

# The cost of progress

Artistic Practice 4

By

Casey McCracken

s2577212



# Artist Statement

“The cost of progress” is the name of my artwork that shows an Anthropocentric look the impact of humans on the environment around them and the waste that they generate having consequences resulting in Global Warming.

Specifically in the towns of North Ayrshire where I grew up. This gives me a unique insight into the towns of North Ayrshire, having seen the changes to the areas that have happened in my lifetime.

These works were made using cyanotype, an old photographic technique from the 1800s that produces striking blueprints without the need for a camera. This process uses UV light (sunlight) and salt and iron chemicals that are better for the environment than other more traditional printing methods.

I chose this process for its environmental benefits and because, as an artist, I consider whether my work adds to consumer waste. Not only from the topic of artwork but also the materials that go into creating it. I also chose this method because of the resulting cyan-blue coloured prints that stand out and have a deeper impact on the viewer.

I created my artwork by taking digital photographs of things that showed the devastating impact of humans. The photograph was made into a negative and printed onto acetate paper. after which I coat recycled paper in cyanotype solutions then expose it to UV light, creating my artwork.

Growing up in small coastal town of North Ayrshire I have seen lots of changes, from the loss of the high streets to the loss of green spaces to build more houses. Thus, destroying biodiverse areas, which contribute to global warming. Witnessing these changes in my own community has deeply affected me and motivated me to produce work that highlights the broader issue— one best understood by examining the local area and its impact on people's daily lives.

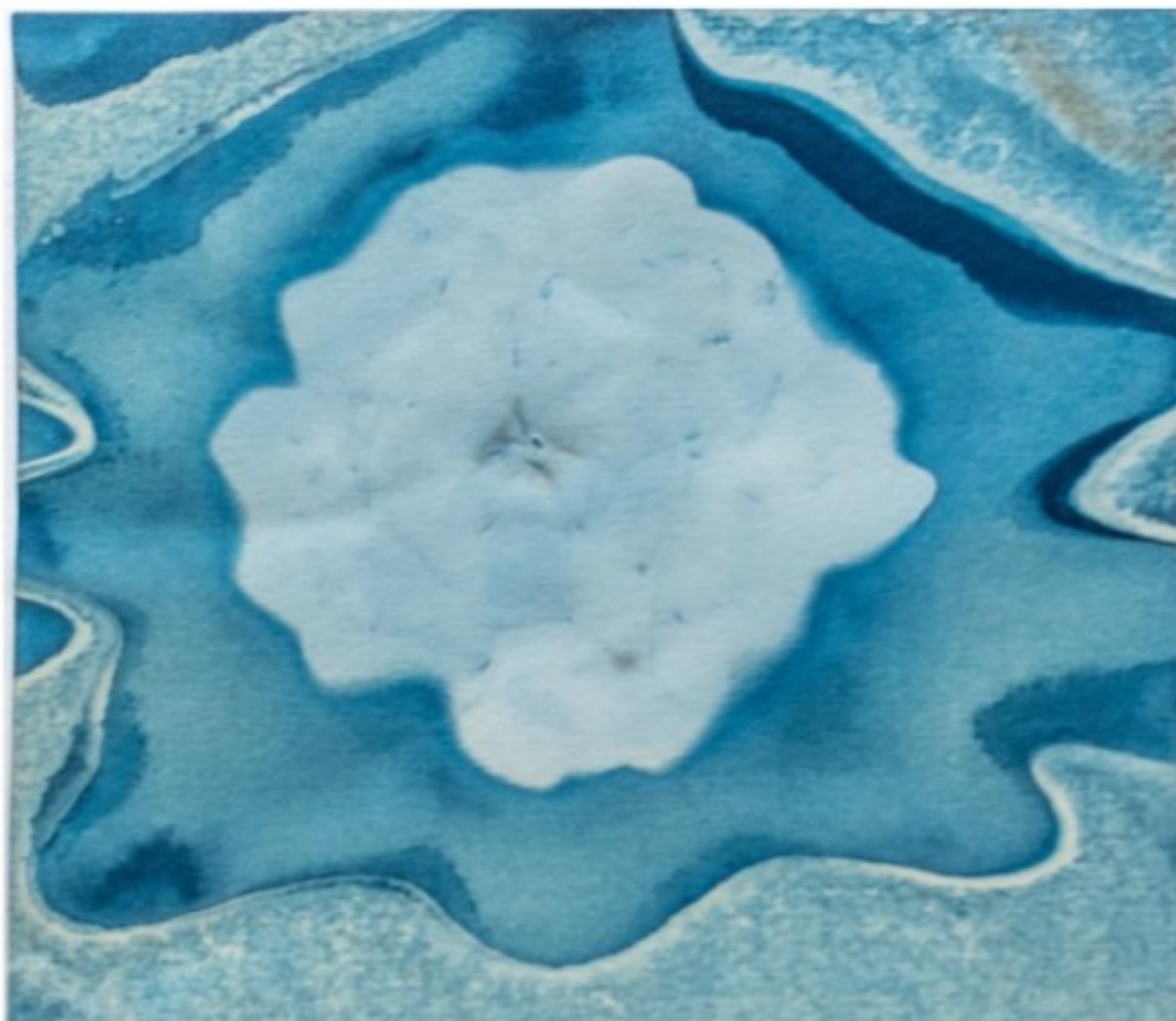
## The Pylon

- A3 hand painted Cyanotype image on recycled paper
- Paper left in green tea bath for 48 hours
- Cyanotype then applied layer one for the leaf
- Second layer applied 48 hours later for the pylon.
- UV light time 35 mins



## The Drowning Flower

- 5x5 cm
- Hand painted on recycled paper
- Cyanotype image using metal flower made from cans
- UV light time 25 mins



## The Beehive

- Hand painted Cyanotype on recycled paper
- 7x7.5 cm
- Hand painted using a stencil
- UV light time 35 mins



## The Cost of Progress

- Splattered Cyanotype on recycled paper
- Acetate paper glued onto the Cyanotype paper
- 21x29 cm
- UV Light time 25 mins

### *"The Cost of "Progress"*

*We lay the concrete, thick and fast,  
A future built upon the past.  
But for every tower that scrapes the sky,  
A quiet green place has to die.  
We build the road to speed the pace,  
And lose the silence of the space.  
We gain the comfort, slick and new,  
But lose the wild, and lose the view.  
The more we raise the bustling wall,  
The less we hear the forest call.*

*By James Young.*

# Consumerism



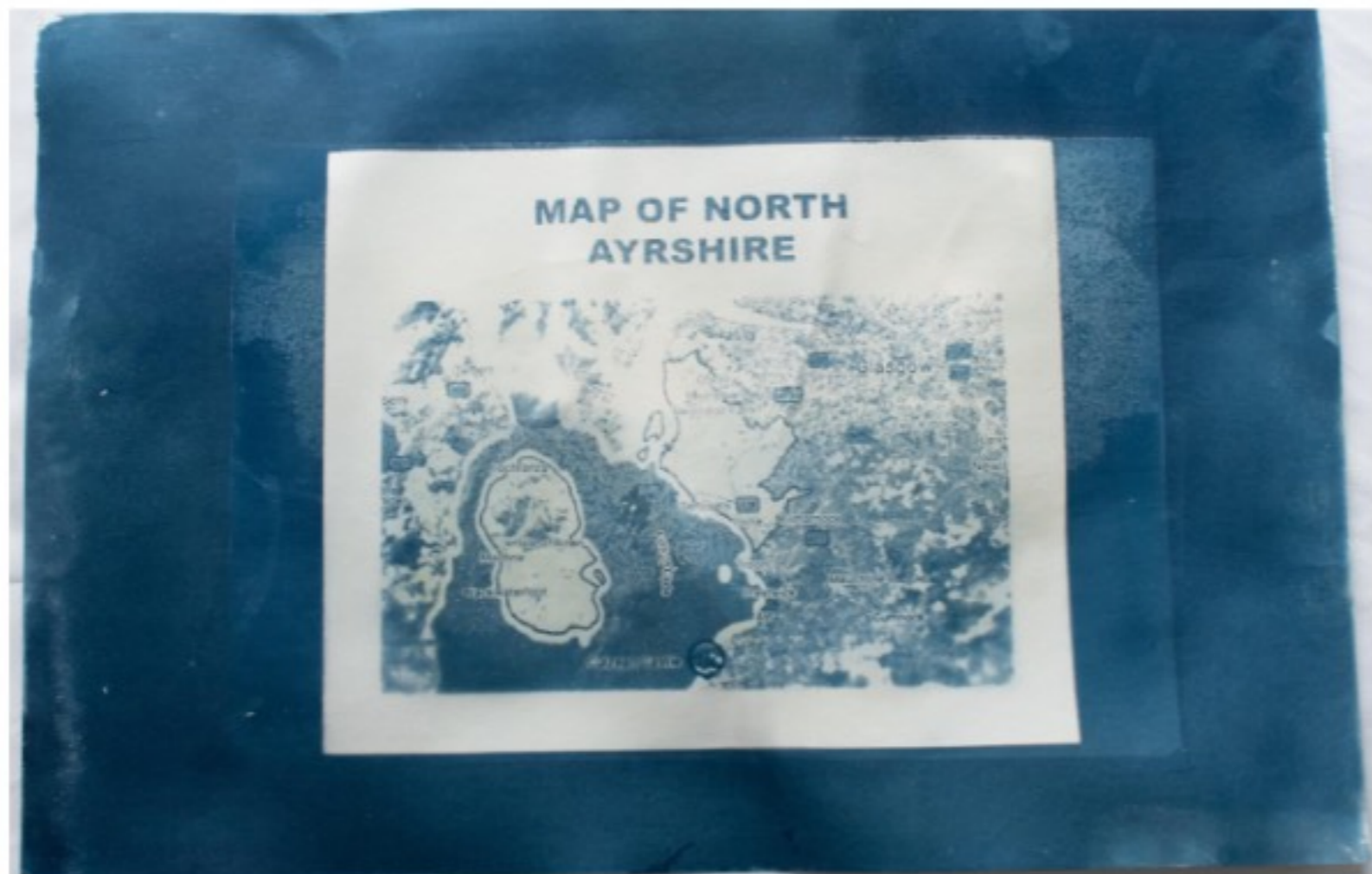
- A3 recycled paper
- Hand coated Cyanotype
- UV light time 35 mins
- Left in coffee for 2 hours 30 minutes

## Tree of Life

- 9x4.5 cm
- Hand painted Cyanotype recycled paper
- Hand painted with water colours
- UV light time 25 mins



# Map of Ayrshire



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand coated Cyanotype
- Exposed in sun for 45 mins

# Landfill

**only about 9% of plastic waste is ever recycled, with most ending up in landfill**



- A3 hand painted Cyanotype
- on recycled paper
- UV light time 35 mins

# Junk Mail

Junk mail is responsible for cutting down roughly 100 million trees every year, primarily in North America, contributing significantly to deforestation, waste, and climate change, with a large portion ending up in landfills unread.



- Hand painted Cyanotype
- A3 Recycled paper
- UV light time

# Worker Bees



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand painted
- Mix of stencil and magnet letters
- UV light 35 mins

# Raise The World



- 25 x 21.5cm
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light time 35 mins

# Industrialism



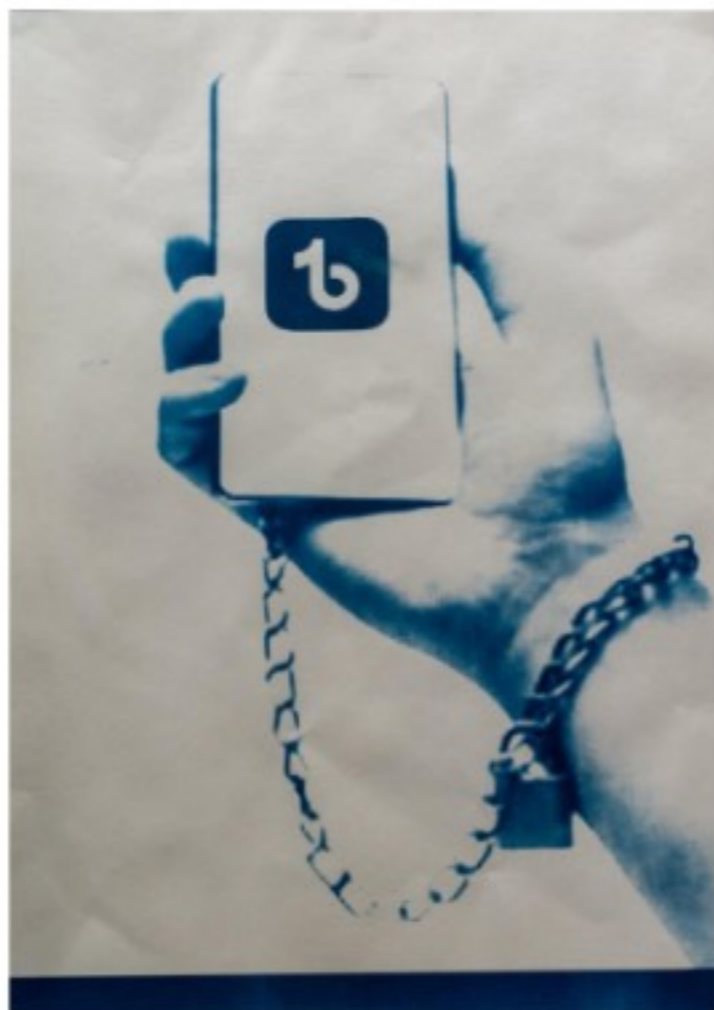
- 29.5 x 21cm
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light time 25 mins

# Machines of Destruction



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light 25 mins
- Left in a coffee bath for 1 hour 30 mins

# Nomophobia ( anxiety caused by not having smart phones)



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light time 30 mins

# Amazon



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light time 25 mins

# Plastic Nation



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- UV light time 35 mins

# Materialistic

- 48x37cm
- Hand painted Cyanotype
- Recycled lining
- UV light time 25 mins



# Oniomania (compulsive buying disorder)



- 24x21 cm
- Hand painted Cyanotype on recycled paper
- UV light time 35 mins

# Nivermore



- A3 recycled paper
- Hand coated Cyanotype
- Hand painted with coffee and green tea
- UV light time 35 mins

## Oak Tree House

- A 3 recycled paper
- Hand coated Cyanotype
- Left in coffee for 1 hour
- UV light time 35 minutes

