

María Daniela
VELASCO

THE ART OF SERVING LIFE

through kindness, creativity & community willpower



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VELASCO

- **ECO-CONSCIOUS ARTIST CREATING THE VENEZUELAN UPCYCLED ART MOVEMENT**
- **UNHCR VENEZUELA GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**
- **FOUNDER *of the* ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION ÖKOSPIRI**

*Anthropologist, Miss Venezuela Earth 2021,
Heartmath mentor in personal resilience*



*"We all have the power within us and in our communities to create a much more **compassionate and sustainable world** by joining our strengths, creative spark and working together with love."*



ECO-CONSCIOUS ARTIST CREATING THE VENEZUELAN UPCYCLED ART MOVEMENT





Kind.

PUBLIC UPCYCLING ART PIECES





WALL OF LOVE . 2024

Petare, Caracas. Venezuela

This art piece was built with 36.000 thousand Upcycled plastic lids by kids and young people participants of The National System of Youth and Children's Orchestra and Choir of Venezuela, also known as "El Sistema" (Núcleo Petare).

Encouraging inspiration, creativity and love for music in the children and young people of "El sistema".

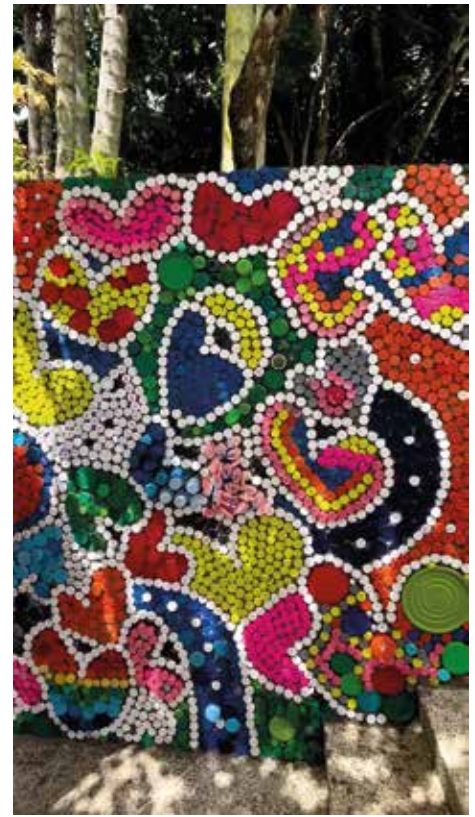


Terrazas del Ávila, Caracas. Vzla
WALL OF LOVE . 2023

*Terrazas del Ávila, Caracas.
Venezuela*

This art piece was built with 14.000 thousand Upcycled plastic lids by kids and young people participants of the Integrated Arts Center, with more than 120 volunteers to commemorate the book "Corazones con Voluntad" by Fundasitio.

"Love is a divine force that leads us to know the best of ourselves", Jane Austen.





WALL OF LOVE . 2023

*Sucre Los Caobos Park,
Venezuela.*

This art piece (first wall of love in the world as collage of hearts) was built with 64.000 thousand Upcycled plastic lids by a thousand Venezuelans from Caracas City.

It's an eco-conscious expression of the highest energy we can share to transform this world: LOVE.



ODE TO THE SEA . 2022

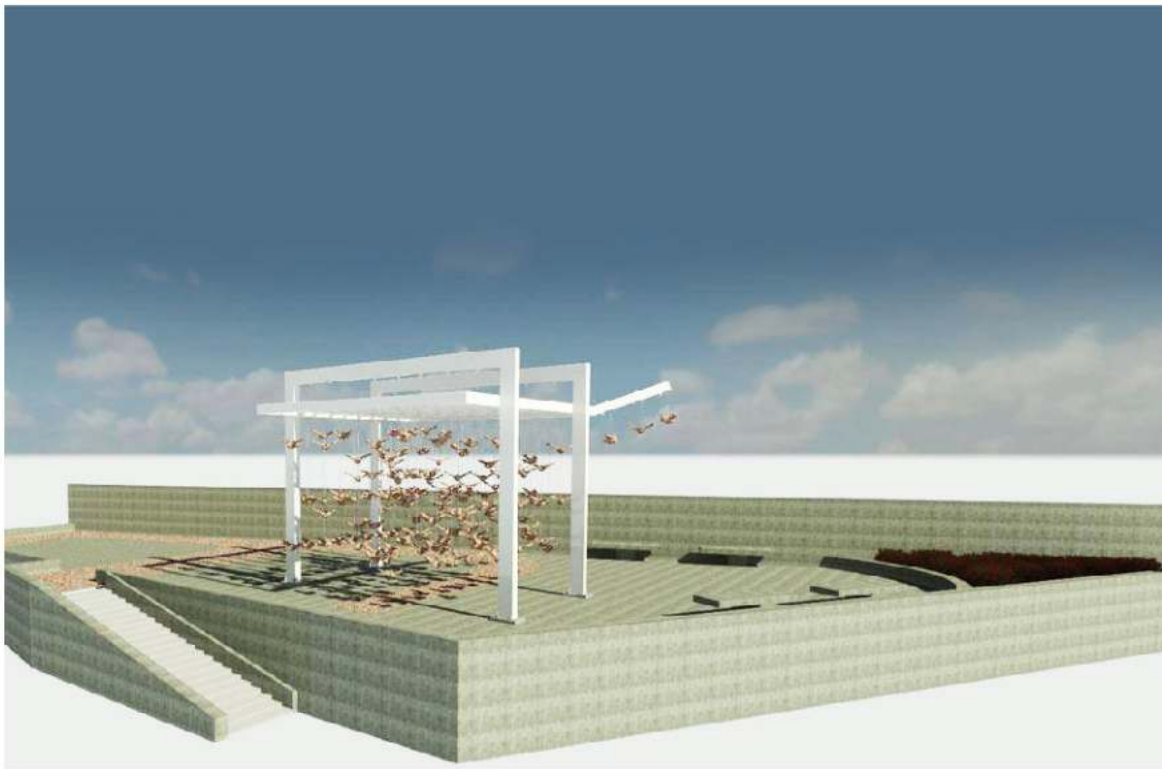
*Historic Center,
La Guaira, Venezuela.*

*First walkway in Venezuela built
with Upcycled plastic lids.*

*As all the art pieces I create this
walkway was built in collaboration
with the local community, being an
expression of 56.000 thousand
recycled plastic lids by them.*

*It's an art piece to honor our oceans.
A passive protest to speak about
the plastic pollution and its effects
on marine biodiversity. It is a design
that can be perceived from below
as waves, and seeing it from
above you can appreciate birds.*





FREEDOM THROUGH CONSCIOUSNESS . 2023

*Historic center,
La Guaira, Venezuela.*

*Only through consciousness
we can set ourselves free and give
freedom to our future generations.*

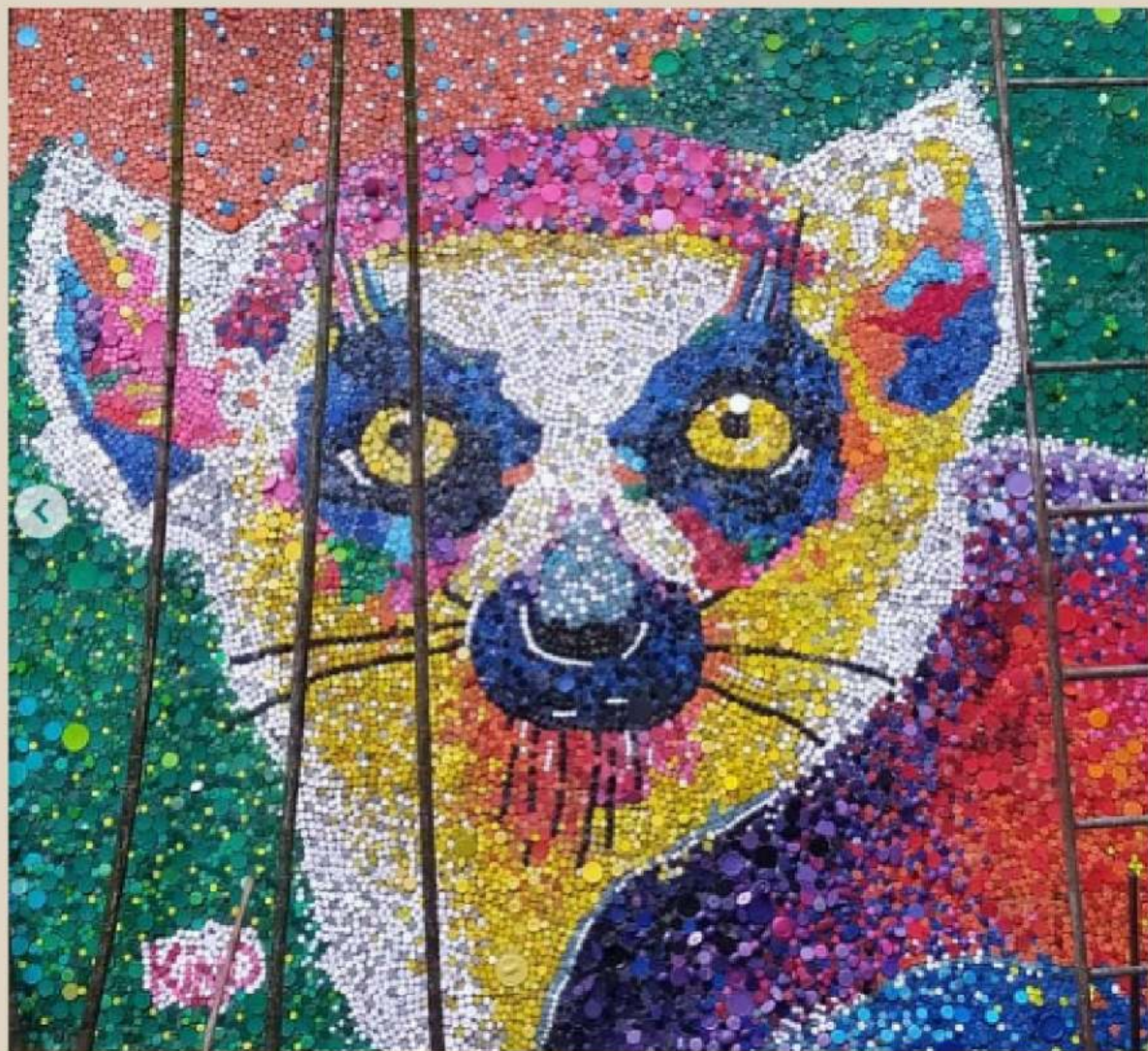
*It's time for sustainable action
everyday, all day long" 33 bird figures
made each one with 1.600 thousand
microplastics of many colors
by the local schools from the coast,
hanged inside an upcycled steel
structure of 5 meters tall and width.*



LEMUR . 2023

*The Pinar Zoo Park,
El Paraíso, Caracas.*

*Ecoartist piece made with 30.000
thousand Upcycled plastic lids to
communicate how plastic pollution
affects biodiversity and the
importance of preserving wildlife
by choosing to be part of a
zero waste culture and
circular economy dynamics.*





Kind.

UPCYCLING ART ART COLLECTIONS





RE-IMAGINE LOVE ART *Collection 2022 and 2023*

Materials:

Upcycled micro-plastics.

Water base paint.

Reused wood.

Seed paper certificate.

SYMBOLS ART COLLECTION *Collection 2022*

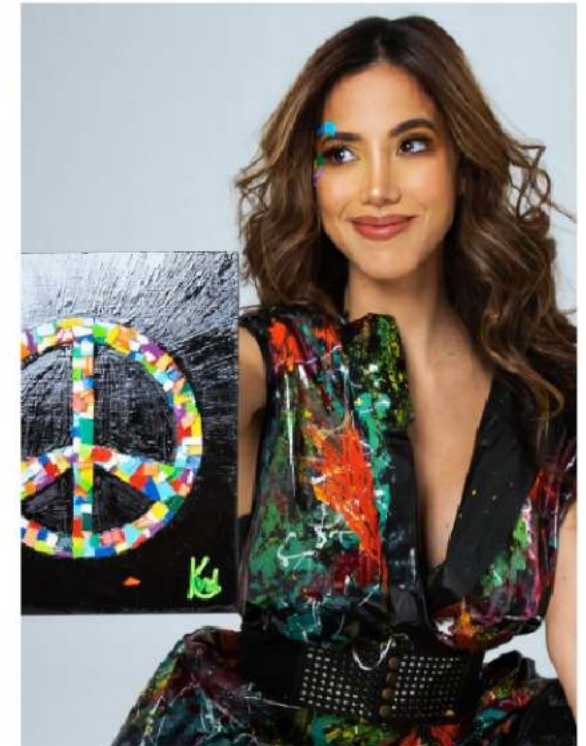
Materials:

Upcycled micro-plastics.

Water base paint.

Reused wood.

Seed paper certificate.





THE ART OF SERVING FOR ACNUR

Materials:

Upcycled micro-plastics.

Water base paint.

Reused wood.

Seed paper certificate.

ONE UNIVERSE Collection 2022

Materials:

Upcycled micro-plastics.

Water base paint.

Reused wood.

Seed paper certificate.





ONE Love ONE Planet COLLECTION

*Ten (10) eco-conscious Art pieces
created in collaboration with
Caracas citizens during the '10k running
event for the planet Earth' on Earth Day.*



AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

This sculpture of a young boy is created by our kids placing recycled toys and candy's on him.

I was inspired by a 8 years old Colombian environmental activist who asked to his parents on December for Trees as presents he could plant and not for plastic toys that would end up affecting his future.



OCEAN OF WILL

This sculpture of a wave was created with the community with more than 4.000 recycled and upcycled plastic bottles. Each person had the opportunity to bring their bottle, paint it, and be part of a positive change by creating this art piece.



HEAVEN OF HOPE

This art piece was created with 600 recycled plastic bags, hanged one by one by Caracas citizens.

It's an expression of our linear ways of production, consumption, and waste. It also speaks about the importance of keeping the hopes high accompanied by our efforts every day to create a systemic sustainable change. 'We still can restore Mother Earth's living conditions'



BRIDGING THE GAP

Ecoartist piece created with 2.700 Upcycled plastic lids and 300 recycled CD's in community to express the fact that 'the most affected communities by the climate crisis are the most vulnerable ones and the less responsables for the CO2 emissions. It is time to close the gap through true awareness, compasión and LOVE.

It's time to mitigate inequalities, walk the talk, and unite efforts so we can create opportunities for all to thrive.



WALL OF LOVE

Collage of personalized hearts created by Caracas citizens with 6000 Upcycled plastic bottle lids to elevate the energy of love, remember this state of being, and share this love with the planet.





THE WAY IS LOVE

It's an art piece created freely by the community sharing their messages of love for the planet.



EXPRESSION

Ecoartist piece created to share awareness about the ways we can become love and how to spread it into the world.



BEATS OF COLOR

10 sculptures of hearts created by kids with microplastics of many colors to express the importance of overcoming every fear, limitation and belief that keeps our hearts contracted, so we can live from an inner space of expansion, love and healthy power.

The expansion of our hearts will allow the colors of life to flourish.





THE INFORMATION VORTEX

E-waste Art piece created with more than 50 keyboards and cellphones as a call for a more conscious consumption related on how we use technology, which is the information we allow into our lives through social media, and about the usage we give to electronic devices.





A PLANET THROUGH THE EYES OF INNOCENCE

This art piece was created by 47 girls and boys who shared their perspectives and love for the Earth's ecosystems.

It is an art piece to give voice to our children's hearts while opening a space for connection of adults with a fresh perspective about the world.





These pieces of art are worked with women belonging to the
ÖKOWOMEN PROGRAM.

This program values labor and creates economic income to vulnerable Venezuelan women from rural communities.

These women are in charge of recycling plastic, sorting it out by types of plastic, separating it by color, cleaning it and cutting it into fragments of small plastic pieces that are used in the creation of the art pieces.

UNHCR VENEZUELA'S GOODWILL AMBASSADOR





**SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES
SERVING WITH UNHCR VENEZUELA'S
CARACAS FIELD UNIT**





COMMUNITY: LA BANERA *Carabobo, Venezuela.*

On June 20|2022 I had the opportunity to share with 34 refugee kids giving the talk: "The Earth as our home, and the importance of connecting with our hearts and inspiration to create a better world".

We created art pieces with recycled microplastics and using water based paint. We expressed in our drawings "what 'home' means to us" and created an art exposition with all the mini-canvases to spread love and environmental awareness to the community.





COMMUNITY MAMPORAL

Miranda, Venezuela.

On June 23|2022 I had the opportunity to share with 26 refugee kids creating personalized ecological notebooks with a drawing about Mother Earth as our home.

We explored our imagination, artistic expression, and connected with the héroe within each one of us.





CELEBRATION OF THE 77 YEARS OF THE UN UNITED NATIONS

*Sucre Los Caobos Park,
Venezuela.*

Celebrating the 77th years of the United Nations in the world. I was invited as one of the speakers and hosts for the the event, sharing information about the sustainable development goals, and motivating people to co-create a harmonious world.

I supported UNHCR Venezuela in the promotion of protection through clean and renewable energies.



COMMUNITY PETARE

Miranda, Venezuela.

Community sharing the speech 'To be Human Today' with a group of 34 teenagers participating in the programs of the foundation Luz y Vida & Colibrí's foundation.

We gave them certificates for their finished studies and school kits to promote their protection by guaranteeing their education.





BEACHES OF ANARE

Anare, Venezuela.

With UNHCR Venezuela's Caracas field unit I had the opportunity to share with a group twelve women community promoters from the coast speaking about the importance of preserving our oceans and beaches, about the climate crisis, and on how to mitigate plastic pollution to allow healthier living conditions for the community.

I also shared with 30 children giving them a talk about 'The living system we are' and creating Art pieces with many colors about what we love the most from nature.





WALL OF LOVE . 2023

Sucre Los Caobos Park, Venezuela.

Creating eco-conscious art with UNHCR Venezuela's team.

"An average of 20 million people around the world are forcibly displaced every year due to the climate emergency. By 2100, the human population is expected to shoot up to 11 billion people".

At the same time, the world's landmass will shrink as rising sea levels swallow coastlines, displacing an estimated 2 billion people from their homes, according to a new analysis from Cornell University. -Global citizen.



FOUNDER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION ÖKOSPIRI





VENEZUELAN UPCYCLING ART MOVEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION ÖKOSPIRI

by  + Kind.





We are a non-profit **FOUNDATION** that works to preserve life on our planet by reducing plastic pollution through eco-conscious artistic expression.

We restore schools, public and private spaces through the **UPCYCLED PLASTIC ART TECHNIC.**

We promote and execute sustainable solutions that strengthen the best interest of children, adolescents and communities, from our Öko-spaces project, promoting collective creativity, well-being and collaborative work focused on spreading environmental awareness and empowering the take action for climate and social justice.

We work hand in hand with the artistic expression of many ecoartist in Venezuela, giving them opportunities for their eco-conscious art to thrive.



It's a collaborative dynamic to rebuild educational institutions,
add value to corporate, private and public spaces,
in rural or urban communities, through the **UPCYCLED ART TECHNIC.**

We have the intention to promote and create cities with
sustainable aesthetics, systems, and mindsets.



PROJECT ALIGNED with the



WHO MAKES UP THE ÖKOSPIRI FOUNDATION TEAM?



FOUNDER:

María Daniela Velasco



CROWDFUNDING SUPERVISOR:

María de Lourdes
Rodríguez



SOCIAL MEDIA CREATIVE:

Yekatherina Sánchez



ENGINEER:

Efrain Velasco



PROJECT VOLUNTEER:

Sophia Lamarca

Our **ECO-ARTISTIC SOLUTIONS** are **CREATING** the following
SUSTAINABLE IMPACT:





ÖKOMURAL . 2019

*Escalona Square, El Hatillo,
Miranda, Venezuela.*

250.000 thousand recycled plastic lids.

The Ökomural is the first ecological mural made in Venezuela, located in the public square called Escalona, created in partnership with the public sector, venezuelan community, private companies, and local organization.

More than 6.000 thousand Venezuelan citizens add their efforts and environmental awareness to create the mural, standing up for a circular economy.



ÖKO-SCHOOL . 2022

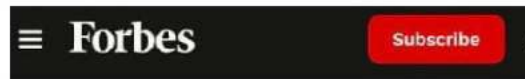
*Vacation City Los Caracas
La Guaira, Venezuela.*

*140.000 thousand recycled
plastic lids.*

*The Öko-school is the first rural
school in Venezuela with an
aesthetics worked through the
Upcycling Plastic Art technique,
art technique and painting with
ecological water base pain
using also for some areas,
ecological water base paint.*

*Our impact on this kindergarten
of 145 kids was focused on
providing them clean and vibrant
classrooms, hallways, libraries,
and bathrooms, to improve their
wellbeing and education, while
mitigating the plastic pollution.*





FORBES > LIFESTYLE > ARTS

20 Gorgeous Christmas Trees Around The World, In Photos



A Christmas tree made from over 15,000 recycled plastic bottles by the non-profit Oko Spire in Caracas, Venezuela; Photo: Yuri Cortez
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

ÖKO-TREE . 2022

*Museum Square. Fine Arts.
Caracas, Venezuela.*

*Reusing metallic waste, reused
meshes and 15.000 thousand
upcycled plastic bottles, we were
able to build with the support of
the local community the first
recycled plastic bottle Christmas
tree in Caracas City and the
biggest in Venezuela.*



ROUTE OF THE RUNNER . 2022

*Sucre Los Caobos Park
Caracas, Venezuela.*

The route of the runner was a work of sustainable recovery using our Upcycling Plastic Art technique.

All the signage along the route was painted with water based painting, it was cleaned, and recovered.

12 infographics were designed and placed throughout the route, for runners and community to be more aware on how they can achieve a sustainable lifestyle and be part of the solution.



OUR INITIATIVES TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD



2018

Initiative that enhances the creativity and empowerment of our children and young people, for the climate and social justice.



2018

Initiative to reforest our natural landscapes and create recycled vertical gardens as a solution to reduce global warming.



2019

Program that values labor and creates economic prosperity for vulnerable Venezuelan women from rural communities.



2022

Network of voluntary solidarity that implies commitment, kindness and connection with the mission and vision of the Ökospiri Foundation.





OUR FOUNDER AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AND ARTIST CREATED A METHOD WHICH ORGANIZES AND EMPOWERS THE ENVIRONMENTAL TAKE ACTION OF COMMUNITIES USING ART, COLLABORATION AND FUN AS THE BEST TOOLS TO:

- *Elevate creative and emotional expression and the healing that comes with it.*
- *Recreate the collective identity around the shared spaces.*
- *Promote a deeper connection with the self and a bigger purpose in our lives (the preservation of life on this planet).*
- *Spread a message of love and unity.*

FEATURED AROUND THE WORLD BY MANY PRESS AND MEDIA SITES SUCH AS:



2020



2020



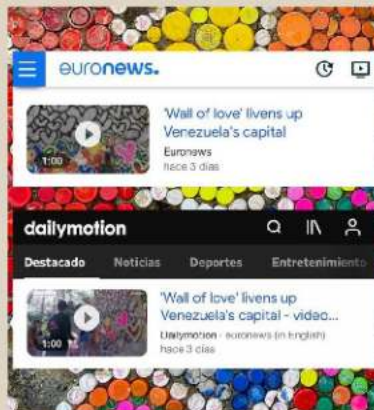
2022



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 **@velascomariadaniela**

María Daniela
VELASCO

"The deepest and most expansive connection that we can create with life happens through the heart."

Working with the heart is living in the Marvelous net of life that we all are.

It is to become a bridge of actions which connects us to the love we have always been."

María Daniela
VELASCO

