

Save our coral!

One of the greatest threats to reefs is coral bleaching, which climate change may be accelerating. Warmer oceans and pollution trigger a stress response in coral that forces its life-sustaining (and color-generating) algae to flee—and the coral to turn white and become vulnerable to disease. The good news: We can help by doing simple things like avoiding sunscreens made with oxybenzone and octinoxate (both chemicals are thought to reduce coral's resiliency). Time to dive in and do your part.



From top: Mattison with her installation *Confluence* (*Our Changing Seas V*) at the U.S. embassy in Indonesia; colorful detail from the work.

Make/Believe

In pursuit of her higher calling, one artist dives deep.

Apologies to *Finding Dory*, but the kaleidoscopic coral reefs in films don't tell the whole story. In fact, due in part to ocean warming and pollution, reefs around the world are losing their brilliant color. More than 90 percent of them could be in dire straits by 2050. That's why Courtney Mattison treats conservation as an art form. "Scientific data don't always inspire emotional connection," says Mattison, who has a degree in marine ecology and ceramic sculpture. "If I can help people experience the exuberance of coral reefs, they might be moved to defend them." Mattison, 33, has pursued this path since 2011,

sculpting clay installations with hundreds of pieces for museums and scientific institutions alike. Her subject and her work share physical similarities (calcium carbonate may be found in both coral and ceramic glazes) and metaphysical ones. "My pieces are easily breakable," she says. "If you handle living coral, you can kill it." Most striking is how Mattison captures coral's fragility: Her sculptures' peripheral objects display ghostly stand-ins for bleached coral (learn more, *upper left*). Says Mattison, "I want you to wonder whether this ecosystem is collapsing or recovering. Because the turning point is now." —M.G.

PAWS & REFLECT

How to responsibly pamper your pets.

So you're in one of the 85 million pet-owning families in the U.S. that wants to buy its dog or cat a toy without being wasteful? Here are three guilt-free options.



BONE TO PICK
San Franciscan Rose Shattuck's company, the

Foggy Dog, turns upholstery remnants from its line of dog beds into canvas toys, each covered in a pattern like florals or stripes. "There's a lot of waste in textile products, so making something else out of the fabric isn't rocket science," says Shattuck, who stuffs the squeakers with fiber made from plastic bottles and ships nearly every bone-shaped toy in a recycled kraft envelope. (thefoggydog.com)



TOP BILLING

If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and is made with durable hemp canvas, vegetable-based dyes, and antimicrobial organic wool, then it must be this duck from Honest Pet Products.

The Wyoming company's noisemaking waddler can float—and, if you're willing to remove its internal plastic chirper, is entirely compostable. (honestpetproducts.com)



SWEET DEAL

Craftastic pet lover Vanille Gavenko first tried making other

cat toys when she volunteered at a New York City animal shelter. Now her miniature delights are available to any feline family. These adorable doughnuts are constructed of plastic bottle-based fabric and jammed full of pesticide-free catnip and other herbs. Gavenko's shipping practice is sustainable, too: Her envelopes and business cards are recyclable, and her packing tape is biodegradable. (wantmoremeows.etsy.com)

—JENNIFER CHEN

MAKE/BELIEVE, FROM TOP: AMANDA BROOKS FOR ART IN EMBASSIES, COURTNEY MATTISON; PAWS & REFLECT SOURCE: 2017-2018 AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL PET OWNERS SURVEY.