



Research Area: Conscious usage of plastic materials | Project Timespan: 2023

## it's time to pull the curtain - plastic on stage!

This installation "it's time to pull the curtain - plastic on stage!" was created and shown at several locations where people of all ages and young designers, among others, can be made aware of the advantages and disadvantages of plastic as a material used in product design.

### Team

PI: Kuno Prey

Collaborator: Sarah Troi

External partners: Istituto Penale per i Minorenni di Nisidia - Napoli

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For some years now, plastic has been at the centre of a campaign of demonisation. The improper and excessive use that has been made of it – and that unfortunately continues – fully justifies the aversion to this difficult-to-dispose-of material. But, if used responsibly and in a targeted manner, it is valuable, useful and – for the time being – irreplaceable.

There are products of high-quality design that are also "worthy" of being made from these precious materials. Students at the Faculty of Design and Art of the Free University of Bolzano have identified ten of these, all of which are widely produced and available on the market. This is not an exhaustive selection, but merely a series of examples that invite us to reflect on the responsible use of plastics.

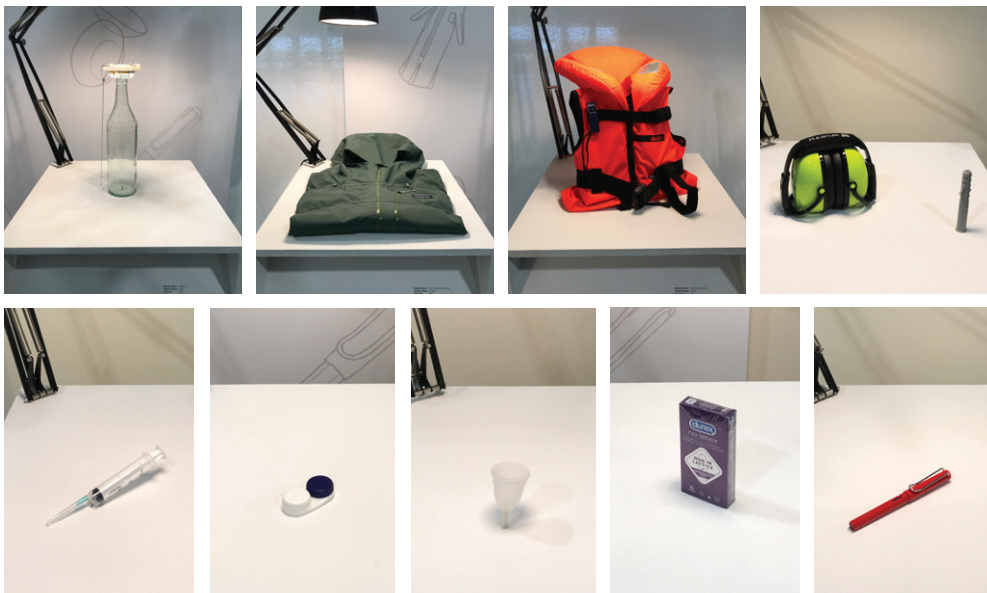
To emphasise the contrast between “good” and “bad” plastics the installation Plastic on stage! was realised for the SaloneSatellite as part of the Salone del Mobile in Milan.



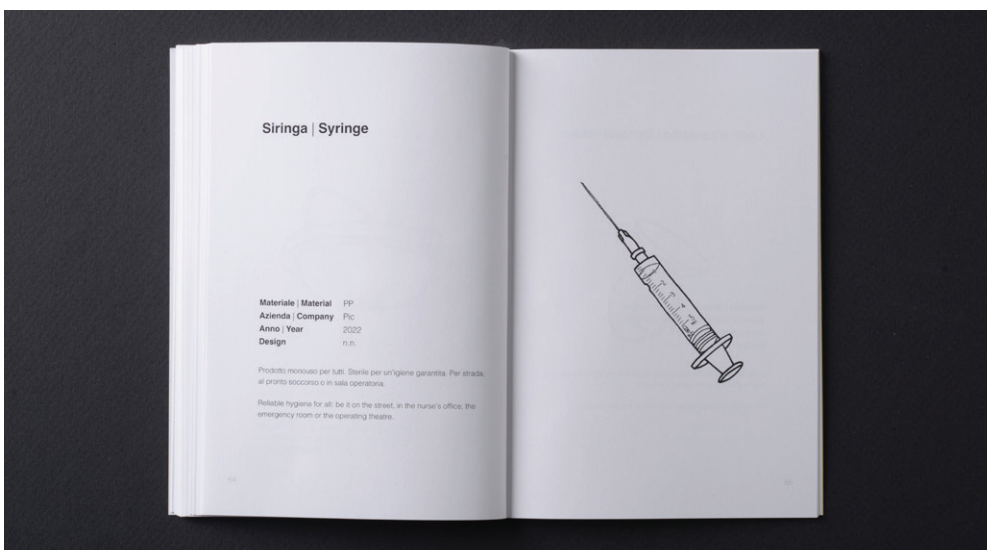
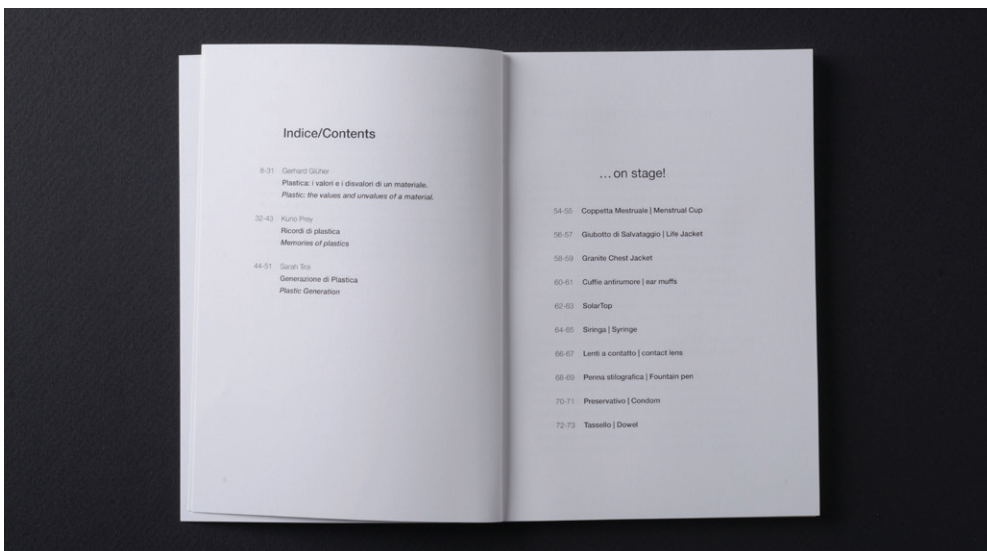
Prof Prey explaining the project to a group of students from the Accademia Albertina Torino

The installation shows 10 objects made of plastic, where the use of this material is justified. there is no other possible material that can be used for the realisation of these objects. They are shown on podiums behind a curtain made of plastic pieces fished from the Golfo di Napoli.

The plastic rubbish was collected by imprisoned youths from the Istituto Penale per i Minorenni di Nisidia - Napoli, who are learning the profession of deep-sea diver in prison in order to facilitate their integration into society upon their release.



In order to explain installation further at SaloneSatellite, a book was realised. It is structured in 3 essays from Kuno Prey, Gerhard Glüher and Sarah Troi, and a critical analysis of the chosen 10 products.



The curtain of the installation was shown in september 2023 during **Bolzano Art Week** in the Waag Gasse.

It formed a "barrier" that people cross and thus "come into contact" with the plastic waste. The aim was to sensitise citizens in order to accelerate a change in the still too careless handling of this valuable material.



Apriamo il sipario !! Vorhang auf at Bolzano Art Week

The plastic objects were exhibited at the same time as part of **Science Live. Get Curious!** at unibz, a festival where young and old discovered the research carried out in the five faculties and competence centres of our university.



Plastic on stage! at Science Live. Get Curious!

The final stop of the curtain was the **BOOMing Contemporary Art Show** in Bologna.