Plastic Manipulation

- Design process
- Inspiration from a source
- Experimentation
- Exploring Materials
- Combining techniques
- Transforming & recycling

Processes

- Create a series of textiles experiments using plastics. Explore a range of plastic types – different packaging that you might normally throw away.
- Present a series of experiments using textile techniques to transform plastics.
- This could be using tools such as a sewing machine, heat gun or household iron. Or it could by by using plastic in a textiles based way (platting, knotting, weaving). Use what ever you have to hand.

Processes

- heat
- burn
- melt
- tear
- cut
- layer

- weave
- stuff
- stitch
- bond
- fuse
- distort

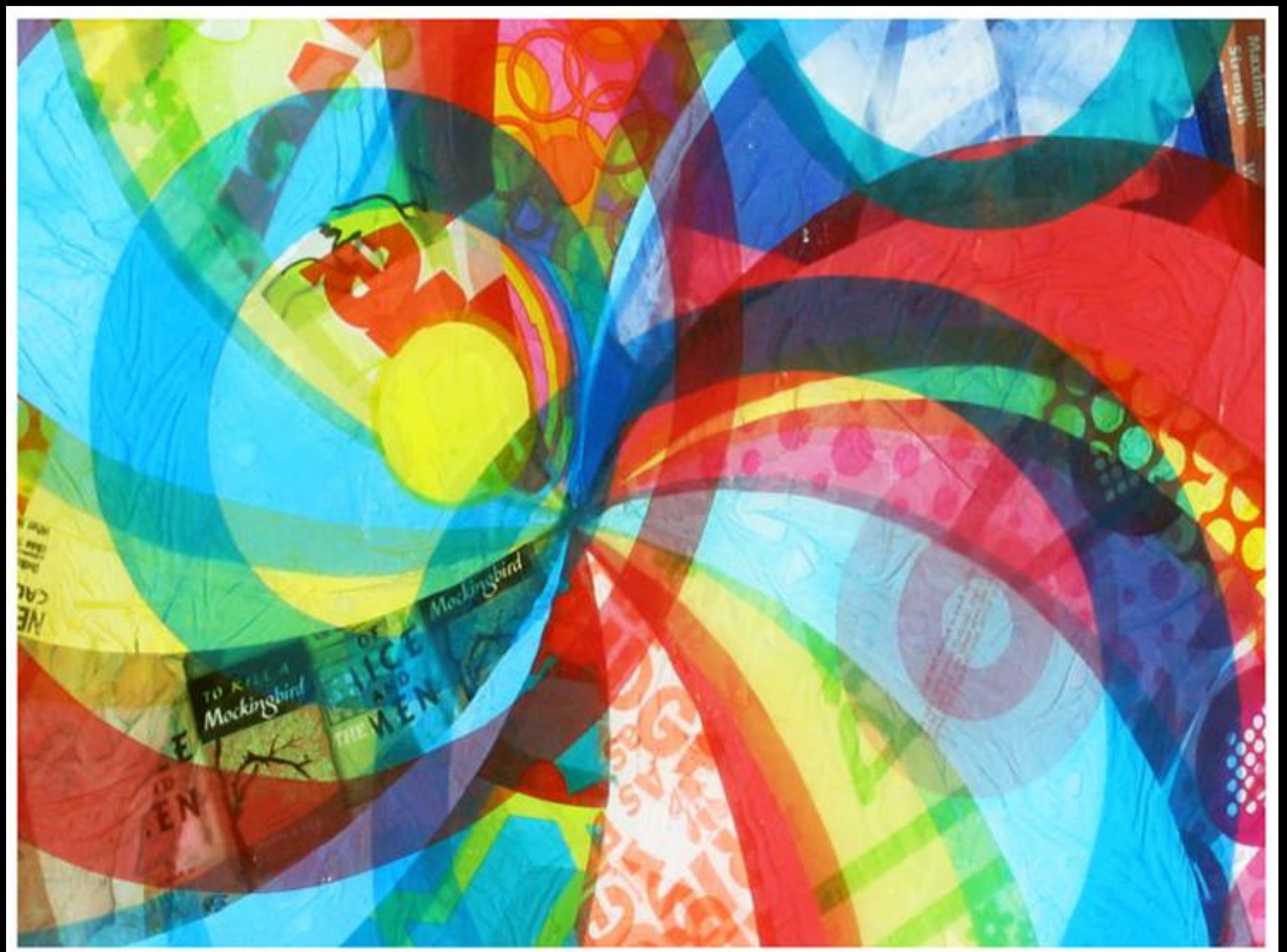
Virginia Flook

You can bond plastics together with an iron on a low heat, or try simply using clear tape on the back of plastic shapes to join them. If you have the sticky clear plastic used to cover books – this works well also.

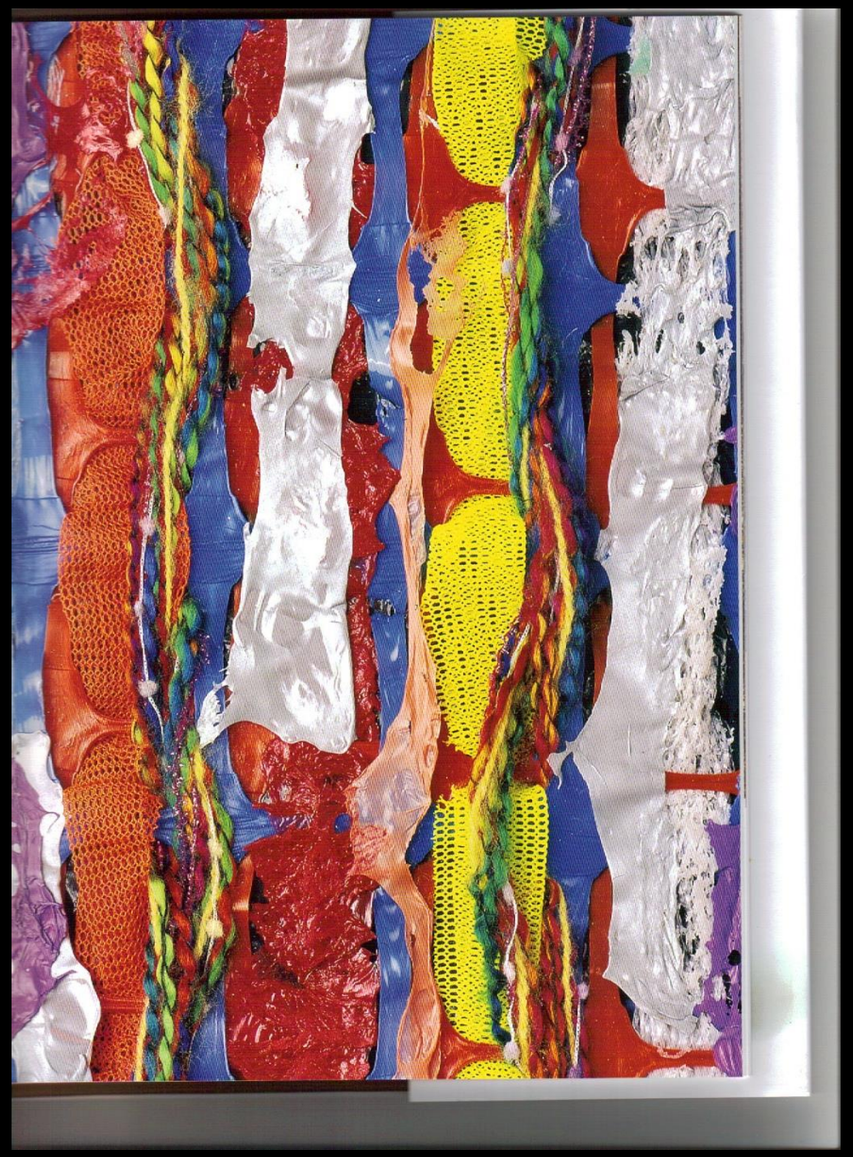
Fuse / Melt

Plastics will fuse if you layer them and apply heat with an iron. You will need to cover them with paper to avoid the plastic sticking to the iron. Experiment with different heat settings or timing (how long you leave the iron on the plastics for) to see what the resulting effects are. Always work in a ventilated area - have a window open. Don't touch the plastics until they are cool.

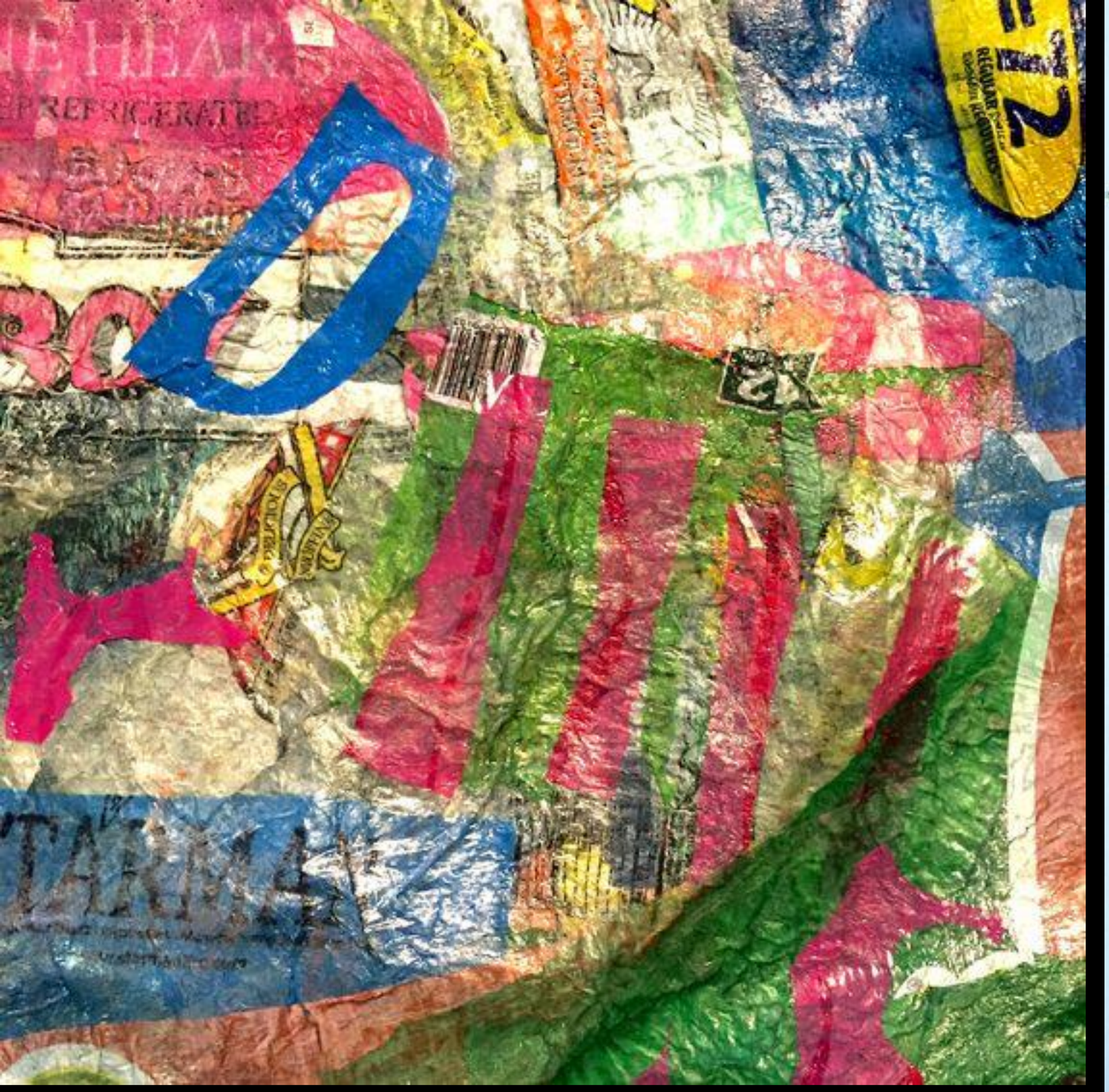
Translucent Layers



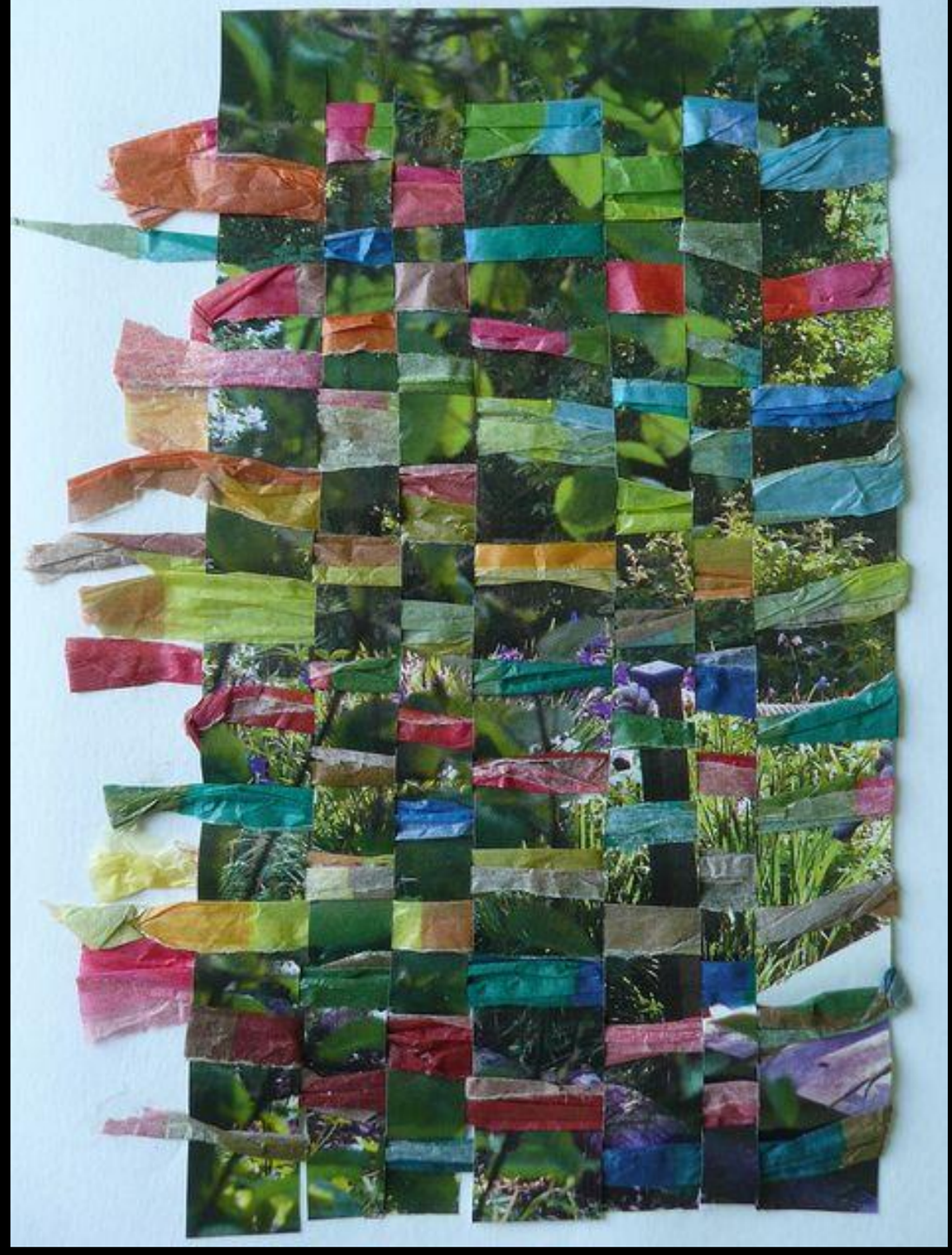
Weaving



You can weave plastics by creating your own “loom” using string and a piece of cardboard. Or you might have a piece of plastic netting to weave into (like the type you get onions in or bags of logs). You could also try weaving strips of plastics together

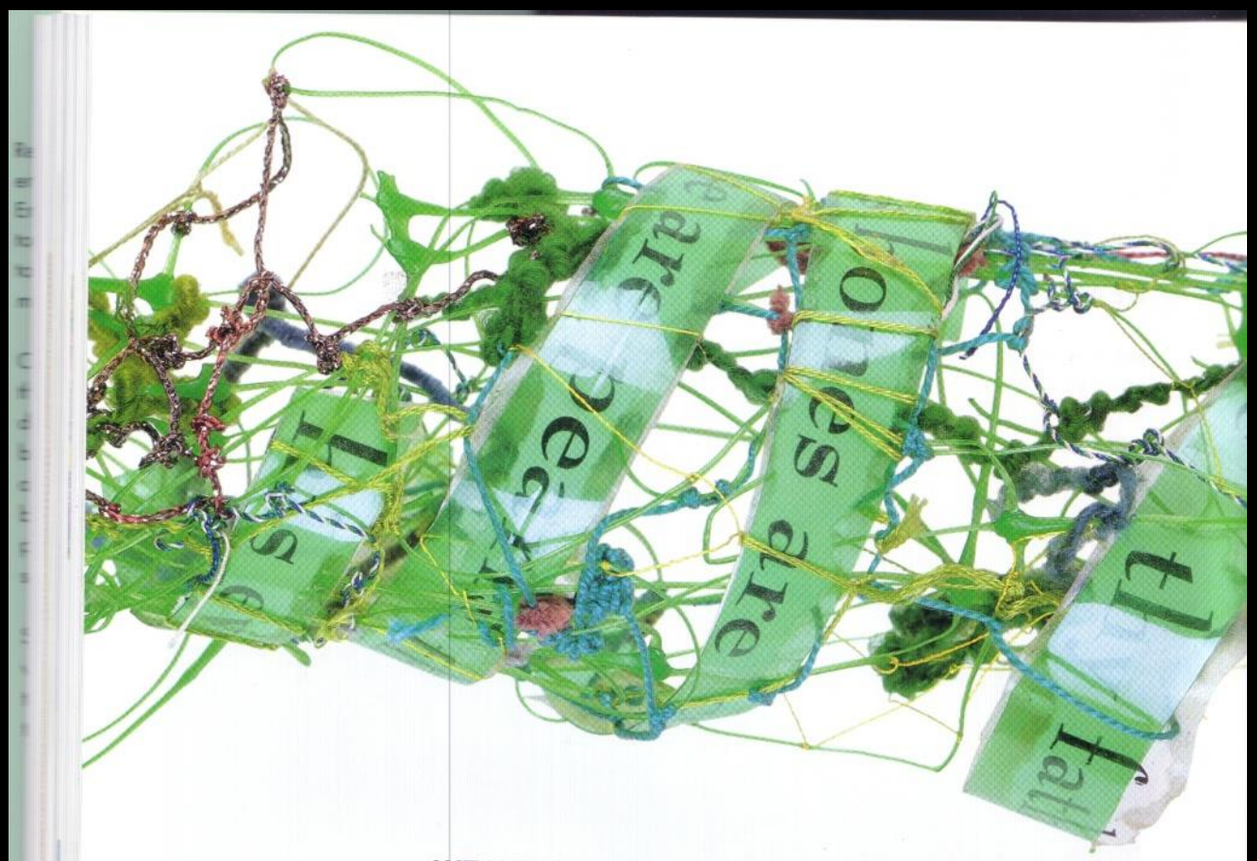


Fusing



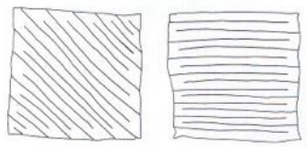
Weaving

Deconstruct & Recycle



Above: Tempest *by Julieanne Long, influenced by Shakespeare's play, the words from 'Sea Change' from* The Tempest *are typed out, torn into lines and glued into strips of plastic cut from a green bottle. They are then attached to pea netting with a very loose needlelace stitch. Beads and bones found on the beach are added.*

Below: Cutting two plastic bags into a long strip.



WEAVING AND FUSION TO CREATE TACTILE PIECES WITH FIBRE INCLUSION

Plastic surfaces such as plastic bags can be very suitable for cutting into strips for weaving, knitting, crochet or coarse stitching. Threads and other fibres can be included. The resulting surface can be heat fused for permanence or flattened by heat once created, and could be stitched into by hand or machine for further decoration.

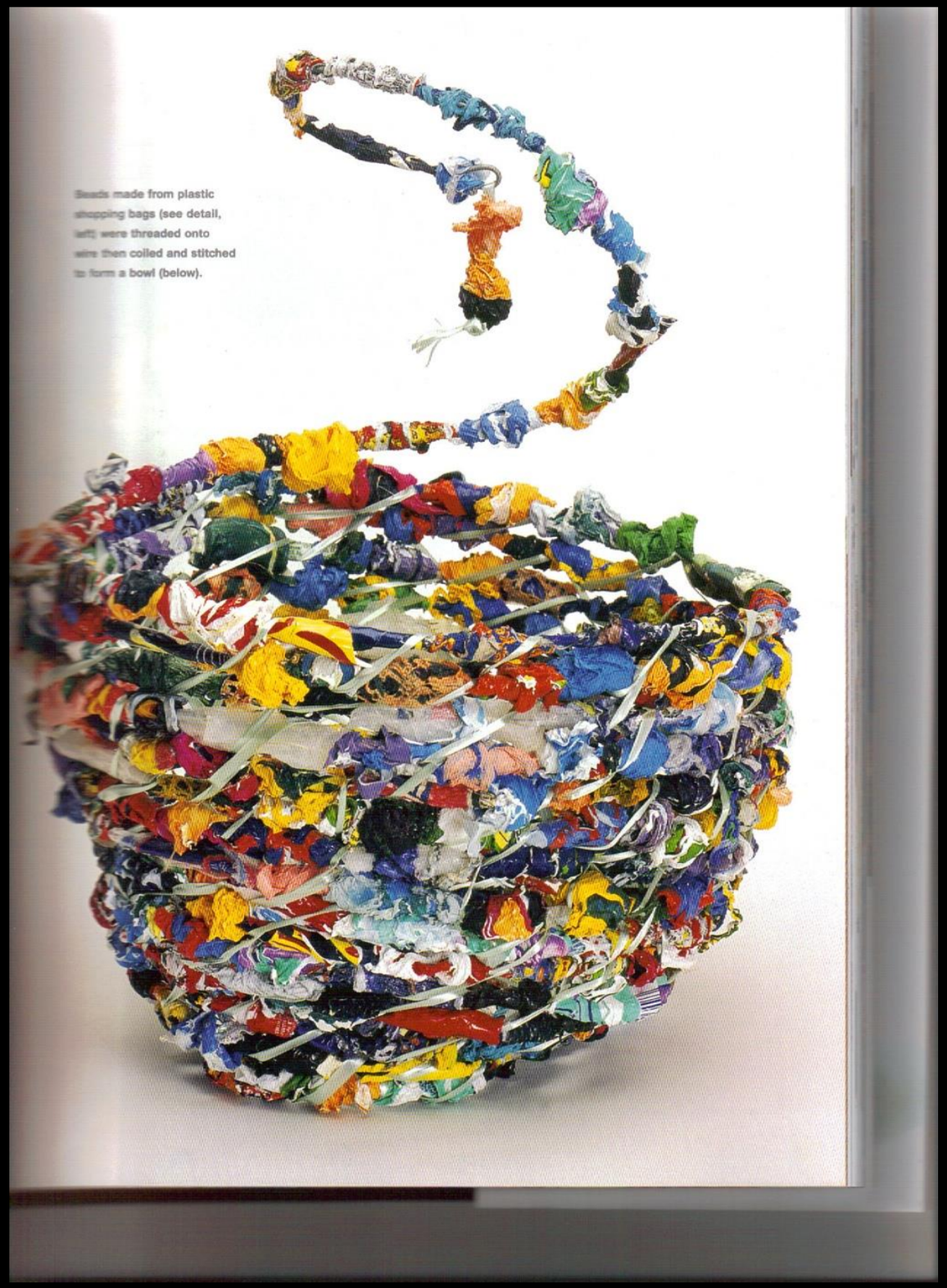
Ideas

- Plastic bottles could be cut down to the bottom (lengthways into narrow strips), and textiles or other plastics woven in and out of these strips.
- Plastic bottles cut be cut in the round and involved in sculptural work.
- Try knitting, crochet or weaving with old cassette tape. Your tension must be loose as the tape is fragile if pulled too hard. Once made, try ironing the surface to fuse it – it will flatten and stick lightly itself. Try stitching on it – don't over do it – the tape is quite fragile. Try including other threads as you knit.
- Try knitting or crochet with cut lengths of plastic bags. When cutting up the plastic bags, try to cut a continuous strip so that knitting is easier. You can do this by cutting across the bag diagonally as if you are making a bias strip.
- Collect different coloured bags and try weaving them on a simple frame. You could start the warp with plastic lengths or strong threads, and weave

Applique

With some plastics you might be able to stitch them together, either with a sewing machine or hand stitch. You can make plastics stronger by fusing layers of them together before cutting and stitching.

Wrap & Bind



Try wrapping or twisting plastics together you could bind them using string or thread. This vessel has been created using wrapping and binding.

Tie / Knot / Knit

It is possible to knit or crochet strips of plastics together. You can also tie, knot or plait to create textures and structures.

Examples of plastics in fashion.

VAL HOLMES

get hot.

Below: Close up of Full Metal Bodice.

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Evaluation

- What discoveries have you made?
- What worked well?
- What could you create next with your processes and experiments?
- How have you worked? Methods, processes, investigations.....

Presenting your work (optional)

- If you have paper that is 30 x 30 cm square, or a sketchbook you could present your textile samples creatively. (if working in a book only use one side of each page)
- The next few slides show some examples of creative presentation and how you can use the space on your page.
- This is optional, we will also help you present any samples you have created once you are in school.

the opportunity to experiment using a variety of different 'fusion' processes.

Using heat tools such as irons, laminator, heatguns and hot pokers to fuse plastics together I found that using heat tools causes the plastic to take on a different form, finish and surface texture. I especially the way that some plastics eg packets will wrinkle when hea This creates interesting textu which could be further devel with embroidery stitch and paints.....

I found that using the iron te pieces of plastic bags gave wonderful translucent effe pieces of plastic overlap to more developed colour combinations.

Laminated fabrics and found can be an ideal method for collecting imagery and creatin collages. I love the way enclose plastics can be seen from the fro and the back.

I could further extend the use of plastics in my work through using heat tools to mould plastic. Plastics could also be used with fabrics to create interesting surfaces. They are versatile and easily available when finding a surface to work onto. Weaving created grid like patterns which are derived from the cells.

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WALKERS