

## THE PLASTIC BULLION

-A REEVALUATION

Our relation to plastic is incongruent and complex. It was once looked upon as a valuable material restrictively used for the production of precious objects to be kept for a long time. Today plastic is frequently considered an eternal resource for mass-produced disposables. Yet our love for plastic remains. Its seemingly endless possibilities to mold and reshape still give it a shimmer of magic. Our approach though may alter from transcendental to disgust, from love to hate, within a blink of an eye. The very notion of plastic implies a mind-boggling ambivalency- a gap between extremes.

According to French philosopher Alain Badiou, art, love, politics, and science are the four elements, which can punch a hole in our existing knowledge to reach the inner core, our void, where new truths can thrive.

Artist Karen Froede, who has created more than 30 public artworks over the last ten years, believes it is time to re-evaluate plastic and that the artistic perspective is essential to bridge the gap between logic and emotions.

In December 2022, Karen, started a long-term art- and research project named Launch of RE. The aim is to reflect on our relation to plastic and to scrutinize different national activity plans for plastic, through art interventions, photography, film, and sculptures.

Authentic recirculation requires that the disposed polymeres/plastics easily can be separated back into mono materials- such as pure fractions off: PP- Polypropylene or PE- Polyethylene. To acquire high-quality of recycled plastic it must also be free from print- and glue residues and be as transparent and lightly tinged as possible. This is what the industry wants to include it in a circular economy.

Each day more than 20 000 liters of plastic can be gathered only in Bohuslän, a part of the Swedish west coast. At Sweden's first marine recycling station in Sotenäs, discarded fishing gear and marine litter are collected and turned from waste, into opportunities. Currently, it takes hard work, time, and skills to refine plastic waste.

The pure recycled raw material is a precious and scarce matter to be treated with dignity.

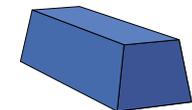
With deep engagement in sustainable solutions, Karen Froede has now created "The Plastic Bullion" -a truly precious piece of art and a symbol for the ongoing reevaluation of plastic.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 the first plastic bullion ever will be handed over to H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The plastic-bullion is made of 100 % pure mono material from the seas around Sweden. It is cast with advice and expertise from the great team at Sotenäs Recycling Station.

The eleven colour categories:

- 1: Transparent
- 2: Semitransparent/milky
- 3: Solid White
- 4: Light pastell
- 5: Bright Yellow
- 6: Bright Red
- 7: Orange
- 8: Bright Blue
- 9: Green
- 10: Darker colours/braun
- 11: Black



BY KAREN FROEDE  
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