

Extember

EARLY 2021

OUT OF TIME

STARTING POINT

 sticks
+
stones

nests

wires

non
shop

resur-
rection

 Works-in-Progress.ca

When you're done, please share, pass on or recycle

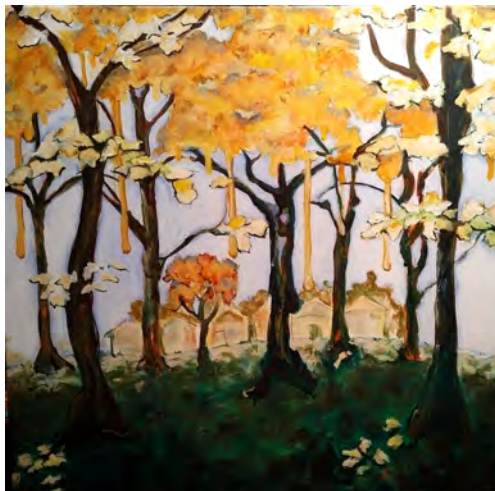


**"I dreamed they added a new month called Extember.
'I always forget Extember,' quoth I, in my dream"
-Amy Brown, earlier in 2020**

Editor's note

Extember (the "zine) is a space out of time, no deadlines, just ongoing collaboration and creativity, a place to share ideas and inspiration around creative reuse. We have all learned new skills and approaches during the pandemic and beyond, and this is a place to share. We seek collaborators and contributors, show and tell, and tips. Especially works in progress. This volume starts with the idea of sticks & stones and goes from there; it encompasses making things with paper, wood, ceramic, and explores why we make useless things. Come play with us.

Tanya Murdoch



Melting Trees
20' x 20"
acrylic on canvas
T Murdoch 2018

 Works-in-Progress.ca

Extember Sticks & Stones Volume 1

Works-in-Progress Artist Collective

We believe that it is more fun and better for the Earth, to create something new from something old.

We are a collective of artists and creative people who share a joy in collaboration and learning with others, artists and non artists alike.

We share a common interest in using recycled materials in art-making and see up-cycling as an inspiration and creative opportunity

Come play with us!

www.works-in-Progress.ca
Instagram: [@works.in.progress.to](https://www.instagram.com/works.in.progress.to)

To submit ideas and images for future volumes of Extember, we are making 4 volumes, at no particular time, on the subjects of Food, Sticks & Stones, Plants and Cloth

In this issue, we have contributions/ help/work from:

Tanya Murdoch
Ursa Sanderson
Otis Sanderson
Marnie Saskin
Anya Laskin
Amy Brown
[@bruizedco](https://www.instagram.com/bruizedco)
Jess from [@periwinkleflowers](https://www.instagram.com/periwinkleflowers)
Leah Sanchez
Susan Bakshi
Simone Giertz (via Kate Hamilton)
Chris Packham (via Raizel Robin)
Shuttlewerks
Gomo George
Thanks all!



Names of African People I Know, 1997
Multimedia installation
Gomo George

Gomo George is a poet, storyteller and visual artist from Toronto. These sculptures include sticks and faces carved into avocado pits.

You can see Gomo in storyteller mode on our blog from February 2021 www.works-in-progress.ca



IS THIS DONE?

in 2010, Works-in-Progress co-founder Leah Sanchez began a project in Manila with a friend, in response to the waste left behind after a huge hurricane. They used their design backgrounds to create a company called:

Resurrection Furniture and Found Objects Gallery

"The main idea behind this company was that we made furniture & home accessories out of... junk."

So many things were ruined by the flooding, people would donate pianos, (they made pianos into benches... get it?) band instruments, computers, drawers... so many they made drawers of drawers called *drawers in drawers*.



They found uses for all the parts of deconstructed computers. For example:

chess pieces from the keys. imagine... it takes so many keyboards for the set... all those 'p's



in the beginning, people would always ask "Is this done? Is it finished?"



You can see Leah's artist talk on our website blog August 2020 www.works-in-progress.ca or check out the latest resurrected furniture at <https://www.facebook.com/resurrection.furniture>

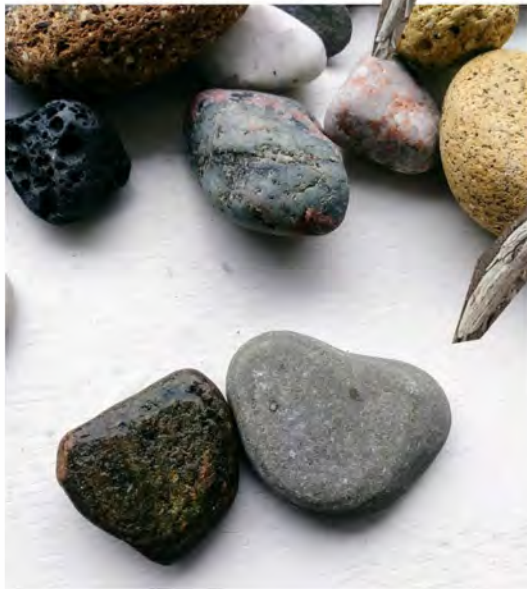


found art on the beach
(photo by Tanya Murdoch)

**WE ARE
HERE**



*Found Beauty to hold
and Release*



Marnie Saskin "my heart rocks"

WHY you should make your own piñata

It is easy to make.

Kids can help.

It is an opportunity to create ephemeral art.

Practice non-attachment as your creation is smashed.

You don't need special tools or materials.

It can look bad.
No one cares.

You can smash it like a rock star.

It is filled with candy.

It will bring joy.



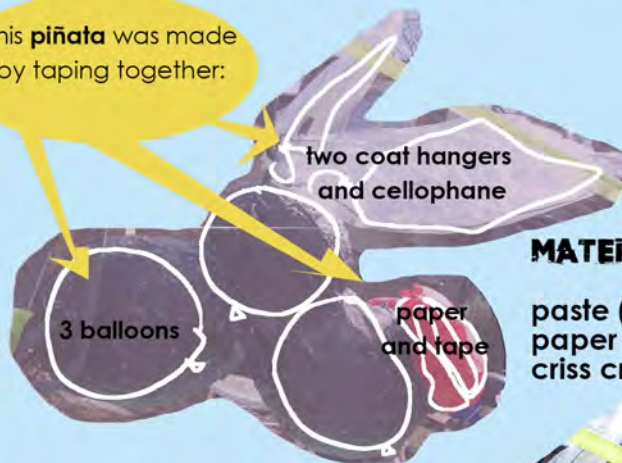
storebought pinatas, like North American bananas, prioritize durability during shipping over other qualities so they are a little too sturdy (and may not taste as good)

HOW you can make your own piñata

TECHNIQUE:

- 1) Tape together a form with balloons, cardboard, crumpled paper. Include a string to hang it up. Cover with paper mache, let dry (takes a day or two)
- 2) cut a hole in the paper mache, pop the balloons to make a cavity, add candy, patch cuts with tape or paper mache
- 3) Decorate! kids can help. paint dries fast.

This piñata was made by taping together:



two coat hangers and cellophane

3 balloons

paper and tape

MATERIALS:

paste (flour/water)
paper strips (newspaper, criss crossed for strength)

TIPS:

Give yourself time (takes about a week) if you use glitter, you will always have glitter take turns, respect the smasher. Keep some extra candy for the slower kids.



MORE USELESS THINGS

PROUD PARENT 25¢



Simone Gertz made a Proud Parent Machine out of wood.

She makes many useless things on her youtube channel

GIERTZ's Ted talk in 2018 is called "Why you should make useless things" she says: "Identifying a problem is the first part of my process of building a useless machine"

Making art, making science finding the problem to solve is often the first step of the creative proces

We also encourage you to:

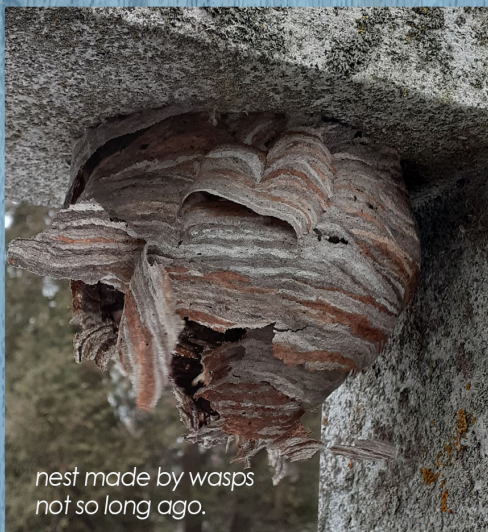
(thanks Kate Hamilton and Ursa Sanderson for the introduction.)

MAKE USELESS THINGS. MAKE NON-PROFITABLE THINGS. MAKE THINGS FROM OTHER THINGS. TAKE THEM APART. MAKE NEW THINGS.



This is an amazing storefront on the Danforth, near the tool library 2016.

SOME WASPS
make these
amazing
paper nests



nest made by wasps
not so long ago.

The structure is both
extremely geometric and
beautifully fluid

Also, wasps lick strips from
old wood to make their nests.
Those old barn boards are not
weathered, they are wasped.

When a wildlife expert
was asked
"What are wasps for?"**
he asked
in return

**WHAT ARE
YOU FOR?**



*We don't need a reason to be.
Sometimes we just are.*

**Springworks 2016, BBC Chris Packham answers the age-old question, "What are wasps for?"



THE HERO: OUR FRIEND TOLD US THAT THE TOOL
LIBRARY NEAR HER SOMETIMES HAD BROKEN TOOLS
IN BACK, A QUICK RIDE ON THE SUBWAY LINE, RIGHT
NEAR THE STOREFRONT WITH THE NOBOTS (SEE PAGE #)
AND I CAME HOME WITH SOME BEAUTIES.



NONE OF US HAD TAKEN
AN ENGINE APART BEFORE.
I HIGHLY RECCOMEND IT.



ARE THERE
MORE SCREWS?

IT WAS NOT EASY TO STRIP THE WIRE.



BEAUTIFUL!

WRENCHES
HAMMERS
KNIVES
ACETONE WERE
USED. BLOOD
WAS DRAWN.



OW!

WE WRAPPED OUR HARVEST AROUND A SPINNING MAGNET. THE RESULT:
LESS BEAUTIFUL, LESS EFFECTIVE, NO LIGHT IN THE BULB



SECOND TRY
IT NEEDS
TO SPIN
FASTER
MORE
WIRE?

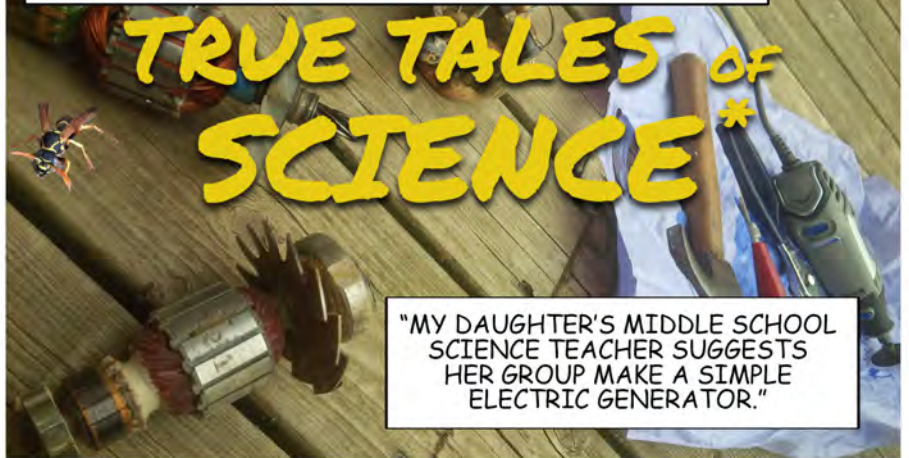


THIRD TRY
MAYBE A SOCIAL
EXPERIMENT
INSTEAD?
MEASURE THE
POWER OF SUGGESTION
INSTEAD OF THE
POWER OF COPPER?

FINALLY WE HAD TO HOOK IT UP TO AN ELECTRIC DRILL TO
SPIN FAST ENOUGH TO LIGHT A VERY SMALL
LIGHT BULB. (YOU CAN SEE IT. CAN'T YOU?)

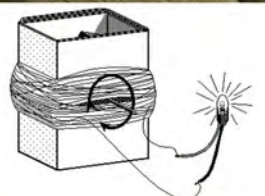
THE MORAL? THE JOURNEY IS ALSO A TEACHING

*THE STORY IS TRUE, THE IDENTITIES ARE DISGUISED



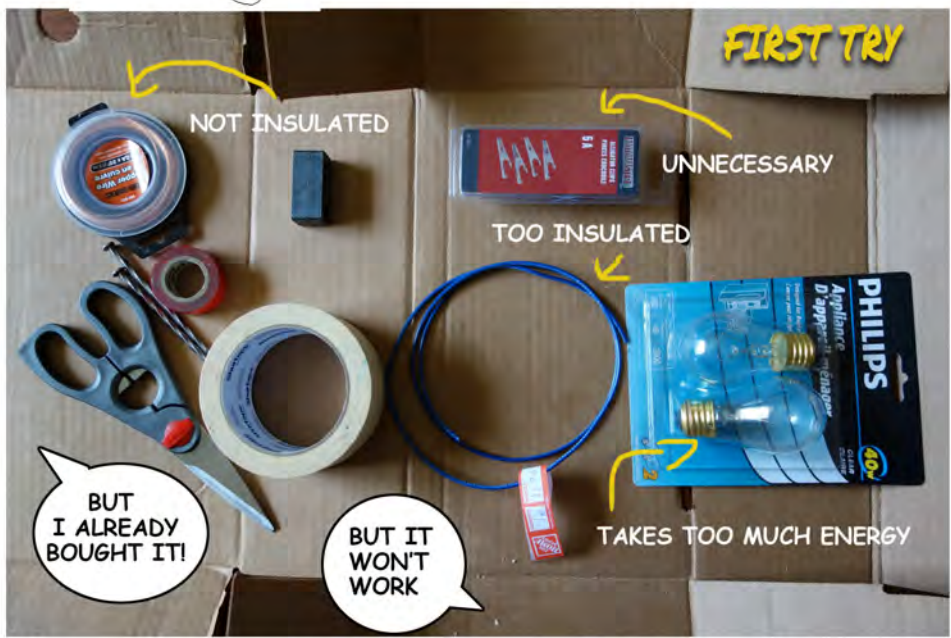
TRUE TALES OF SCIENCE*

"MY DAUGHTER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER SUGGESTS HER GROUP MAKE A SIMPLE ELECTRIC GENERATOR."



FINDING INSULATED MAGNET COPPER WIRE (INSULATED, but not TOO insulated) TURNED OUT TO BE THE HARDEST PART OF THE EXPERIMENT.

the problem: No surplus stores downtown anymore....



FIRST TRY

NOT INSULATED

UNNECESSARY

TOO INSULATED

TAKES TOO MUCH ENERGY

BUT I ALREADY BOUGHT IT!

BUT IT WON'T WORK

CAPITALISM LET US DOWN. THE SOLUTION? WE NEEDED TO REVERSE ENGINEER THIS. IN ORDER TO MAKE A SMALL GENERATOR WE MUST FIRST DESTROY ONE.

WE CAN UNBUILD IT!



nest made by various artists at Works-in-Progress Appletree event April 2019

NESTS

Sometimes the impulse to make comes ahead of the purpose.

Spring 2019. bundles of branches and other yard waste on all the curbs.

Of course, with all this material we needed to make HUMAN SIZED NESTS.



ONCE CONSTRUCTED:

The nests kept 1500 plastic from landfill at our neighbourhood Easter egg hunt. They were then repurposed as planters in a community garden. But in the beginning was the need to make giant nests.

We don't need a reason to make. Just make it, the reason may come later (or maybe you just make something useless. There are worse things.)

* check out our blog from April 2019 www.works-in-progress.ca

BRICKS & MORTAR non-shop

nuthin' to buy

toilet rolls
repurposed by
Amy Brown



bleach bottles repurposed by Amy Brown



CHECK
OUT MY
HAT

CHECK OUT
YOUR HAT.
I ALSO HAVE
A HAT.
IS YOURS FROM
B & M?

IT IS A
PAPER BAG
ON MY HEAD

INDEED.
PRICELESS.

INDEED.

paper bags
repurposed
modeled by
Tanya &
Otis



snow pants
repaired by: Tanya Murdoch



olive oil tins
repurposed by
Tanya Murdoch



elastics, twist ties
and berry baskets
repurposed by Marnie Saskin



glass beer jug repurposed by Tanya Murdoch

