



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
August 7, 2020

**Contact:** Upper Guadalupe River Authority  
(830) 896-5445

### Young Artists Transform Trash into Art

The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) teamed up with the Hill Country Arts Foundation (HCAF) to highlight the prevalence of trash in our waterways and give litter a new life through art. During the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>, instructor and artist, Teri Valentine, led young artists through a weeklong assemblage workshop at HCAF. On the first morning of the workshop, Ms. Valentine led the ten students, ranging in age from 10 – 14, on a walk along the HCAF property at the confluence of Johnson Creek and the Guadalupe River. They talked about the value of the river and the animals that depend on a healthy river. They also looked at pictures from previous UGRA Annual River Clean Up events to understand the amount and type of trash that can be found in the watershed. These activities served as inspiration for the artists as they started creating both collaborative and individual pieces.



Assemblage workshop reception held on July 31, 2020. Pictured left to right: Nick Wells, Conner Janice, Catherine Ragsdale, Victoria Santoya, Cameron Sucher, Hayden Edwards, Joshua Davis, Lee Keller, Owen Edwards, Jackson Timmons, and workshop instructor Teri Valentine.

This is the second year UGRA and HCAF have offered the assemblage workshop, but when UGRA decided to cancel the one-day Annual River Clean Up event, it made procuring the items to be used in the workshop a bit more difficult. Usually, the instructor is positioned at the garbage drop off area in Flat Rock Park during the River Clean Up to grab interesting items that could be used during the workshop. However this year, UGRA staff and other volunteers conducted several small cleanups prior to the workshop to collect items. Other unique found items were also amassed to add to the materials available.

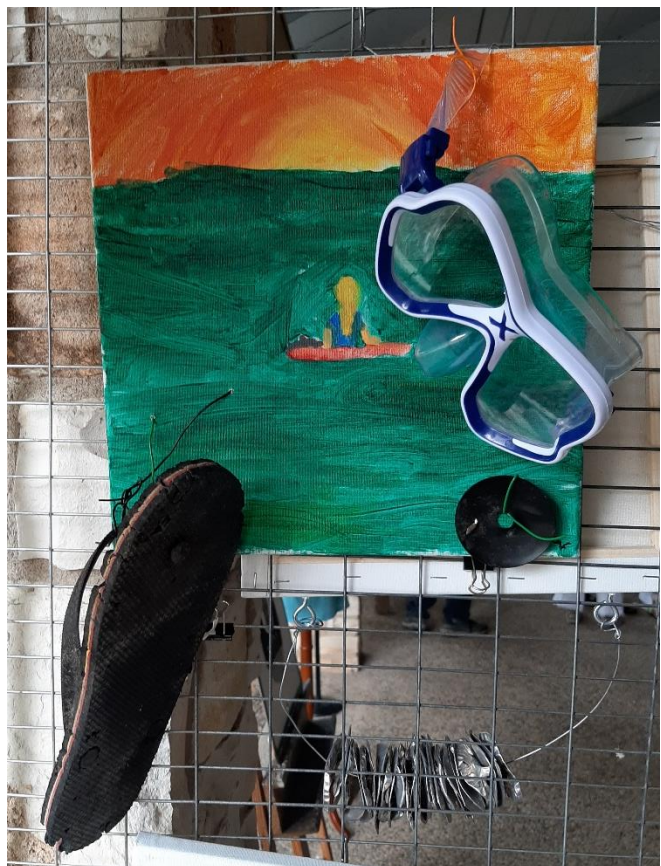
Valentine encouraged the students to evaluate the items for their shape, texture, color, and size and guided the artists through a variety of age appropriate techniques to create wall hangings, free standing pieces, and stamps. A reception to view the final pieces of art was held at HCAF at the conclusion of the workshop. The class also presented UGRA Vice-President and Outreach and Education Committee Chair Diane McMahon with a thank you card to acknowledge UGRA's sponsorship of the workshop. Director McMahon noted that she looks forward to seeing the artwork created through the workshop each year and applauds the creativity and enthusiasm of the young artists.

Even though the one-day Annual River Clean Up event was cancelled in July, UGRA is offering a modified cleanup format for everyone in our community dedicated to keeping the watershed clean. UGRA "reimagined" the one-day event to be done in small groups, at your own pace, and when you have time between now and November 1<sup>st</sup>. We invite you to participate in our 2020 River Clean Up – Reimagined! UGRA will still support your cleanup by providing supplies and coordinating trash drop off areas. Volunteers will also receive an Annual River Clean Up t-shirt, other freebies provided by our community partners, and be eligible for the prize drawing to be held in November. Visit [www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up](http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up) for complete details and to sign up today!

### Let's Keep *Our* River Clean



Taking inspiration from the dragonfly that spends the first part of its life in the river, this piece includes the caption, "Just because you don't want it, doesn't mean we do!"



For these wall hangings, the students were asked to paint their version of a beautiful river and then attached some of the found trash items to symbolize pollution.



Additional artwork created during the assemblage workshop:

