

Art That Cleans the Air

What can people do to make less air pollution?



Cities around the world have air pollution. Air pollution is dangerous; it can cause heart and lung disease. One solution is planting trees. Trees help clean the air, making it safer to breathe. In cities, however, there isn't always enough space for trees. So, there's another solution - a special kind of paint, called *Airlite*. Airlite uses energy from sunlight to clean the air. Artists paint murals with Airlite paint. The murals clean the air, like trees.

Street artist Federico Massa painted a 1,000-square-meter mural in Rome, Italy. Massa completed it in 21 days. In the mural is a water bird called a heron, which is an endangered species. The mural, made with Airlite, can clean the same amount of air as 30 trees.

Recently, the US shoe company Converse started a project called "City Forest." This project helps artists paint eco-friendly murals around the world. Thai artists Teerayut Puechpen and Sorravis Prakong made the project's first mural. They painted the mural on the side of a building, in the center of Bangkok, Thailand. The mural shows two hands, which symbolize unity. It can clean as much air as 150 trees.

Another City Forest mural is in Warsaw, Poland. It is near a busy train station. Graphic designer Dawid Ryski and painter Maciek Polak worked together on the mural. It shows smiling flowers surrounded by skyscrapers. The mural can clean as much air as 780 trees.

Converse is planning more murals for more cities, including Lima, Belgrade and Jakarta. Hopefully, artists will continue to create beautiful artwork to clean our air.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Airlite is...

- a. a type of air pollution.
- b. the title of a mural.
- c. a special kind of paint.
- d. the name of a shoe company.

How long did it take Federico Massa to paint his mural?

- a. 21 days
- b. 30 days
- c. 150 hours
- d. 1000 hours

Where can you find an eco-friendly mural showing a heron?

- a. Mexico
- b. Italy
- c. The US
- d. Poland

What is true about the "City Forest" project?

- a. It is run by the Converse company.
- b. It helps artists paint eco-friendly murals.
- c. It is planning murals in Lima and Jakarta.
- d. All of the above

Dawid Ryski and Maciek Polak's mural...

- a. shows flowers and buildings.
- b. is 780 meters high.
- c. includes an image of two hands.
- d. Is painted on the side of a train.

GLOSSARY

Air pollution



chemicals and other substances that harm the air

Murals



large painting on a wall

Heron



species of water bird with a long neck, long legs and a long bill

endangered species



type of animal at risk of dying out and disappearing from the world

eco-friendly



not harmful to the environment; good for the environment

Symbolize



represent, stand for, or mean something

skyscraper



very tall building

By: Miguel Angel Samboni Hoyos