

I created this piece of artwork so as to bring awareness to the effects of plastic pollution on our ocean species. My drawing, done in colored pencil, depicts an octopus whose suckers have been replaced with dozens of plastic bottles. I was inspired by the fact that octopi use their tentacles to seize prey and wondered whether they ever mistook bottles and cans for food. For my drawing, I chose to draw an octopus because it is unique in comparison to other “typical” marine organisms; usually, when one thinks of the ocean, he or she would picture fish, or dolphins. As such, I wanted to create my artwork so as to stand out. My art teacher and I agreed that the octopus in my artwork would appear to have bottles lodged into its suckers so as to represent the harm that can be attributed to plastic littering in the ocean.

To me, the ocean symbolizes all that we, humans, have yet to discover. The seas boast a paradise teeming with life; there are still species that we have yet to uncover and learn more about. To pollute the seas with plastic garbage would not only harm the organisms living there, but can potentially remove a significant amount of the biodiversity seen in the ocean. It is such that I created this piece of artwork with that thought in mind, and I hope that is the message I can convey.