

PET PROJECT

Artist Miwa Koziumi redefines recycling with a new type of message in a bottle

"I like to think I can give life to plastic," says the Brooklyn-based Koziumi, who transforms discarded beverage containers into grapefruit-sized sea creatures, using nothing but an alcohol lamp, smoldering iron and pocket lighter. The bottles she uses are made out of polyethylene terephthalate, also known as PET, which provides the title for this ongoing project. All of her PETs are based on images of real animals taken from zoological books she's collected. For Koziumi, the fluidity of melting plastic inspired the undulating underwater forms. "I see a link between the delicate flowing motion of my pieces and the sight of a jellyfish gracefully gliding through the water."

