, usually it's hot so we put it in the water bath. And we have it.

That's how we make bricks.

Michael Kaloki: Do you feel your business has a significant, tangible impact on improving the environment here in the country?

Nzambi Matee: Yes, I think so. We have different types of plastics and currently we just recycle three types of plastic. And this is just one way of doing it. There are many ways and it's only evident that we need to find more ways. So, yes, it's a solution that needs to be addressed.

Michael Kaloki: Right. So I've just spoken to Nzambi at her workshop and I'm out on the streets of Nairobi to get the views of Kenyans on what they think about plastic waste.

So, a plastics problem where you live and what do you think about this?

Vox 1: There's a big problem of plastic where I live. It's big, but I think it can be controlled by recycling.

Michael Kaloki: Do you think plastics should be banned in Kenya?

Vox 2: Yeah, because other areas you'll find they have blocked drainage, there's no way of recycling them.



Vox 3: Yes. They can be banned because of the environment. You see, we need a clean environment and an environment that is conducive for everyone. So, I think if they get banned the environment will be clean.

Vox 4: I remember the government banning use of plastic bags, but it didn't do it effectively because there are some goods or some companies were allowed to still use their plastic bags. But it's still a challenge for the entire community.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Michael.

All schools in New Zealand are to offer free period products to pupils as part of an effort to put an end to period poverty.

Authorities are worried that some female students are skipping classes because they can't afford tampons and sanitary pads.

Research shows that girls who experience period poverty are more likely to suffer depression and anxiety as adults.

At the end of last year, Scotland became the first country in the world to make period products free for everyone. And a number of other countries, including South Africa and England, have removed the so-called tampon tax. Which means the products are no longer subject to VAT.

ALANNA LESLIE: Students in Bengaluru in India have been staging a series of protests against the arrest of Dishu Ravi, a 22-year-old climate activist. Dishu is the co-founder of the Indian branch of Greta Thunberg's global protest group, Fridays for Future.

She was detained by police after showing her support for farmers in India who are protesting against new agriculture laws.

The farmers say the new laws will force them to sell to powerful corporations rather than government-regulated markets which guarantee them a fixed price for their produce.

But the authorities say the reforms are needed and that the protests are part of an international conspiracy against them.



ALANNA LESLIE: Tsista Kennedy is a 19-year-old artist who's causing quite a stir in the Canadian art world by combining traditional indigenous techniques with modern technology.

He uses a style known as Woodland Art, which is characterised by its colourful figures and dark black lines and blends traditional legends and myths with contemporary mediums.

Tsista is a native Canadian and a member of the Anishnaabe and Oneida Nations of London, Ontario. Shyloe Fagan has been speaking to him about his heritage and his art.

Tsista Kennedy: So, it's me holding my daughter and we're looking at a woodpecker and she's pointing at it and that's something she does a lot. She really she likes to point at things whenever she finds them interesting or it catches her attention.

Shyloe Fagan: That was Tsista Kennedy describing a piece of art he created for his one-year-old daughter, Winona.

Tsista's art has been getting a lot of attention recently for its modern take on the Woodland Style of painting.

Woodland Style is easily recognisable because of its vibrant colours, two-dimensional viewpoint and characters with rounded features surrounded by black outlines.

It has become popular among many First Nations artists in the Great Lakes area of North America.

Tsista has built off the traditional Woodland Style, adding his own contemporary twists: digital elements, reimagining pop culture and trading a paintbrush for a tablet.

Tsista Kennedy: Once I started getting the hang of it, you know, that's all I wanted to do, because you don't have to go out and buy supplies or anything like that. Everything's right there on the iPad for you.

Shyloe Fagan: It is not only the use of technology that separates Tsista's work from other Woodland artists, but also the personal perspective he brings.

Tsista Kennedy: I guess, at its foundation, all of my artwork is just a reflection of my perspective as a young indigenous man, father, artist, you know, navigating colonial and traditional life as an indigenous person.



Shyloe Fagan: Tsista's work challenges colonisation and stereotypes of indigeneity as something of the past by using his art to reflect the world around him.

One of his most popular pieces "Woodland Baby Yoda" depicts the well-known meme Baby Yoda; a character in the spin-off Star Wars franchise, the Mandalorian.

Tsista Kennedy: I like indigenising pop culture in my artwork.

And that kind of sparked for me simply trying to make first and last month's rent for my first apartment. But, that Baby Yoda piece that I did, you know, that was something that was really big at the time, especially for us natives there's a whole lot of Baby Yoda memes and things like that.

And I was noticing them and figured, oh, well, you know, I'll hop on the train with all these other artists and do an indigenised Baby Yoda piece and...

But it kind of sparked a question within myself where, you know, like, it kind of speaks to us as indigenous people, regardless of what design it is.

When we, as indigenous people, see the world around us indigenised it fills us with hope and strength and, you know, the reminder that we're still here and we can reclaim things.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Shyloe.

Nobody by Zuchu

ALANNA LESLIE: A quick taste there of the song *Nobody* by the Tanzanian singer Zuchu.

She performs in Swahili and English and is known for experimenting with different forms of Bongo Flava, a term used to describe Tanzania's unique musical genre which melds Western and traditional African styles.

According to the BoomPlay streaming app, her EP was the most played album in Tanzania in 2020. Enjoy!

ALANNA LESLIE: That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!