

ART-TIMOTHY-LI-REFLECTION

I painted my entry for the 2015 Our Oceans, Our Plastic competition by focusing on how humans should begin to clean up the plastics found in our oceans. I tried to find a positive aspect to this situation. The little boy in my artwork is in his boat using a net to sweep up the trash in the ocean. The two tuna swimming next to the net show how, if humans strive to clean up the trash found in our oceans, the marine life will gradually return to their original levels.

The style I used to express my idea was based on Japanese screen prints, with flat colors outlined in inks. I began my piece with a pencil drawing, and then I layered washes over the sky and ocean. I kept my colors flat when painting the articles of trash and the boat, and I ended with a slightly diluted ink that I used to outline the individual items.

Inspiration for this painting began when I walked along a portion of Huntington Beach and saw, away from all the sunbathers and surfers, a pile of trash collected beneath the dock. This came as a shock to me, and I soon began searching on the web for conservation efforts regarding the wildlife in the ocean. This project seemed like a perfect way to demonstrate my concern for the future of our oceans.