
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Plastic art



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

An art studio with no brushes or paint.

Mbongeni Buthelezi uses strips of plastic **melted** and glued to the **canvas** for his portraits.

When the South African studied art he couldn't **afford** to buy expensive materials. So he found an alternative and now produces this **unique** kind of art.

He collects plastic bags from the streets around his Johannesburg studio and has turned **recycling** into an art form.

Vocabulary

melted

made soft or made into a liquid

canvas

thick and strong cotton cloth that artists paint on with oil paints

afford

have enough money

unique

(here) unusual and not made anywhere else

recycling

using waste materials again

Watch this video online: Plastic art

<http://bbc.in/1U5XiHL>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

melted / canvas / afford / unique / recycling

1. Many of Kolkata's old buildings reflect diverse European architectural styles that in time became imbued with Bengali and Marwari (or classical Rajasthani) influences, creating a blend of Indo-European design, _____ to the city.
2. Stronger powers to fine people for not _____ may be the only way to hit a zero landfill waste target by 2050, the body representing Welsh councils said.
3. A portrait artist has been working on an unusual _____ - his pregnant wife's bump. Alex Makwana's labour of love has seen him create 11 designs on Jo's stomach, including Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear and a mocked-up ultrasound scan.
4. Thousands of guns are seized in the UK every year. Most are destroyed by police, but a new project in the north of England, Guns to Goods, is trying to put them to good use.

The idea is to _____ the guns down to make metal tags for T-shirts and also create artworks to be sold to the public.
5. Kenya's Supreme Court has said that the government should abide by a lower court's decision to give teachers a pay rise of at least 50%. The teachers' pay body had argued that it cannot _____ the increase awarded by the industrial court.

Answers

1. Many of Kolkata's old buildings reflect diverse European architectural styles that in time became imbued with Bengali and Marwari (or classical Rajasthani) influences, creating a blend of Indo-European design, **unique** to the city.

Source: Why are Kolkata homes so special?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-34042175>

2. Stronger powers to fine people for not **recycling** may be the only way to hit a zero landfill waste target by 2050, the body representing Welsh councils said.

Source: Fines possible for people who do not recycle waste

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-33986530>

3. A portrait artist has been working on an unusual **canvas** - his pregnant wife's bump. Alex Makwana's labour of love has seen him create 11 designs on Jo's stomach, including Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear and a mocked-up ultrasound scan.

Source: Salisbury woman's baby bump used as canvas

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-32215666>

4. Thousands of guns are seized in the UK every year. Most are destroyed by police, but a new project in the north of England, Guns to Goods, is trying to put them to good use.

The idea is to **melt** the guns down to make metal tags for T-shirts and also create artworks to be sold to the public.

Source: Would you wear a T-shirt made from melted guns?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17464529>

5. Kenya's Supreme Court has said that the government should abide by a lower court's decision to give teachers a pay rise of at least 50%. The teachers' pay body had argued that it cannot **afford** the increase awarded by the industrial court.

Source: Kenya ordered to give teachers 50% pay rise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-34042803>