

## DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

N'Dorah as she calls herself by her artist's name was born in Cameroon and educated in France; she studied Visual Communication and Language Sciences at the Paris XIII University. In addition, she got a master's degree in design. She has worked in the museum industry as well as in fashion and opera. She can look back on a 30-year career as an artist. N'Dorah works with natural and artificial wasted hair and other fibres made usually from nylon and acrylic and uses some kind of glue.

The Ethan Cohen Gallery in New York presented N'Dorah's first solo exhibition "Braid and Weft: Twisting Codes of Beauty and Desire", in the United States in New York in 2022. (<https://www.artsy.net/artist/ndorah>). I selected from her LOST& FOUNDS Contemporary sadness series the art work "Hikkomon", The box of stone from 2017. N'Dorah describes her work as the *"The phenomenon of Hikkomori in Japan is an excuse to talk about the pressure on single women in all big cities worldwide. Not be married, no kids is considered like the worst social situation for them and their families. Some of them stay at home with no interaction, feel ashamed to become at the end grey like the color of concrete, locked in a box of stone, to become VIP,*



*very invisible persons. Some of them commit suicide. Made of waste found object, like their young useless (according to them) existence, rejected".*

I did not know about the intention of N'Dorah for creating this sculpture when I first looked at the original artwork that she keeps in her Venice apartment. I was very much impressed by the strong expression of grief and sadness that emanates from this curved body full of pain. The person is enclosed in this wooden cage symbolizing for me its own inner world, being left alone with its vast problems, its tragic situation. I am amazed how such a strong expression can be achieved by using these wastes. If you visit her website, you will find many other impressive examples of her work.

Waste hair production is not a real waste issue. A very rough calculation may end up for Germany with 4.000-8.000 t/a waste hair production. Long hair is also subject for reuse. Where does the residual waste hair go? I think in Germany most of it will be collected in the residual waste bin and mostly incinerated. A problem may be the diffusive distribution of short hair particles in rooms and/or the environment. Although not a significant waste problem the art work of N'Dorah makes me also think about waste hair production.

I find the art work "Hikkomon" another very impressive example of waste to art.



*In the next DETRITUS Art column, I want to discuss with you to what extent is it acceptable that artwork produces large amounts of waste. I will present two examples: Rudolf Stingel using carpets with oriental design and the covering of buildings made by the artist couple Jeanne-Claude Christo.*