



Artist Bio: Thomas Dambo

Thomas Dambo is considered the world's leading recycle artist and is famous for his various art installations around the world, most notably his giant troll sculptures. From a young age, Dambo's parents engrained the value of recycling, from which his clever mind saw an opportunity to gather free materials to build, play and imagine.

Before embarking on the path building larger-than-life sculptures, Dambo has lived a diverse life. His multifaceted resume includes talents such as being a human beatbox and a graffiti/street artist. His music career as a rapper introduced him to creativity and building, as he curated his brand and built the sets for his over-the-top performances. Around the same time, Dambo enrolled at the internationally acclaimed Kolding Design School, where he got his master's degree in interactive design and began building thousands of colorful birdhouses he would "tag" all over Denmark.

Without any money to pay for his materials, Dambo returned to the roots his parents taught him and started dumpster diving to find limitless resources, which is still practiced in his artwork today.

It is hard to describe the high level of creativity, design and versatility of Dambo's art. A few hallmark projects are his Happy Alphabet, Happy Wall, Future Forest and Remake Christmas 2. The interactivity of Dambo's art allows viewers to express their own vision on a large scale, as seen in Happy Alphabet and Happy Wall, which consist of giant, colorful letters, pixels and emojis on wheels that viewers can manipulate to spell their name or compose a message of their choice.

The Future Forest debuted in 2018 in Mexico City and was a project unlike anything Dambo had created before. With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, he created a 500 square foot garden made solely of recycled plastic, including intricate plants, animals and environments. Another life-sized installation, Remake Christmas 2, recreated an entire Christmas market on the famous shopping street "Strøget" in Copenhagen. There, visitors could make their own Christmas presents from recycled materials collected from the commercial shops in Copenhagen.

Today, Dambo is internationally known for his beautiful, larger-than-life Troll sculptures made from recycled wood. With more than 100 sculptures all over the world, these trolls have begun to have a life of their own. Their message of sustainability and stewardship has reached millions of people through visits, social media and stories from international media sources such as BBC, National Geographic, NPR, The Huffington Post, ABC-TV, Lonely Planet, Treehugger, El País, Reforma and many more.

Dambo's vision is to create art that inspires people to explore, have adventures in nature and demonstrates that trash can be turned into something beautiful.

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