

# The Bottle Vase Project

Bottle vases are inspired by a collection of plastic trash from the river Maas in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. After reading about plastic soup, Foekje Fleur started looking more carefully at the river running through her hometown and found plastic waste that had been accumulating there since the 1960s. By creating durable porcelain copies of the plastic bottles she finds, she is trying to spread awareness of this growing problem.

## *Plastic Soup*

An area in the North Pacific Ocean, also known as 'the great pacific garbage patch', is characterized by exceptionally high concentrations of plastics that have been trapped there by the circulating currents. Plastic waste drifts there from all over the world, after floating down rivers into seas. Plastics are not biodegradable; they only break down into smaller pieces called micro-plastics. These are extremely dangerous as they enter the food chain and threaten all kinds of species, including human beings.

## *How it's made*

The plastic bottles Foekje finds are used to create moulds. Pigmented liquid porcelain is poured into the moulds, leaving a thin layer that forms the shape. After drying, the inside of the bottle is glazed lead-free and fired at 1300 °C. All this handwork is done by a team of seven craftsmen, therefore none of the bottles is exactly the same: small stains and deformations occur and these add to the beauty of the finished product.

## *Care Instructions*

Please follow these instructions to keep the outer surface of this bottle vase in a pristine state. After using the vase, wash the bottle with mild soap, warm water and a brush. Leave it to dry on a clean towel. Grease stains can be removed by rubbing in soft soap, leaving it overnight and cleaning as directed above. Always keep this bottle indoors and store it in a dry place as moist dirt might get into the outer surface over time. Liquids can also be stored in the bottle vase using a cork to close the bottle.

## *Maas Collection*

For the Maas Collection, Foekje works together with Middle Kingdom, a company led by husband-wife team the Jias. They combine their love for Chinese history with their passion for traditional craft. In their Jingdezhen workshop, they give a contemporary voice to classic porcelain techniques. Inspired by history and other artistic disciplines, Middle Kingdom's craftsmen remains faithful to the materials and their artistry. All of the shapes in this collection were found near the river Maas in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

## *World Collection*

People all over the world were inspired by the Bottle Vase project and have cleaned beaches at home or on holiday. The world collection consists of bottles from all over the world and is being handmade near Aveiro in Portugal. The collection may expand as long the plastic soup problem exists.

## *Limited Editions*

Each year, one or two limited editions are launched that are hand-numbered and come in a special handmade collectors box. This series is handmade near Aveiro, Portugal.