

Upcycled Art

*Part 1: What Is Upcycled Art
Where Can Materials Be Found To Create Upcycled Art
Where Does Sea Glass and Sea Pottery Come From*

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What is Upcycled Art?

The practice of *reusing and recycling objects*, both found in nature and man made, *to create works of art is known in the art world as upcycling.*

When creating upcycled art, you *begin by taking something that would otherwise have a different purpose and give it new life by reimagining its use.*

In our gardens, we frequently have old pots and planters, garden tools and a plethora of other items that are now gathering dust or we're not using it this season.

But, what if they could become something new to adorn your own garden?

What's In My Upcycling Tool Kit

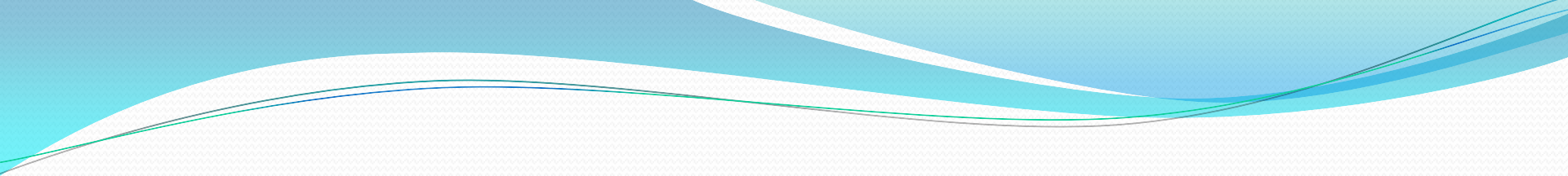
- E6000 Glue
- Hot Glue Gun
- Clear Silicon Sealant/Caulk
- Wire Cutters
- Pliers
- Tweezers
- Wire
- Craft Scissors
- Painters Tape

Where Can I Find Materials To Upcycle?

- Your Yard
- Your Garage
- Inside Your Home
- Thrift Stores or Estate Sales
- Yard Sales
- In Nature, just take a walk
- Craft or Hardware Stores
- Amazon
- Or, my personal favorite...On The Beach

What Can I Find On The Beach?

- Sea Glass
- Uranium & Manganese Glass
- Pottery
- Tile
- Shells
- Stones and Rocks, including
 - Wish Stones
 - Hag Stones
 - Heart Stones
 - Other Flat Stones



**Where Does The Sea Glass
and Pottery Washing Up On
the San Clemente Beach
Come From?**

The Santa Catalina Island Company

Let's Start At The Beginning...

- *In 1927, William Wrigley, Jr. built a tile and brick factory on **Pebbly Beach** located near Avalon on Santa Catalina Island.*
- *The new factory became **Catalina Clay Products**, a division of Wrigley's **Santa Catalina Island Company**.*
- *The factory utilized local red clay from the Island.*
- *This business venture had two purposes:*
 - 1. **Produce clay building materials** (brick and tile) to be used on the Island, and*
 - 2. **Provide year-round employment** for Island residents.*

The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- *In 1928, Wrigley brought artisans (ceramicists) from Pacific Pottery in Los Angeles, to the Island*
- Their job was to design decorative and functional pottery products including *tableware and decorative pottery*.
- *Catalina Pottery* (or Catalina Island Pottery) *is the commonly used name for Catalina Clay Products.*
- The company sold its products as:
 - *Catalina Pottery*, and
 - *Catalina Tile*

The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- At that time, *everything produced in the factory utilized the red clay which was of zero cost*, other than labor, to the company.
- *The red clay* found on the Island *was used for pottery until 1931*.
- *After 1931, white clay from the United States mainland was combined with the red clay until eventually, only white clay was used*.
- Customers purchasing dinnerware and artware did **not** like the red clay. And *strongly preferred the white clay*.

The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- *Glazes were made from local minerals mined on the Island. Again, the only cost was labor to mine it.*
- *Knowledge was provided by the ceramicists who came from Pacific Pottery.*
- *Due to the Great Depression, Catalina Pottery scaled back to a skeleton crew.*
- One of the former Pacific ceramicists, *Harold Johnson*, left *Catalina Pottery for Bauer in LA*, helping them design and launch their new California Colored Pottery line.

A Ceramist Working At Catalina Pottery



The Chicago Cubs Baseball Team Used Catalina Pottery When They Came For Spring Training



The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- *Due to losses, in 1937, Catalina Clay Products, including all equipment, stock, molds, and trademarks, was sold to Gladding, McBean & Co.*
- The Santa Catalina Island Company initially suggested that Gladding McBean *lease the production facilities at Pebbly Beach and continue to produce the Catalina Pottery on the island*, thereby keeping Island residents employed.
- This proposal did not interest the new owner because *the high cost of importing white clay had caused the problem for Catalina Pottery in the first place.*

The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- *The factory on Catalina Island was closed.*
- All of the molds and equipment were moved to Gladding, McBean & Co.'s factory in Los Angeles.
- *Gladding, McBean continued to produce Catalina art ware and dinnerware for their Catalina Pottery art ware lines until 1942.* Look at the bottom to see who produced it.
- About 1946, *Max Weil*, owner of The California Figurine Co. *purchased the Catalina Pottery artware molds and patterns* from Gladding McBean and Co.
- Gladding, McBean & Co. *retained the trade name Catalina.*

The Santa Catalina Island Company cont.

- *The California Figurine Co.* operated out of Los Angeles, CA from sometime in the 1930's to 1946. In 1946 the company changed its name to *Weil of California*.
- In 1947, *Gladding, McBean & Co.* returned the use of the trademark to the Santa Catalina Island Company.
- Weil made a variety of pottery items, including “*Weil Ware*”, giftware, *artware*, *tableware*, and figurines using the Catalina Pottery molds. In 1956 the company closed.
- *A small pottery (tile) shop now operates on Catalina* about a mile and a half south of Avalon.



**That's a Nice Story, But
What Does That Have To Do
With The Pottery and Glass
That Washes Up on
San Clemente Beaches?**

Just dump it into the ocean...

Communities around the world used the ocean for waste disposal, including the disposal of chemical and industrial waste, radioactive waste, trash, munitions, sewage sludge, and contaminated material.

Little attention was given to the negative impacts of waste disposal on the marine environment.

Waste was frequently dumped in coastal and ocean waters based on the assumption that marine waters had an unlimited capacity to mix and disperse waste.

Over 100 years later we know that wasn't true.

Just dump it into the ocean...cont.

- In October 1972, Congress enacted the *Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA)*
- Sometimes referred to as the *Ocean Dumping Act*
- It declared that it is the policy of the United States to regulate the dumping of all materials which would adversely affect human health, welfare or amenities, or the marine environment, ecological systems or economic potentialities.

Just dump it into the ocean...cont.

- For years, *Catalina Pottery dumped their defective pottery and tile into the ocean.*
- After all, it was convenient to dump it into the ocean given that the factory was located on the edge of Pebbly Beach.
- And the *Avalon trash dump* was *located near Pebbly Beach* too.
- In fact, *all the trash from Catalina was dumped onto the beach where the waves would take it away at high tide.*
- *It couldn't get any better, Right?*

Didn't dumping into the Ocean Create Sea Glass?

- *Sea glass and pottery is formed* from glass items and pottery that have been dumped at sea or washed out into the ocean from the shore.
- The *glass and pottery is broken up and tumbled by waves, sand, and rock for an average of 20-50 years or longer* until the edges have been smoothed away and the saltwater has left a frosty, smooth patina.
- It's important to know that glass alone will never break down. So your collectable glass in your home is safe.

The Forming of Sea Glass & Pottery

- The defective pottery and tile from *Catalina Pottery* has been *tumbling in the ocean since at least 1937*.
- The glass from the *Catalina Dump* has been *tumbling in the ocean since at least the beginning of the 19th century*.
- There is probably glass that was *dumped into the ocean in the early years of San Clemente* too.
- With the advent of stricter laws against littering, expanding recycling practices, and a large changeover to plastic from traditional glass containers, *Sea glass is slowly becoming rarer, difficult to find and more valuable to collect*.



**You Still Haven't Told Us
How The
Pottery and Glass
Gets From
Catalina Island
to the
San Clemente Beaches?**

Treasure on San Clemente Beaches

- Over time, the Sea Glass, Tile and Pottery have made their way on the bottom of the ocean, pushed by storms, currents, etc. for ***22 plus miles*** and have washed up on the San Clemente beaches.
- Pieces of ***Sea Glass, Tile and Pottery can be found every day*** on our local beaches.
- If the Eco Warriors happen to find any during a beach clean-up, I'll gladly take it off their hands and add it to my collection.
- My personal, favorite place in California to find sea glass to add to my collection is on Catalina Island.

But What About Uranium Glass?

- For hundreds of years, *glassmakers created yellow or green glass by adding very small amounts of Uranium* to the mixture before the item was formed.
- Because of this, *Uranium Glass glows under Ultraviolet (UV) Light* .
- **Uranium glass was once made into tableware and household items.**
- Most objects manufactured with Uranium are now considered **antiques or retro-era collectibles.**

But What About Uranium Glass? - Cont.

- *U.S. production of Uranium Glass ceased in the middle years of World War II* because of the government's confiscation of uranium supplies for the Manhattan Project from 1942 to 1958.
- *The Manhattan Project* was a research and development undertaking during World War II that ***produced the first nuclear weapons.***
- *How do I find Sea Uranium Glass?* My favorite place to find UV glass is Pebbly Beach on Catalina Island. ***In the dark*** of course, ***with a UV flashlight.*** But, if I do pick up a piece during the day, I'm usually able to recognize it.

Manganese Glass

Until the early 20th century *Manganese Ore was added to glass to de-color* it so it would be clear.

Exposure to *UV light*, over time, *will turn clear glass purple* or light lavender.

Old glass kept indoors will not turn purple.

I have a 'tanning box' in my yard to help identify the age of the glass. Exposure to UV light eventually turns the old glass in the box purple.

Carnival Glass:

Other types of glass that contains manganese glows green, red, orange or peach under black light.

Glass containing Selenium glows a pale pink or orange under UV light.

Cadmium glass glows yellow, pink, orange, or red under UV light.

Pirate Glass

Sea Glass that is ***so dark it appears black*** is often called ***Pirate Glass***.

Pirate glass is often from very old antique bottles that had a high iron content in order to stop sunlight from reaching — and spoiling — the contents.





Stones and Rocks

Wish Stones

Legend has it that if you find a rock with a white or pink line all around it, you have found a Wishing Stone.

The stripe is usually quartz or calcite.

If you trace your finger around the line while closing your eyes and making a wish, then throw the stone into the sea as far as you can or give it to another person, your wish will come true. Make a wish on behalf of a person other than yourself; then ALL your wishes come true.

The very best Wishing Stone has a single continuous line wrapping around it, and is unbroken and uninterrupted by other lines or streaks.



Hag Stones

A Hag Stone is any type of stone that has a naturally occurring hole right through it.

Hag stones are literally formed by nature when they crash together along a sea or riverbed.

When water rushes past and through the stone, it causes erosion that eventually creates a unique hole.

These stones are found along dry riverbeds and seashores, they are hard to come by.



Stone Hearts

Heart shaped stones are frequently found on the beach.

They are generally *coveted by beachcombers*. So, if one washes up at high tide and is spotted, it is very likely it will end up in someone's pocket.

Placing heart shaped stones throughout your garden creates the unexpected.

Consider *placing a bowl of them near a seating area*. They will be picked up and looked at.



Beach Stones

Search the beach for interesting stones of various:

- *Colors*
- *Sizes*
- *Shapes*
- *Materials*

The rocks found on our beaches are generally ***Metamorphic and Sedimentary*** rocks.

Metamorphic rocks form when rocks are subjected to high heat, high pressure, hot mineral-rich fluids or, more commonly, some combination of these factors. Conditions like these are found deep within the Earth or where tectonic plates meet.

Sedimentary rocks include sandstone, limestone, and shale. These rocks often start as sediments carried in rivers and deposited in lakes and oceans. When buried, the sediments lose water and become cemented to form rock.

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**What Can Be Created
Using Sea Glass,
Pottery and Tile?**

**Continued In Part 2:
Garden Art**