Art Judge Teresa VanHatten-Granath

Teresa VanHatten-Granath is an artist and Associate Professor at Belmont University in Nashville. She has taught photography and digital imaging in the Department of Art for more than 13 years.

Teresa's silver gelatin, alternative process and digital photographic work has been exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions since 1996 in Tennessee, Kentucky, California, Texas, South Carolina and internationally in Hong Kong and China.

She was awarded a Tennessee State Arts Commission Grant for 2010 for her sculptural photographic books and for her work on the Green Bag Lady project. Green Bag Lady is an eco-friendly art project started in 2008. Teresa and her team of volunteer "Bagettes" make fabric bags out of donated material and give them away for free in exchange for a promise to use them instead of paper or plastic.

To date they have given away more than 16,000 bags all over the world. Green Bag Lady has been featured on CNN, NBC News, Mother Nature News, Plenty Magazine and other media outlets. In 2010 Green Bag Lady was named one of "Ten Anti-Plastic Heroes" by the Huffington Post. To read more, visit www.greenbaglady.org.

Teresa was on sabbatical from the University in the spring of 2011. During this time, she embarked on a sailing adventure aboard a former 72-foot racing vessel for two weeks to study the effects of plastic in the ocean.

She boarded the boat in Puetro William, Chile and sailed through the Chilean Fjords to Valdivia. This adventure included steering the boat through icebergs, glaciers, dolphins, whales and, she was thankful, not much plastic. However, she says she is greatly concerned about the amount of plastic consumed and discarded on a daily basis by humans world-wide and will continue to study and document its use.

Teresa currently lives in Nashville with her pilot husband, three kids, five sewing machines and more cameras than she cares to admit, she says.







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