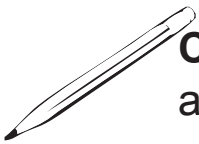


Plastic in Paradise

SCENES OF REAL LIFE FICCTIONS BY HEIDI BASSETT BLAIR



Collect
a pencil.

Go on a journey through
the exhibition.



Discover
Caymanian
works of art.

★ **Look, learn and have fun!**

TEACHERS'/PARENTS' GUIDE

- ★ A star occurs next to various individual **ACTIVITIES** students are expected to complete.
- A circle occurs next to **Follow Up Activities** which the students should do for homework and continue to enrich their learning.
- E** An 'E' occurs where you have a chance to teach more about the **Elements of Art**; see reception if you require additional teaching materials.
- P** A 'P' occurs where you have a chance to teach more about the **Principles of Design**; see reception if you require additional teaching materials.

Heidi Bassett Blair was born in Toronto and obtained her undergraduate degree at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She then went on to complete graduate studies at New York University. During this era her most influential experiences were studying abroad in Paris at Parsons School of Design, spending countless hours in the darkroom, working as a teaching assistant for video-digital artist Peter Campus, and photographing Yosef Karsh in Ottawa.

Since then, her work has been exhibited in galleries across the United States and Canada. She has won several prestigious awards including the Jack Goodman Award for Art and Technology and American Photo's "Portraits and People" contest, and her work appears in many private, corporate and museum collections and she is represented through the Benrubi Gallery, New York City.

Art and life are seamless for Bassett Blair. Her most cherished accomplishment is bonding with her family and working consciously everyday at being the change she wants to see in the world.

Currently Bassett Blair and her family are residing in the Cayman Islands and continuing to travel extensively. Their most recent stop was Bali, Indonesia where all three of their children attended the Green School.

★ **COMPLETE** the word search.

G M A J S V V F D Q P A N O R A M A T R
A F S Y P E M Y M T A Q D B U J M G D P
N I F Q K J R X X B R U T G U U P N O O
R L L Z K C W W K T A U I G Q W L S P G
R T O X N A M B Y I D R G E R C L Y I T
N E A Z K N B Y H A I C X K A E A C R I
W R L G C D A C P R S J R M L R N Y T D
W Z R N Y I L U A T E T E X C U D E O R
C X Q I N D A I R R D R B T I S S D S F
X I L P W M N B G O A U Y H T O C I N P
X N I P Q I C P O P O W T G S P A T O U
R M T O N K E U T Z K O I I A X P I I E
J U F R A M E P O V Q U B L L E E N T S
Y V K C C N Q W H K H J G V P F L G C O
P D C M Z B E F P D S Q E L Y E L G I L
E I N F N B E R U T R E P A N C X A F C
P N H Y X P O P D Y X S T S H M H U S S
C G N I N N A P M S M Z Q L T J H V I H
N W Q V L B D W Q X D E G A T S B Q O O
N N W V F L K Q U F S I Z S H U T T E R

APERTURE
BALANCE
CAMERA
CANDID
CLOSE UP
CROPPING
EDITING
EXPOSURE
FICTIONS
FILTER
FLASH
FRAME
LANDSCAPE
LENS
LIGHT
PANNING
PANORAMA
PARADISE
PHOTOGRAPHY
PORTRAIT
PLASTIC
SHUTTER
STAGED
TRIPOD

Plastic in Paradise is the artist's response to her moments as a youth, and moments as an adult. They are creations of what has either happened, or the representation of a previous experience. Some of the scenes are completely candid. Others are staged based on a moment that has passed, or the creation of a scene based on the characteristics of the subjects she is photographing, places she has travelled to, or references to art history and popular culture. Truth and fiction are woven together to create a narrative of both a real and imagined world. Helium balloons compete with coconut palms; a beautiful landscape and a plastic blow up pool toy intersect nature with the factory made.

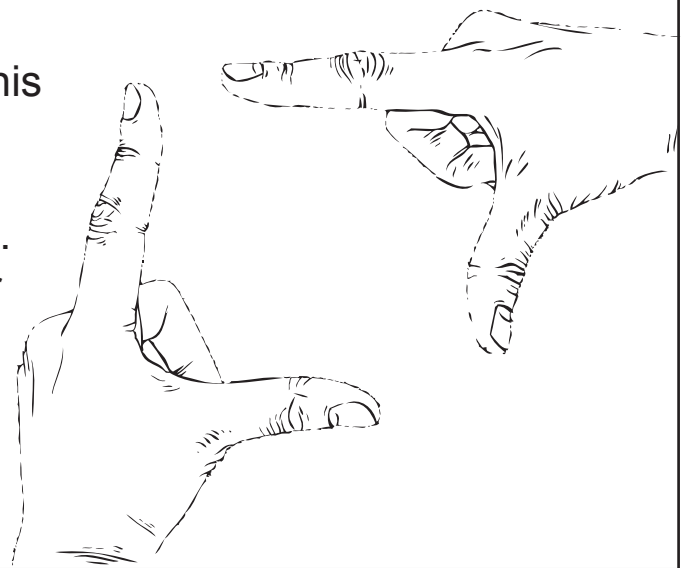
Through these personal stories she highlights the duality of the plastic and the paradise, and by doing so draws our attention to the complex relationship between the two.

★**FIND** your favourite photograph in this exhibition.

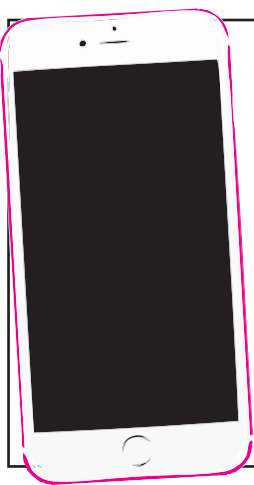
★Using your fingers as a viewfinder, **FIND** the most interesting detail of it.

★**DRAW** a sketch of this detail in your sketchpad.

● **Follow Up Activity** Finish your sketch using oil or chalk pastels.



“I am attached to all of the images for different reasons. I have been shooting this series for ten years [since 2004] and as I have changed so has the work. I think the most challenging thing for me is finishing the series. Every time I think I am done another scene presents itself to me. Who knows, I may be shooting this series for life!!” Heidi Bassett Blair

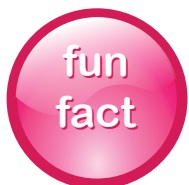


★**FIND** *Dress Up 2*.

★Practice the pose in this photograph.

★**SNAP** a selfie of this pose using your phone or camera.

● **Follow Up Activity** **CREATE** a detailed copy of your photograph in your sketchpad. Use markers to add colour to your drawing.



The images included in the show have been photographed all over the world: from Northern Ontario, Canada to Lake Como, Italy; from Byron Bay, Australia to Bali, Indonesia. Florida, California, the Bahamas, the French West Indies, the Cayman Islands and Spain are also featured.

The starkness of living on North America's east coast, growing up in Toronto and later living in New York and Connecticut with long, cold, dark winters would eventually give way to the vivid colours seen on exhibition.

Bassett Blair and her family moved to Santa Barbara, California, nestled between the ocean and the mountains, thirteen years ago. "A Canadian east coast upbringing, coupled with a newly adopted west coast world prompted me to look at my life and experiences with a grain of salt. Being a new-comer to this sunny new frontier pushed me to shed the darkness of long, cold winters and embrace a whole new way of living. For me, photography is about telling stories, and the California chapter of my life was one that speaks in colour," says Heidi.

The work from *Plastic In Paradise* has been shot over ten years and predominantly with film, though the more recent images are digital. Heidi explains that, "Unless it is a candid image, I have already composed the image in my head so they are usually straight forward to shoot. Because I am working with family or close friends, and the props are already in that particular landscape, it happens quite organically. By the time I shoot I typically only take a few frames."

Heidi and her family have been visiting Cayman for over twenty five years, and have been lived here for the last four years.

★**RESEARCH** museum hacks by visiting:

<http://photos.museumhack.com>

★**ARRANGE** a museum hack photograph as a group. Take turns capturing images.

MUSEUMHACK



“ I started shooting when I was fifteen. My father bought me my first camera when he was fighting cancer. The camera provided amazing grief management. I was able to look through the lens and escape. I was able to study people and places, and lose myself in their stories. In a world where everyone seems to have a camera I feel the responsibility, more than ever, to create work that is original and thought provoking.” Heidi Bassett Blair



●**Follow Up Activity** Try to **SNAP** photographs of a friend mid-jump. **COUNT** how many attempts you have made before capturing a great image. **SWITCH** with your friend.

RESEARCH shutter speed and consider how this may affect your photograph. **ADJUST** your settings and repeat the activity above.