

# Upcycling:



Also known as “creative reuse”; is a process of transforming useless or unwanted products into new materials.

## Essential Understanding

Introduction to the art and craft of “Upcycling” or creative reuse. Upcycling is the opposite of “downcycling” which is part of the recycling process. Downcycling involves converting materials into new products or materials of lesser value than what it was before (example: breaking down plastic bottles and turning them into raw material). Upcycling is the opposite. The basic premise is to transform materials/products that are potentially useful by refashioning it - such as cutting a t-shirt into strips of yarn and weaving a rug from them. With up cycling you are not breaking down the original material but converting the original item or material that has been discarded into something useful and beautiful. When you upcycle you are giving an item a new purpose a new life.

# up·cy·cle

'əp,saɪkəl/

*verb*

gerund or present participle: **upcycling**



1 reuse (discarded objects or material) in such a way as to create a product of a higher quality or value than the original."the opportunity to upcycle trash, or turn it into new products, was vast"

## Overview

Students will explore, design, develop and present one individual upcycled item that has been creatively reused and one group item. One of the items should be a work of Art using found objects/materials.

Students will be required to plan, design and execute their idea inside and outside of class. Students are required to check-in with instructor each step of the way with definitive plans that include items, materials and means to produce final products/projects. Students are expected to research the "how-to" part of their design ideas.

Students are required to purchase and provide some of the materials in the class - If a student wishes to keep what they have created they must provide the materials and/or a fee that is equal to the cost of materials provided otherwise the item will be sold and/or auctioned off to benefit Silver Oak general fund and/or the class materials fund.

Fundraising as a class can and will provide students with means to purchase items they otherwise are not able to provide.

Parents please feel free to donate any needed materials (see list below). Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

**Acceptable projects can be repurposed clothing, furniture, raw materials mixed with found objects, books, newspapers, magazines, curtains, upholstery, jewelry, objects, containers, bottle caps, scraps of material/plastic, buttons. Final projects are not limited to this list.**

**Resources or Where to get things:**

- Local thrift stores
- Freecycle
- Craigslist (free section)
- Resotre (habitat for humanity store) 9235 San Leandro St, Oakland
- Flea Markets
- East Bay Depot for creative Reuse (possible field trip)  
4695 Telegraph Ave, Oakland
- Found objects - please spray/clean with disinfectant before bringing to class
- Broken or unused items laying around the house (side tables, chairs, dressers, tables, anything wooden)

**We will be taking several field trips - please provide a minimum of \$10 and no more than \$30 for your students to purchase any needed items.**

**Materials list:**

**What we have**

**Chairs (we need to distribute these fairly-we will do this as a class)**

**Mosaic tiles-grout-cement**

**Paint (some- we need more)**

**Glue (need - wood glue)**

**Dremel**

**Hammers**

**Nails (some, not many)**

**Electric and regular screw drivers**

**Drill with sanding attachment (need more sand paper for drill)**

**Glue guns small and large (need more and more sticks of glue)**

**What we/you need**

**Item to mosaic**

**Item to transform**

**Fabric (any and all-can be in the form of old clothes or pillows)**

**Padding for item (if needed)**

**Material to use in transformation**

**Heavy duty glue**

**Clamps (for gluing furniture)**

**Any other materials you may want to reuse**

**Guiding question 1: What are the essential/innovative tools of upcycling? How can I remake something so so into something AMAZING?**

**Lessons:**

- 1. What is up cycling (Flea Market Flip)**
- 2. Groups**
- 3. Using plans, thumbnails and sketches to determine ideas**
- 4. Creating an inspiration book**
- 5. Research the “how-to”**



**Individual work - Due one item each week minimum. # 7 Work must begin before September 25, 2015**

- \_\_1. A plan: Drawing or cutout of image with “how-to’s” diagram (must be detailed).**
- \_\_2. Research: Find step by step process to create what you are planning on making- Add this to your PLAN.**
- \_\_3. Make a materials list: What do you need in the way of raw/reuse materials to complete your idea. Be thorough, include nails, glue, hammer, anything you may need. You will create a separate tools list below. It is fine to repeat tools here and there as long as you have one complete list when finished.**
- \_\_4. Tools list: What tools do you need to complete your idea/design? This MUST be a complete list of everything no matter how small you might need (such as tape, yard stick, nails, paint, paint brush-including sizes of paint brushes). If you are not sure research first then ask.**
- \_\_5. Resources/Plan: What resources are you planning to use to obtain your materials? Where will you get your materials? Tools?**
- \_\_6. Gathering Materials: Gather your materials. You must have all your materials, including what you are transforming and everything you need to complete the transformation (paint, fabric, glue, nails, thread, needles, et cetera- see me first for what you need) •• (you will need to bring a box, bag or other storage item where you can store your materials, this will include everything you need to make your item).**
- \_\_7. Begin work on your item- you MUST have completed all the above steps before beginning this step. Must be at this step no later than September 25, 2015.**

**Group work due: End of Semester**

1. Choose a larger scale idea or item (can be a work of art)
2. Research large scale transformative Creative Reuse, Upcycling projects (such as a chair made from recycled books or a lamp shade made from pop tabs)



3. Research your idea thoroughly. And use the same method as the individual project:

- \_\_1. A plan:
- \_\_2. Research:
- \_\_3. Make a materials list:
- \_\_4. Tools list:
- \_\_5. Resources/Plan:
- \_\_6. Gathering Materials:
- \_\_7. Begin work on your item-



**Donations of the following materials would be greatly appreciated:**

**Paint- (any and all colors)**

**Gesso**

**Glue- Hot glue sticks - mini and large/regular size- wood glue- heavy duty glue**

**Vice grips**

**Paint brushes (large size for furniture painting and staining)**

**Sand Paper (all types and lots of it)**

**Gloves**

**Sewing Machines (students sewing should either plan to sew by hand or bring in a sewing machine)**

**Goggles**

**Mod Podge or WATER BASED Verathane (please make sure it is WATER BASED)**

**Rags or old towel**

**Paper towels**

**Painters tape**

**Used Tools - check with me ([dyane@silveroakmontessori.org](mailto:dyane@silveroakmontessori.org)) most needed are wrenches - power tools - nails - screws - heavy duty staple gun (we have one light duty and need several heavy duty with staples)**

**Aprons**

**Plastic drop cloths**

**Newspaper (lots we have none and need it to cover work tables)**

**Any old/broken furniture and clothing (especially jeans)**

**Any parent willing to wash towels for the class each week would be appreciated.**