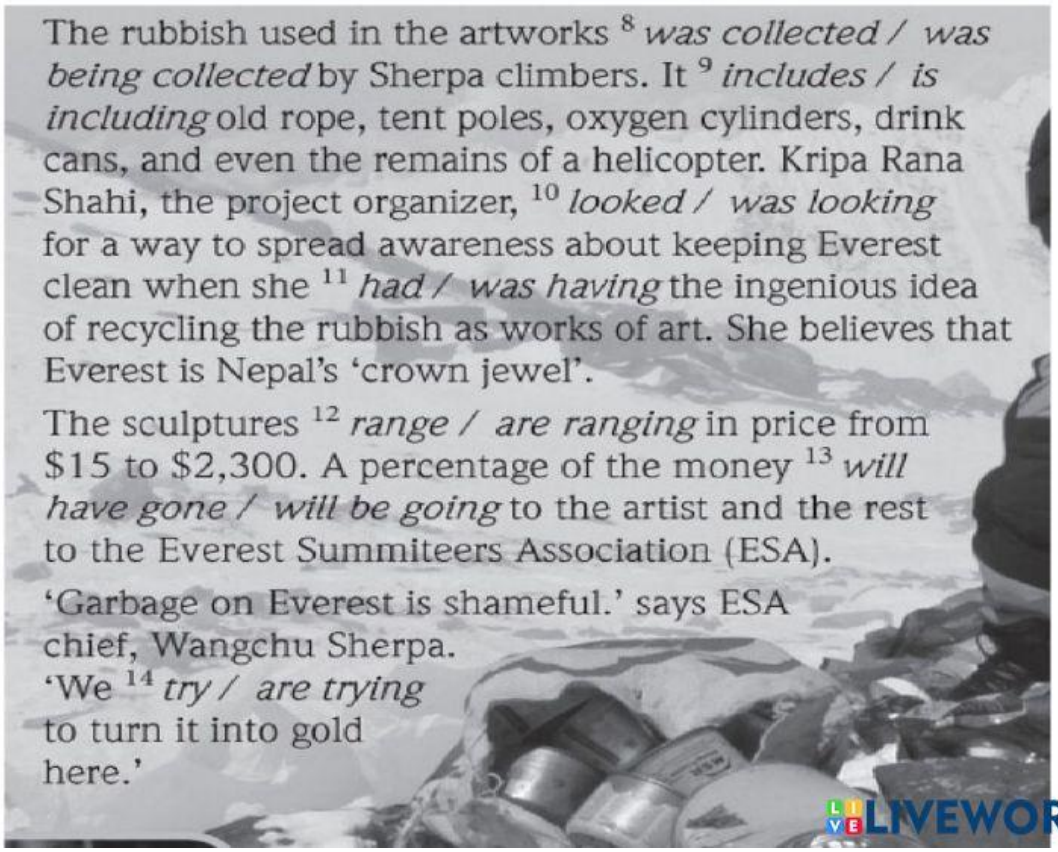
Turning mountains of rubbish into gold

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world, but unfortunately it is one of the messiest, too. Nearly 4,000 people [1] *have climbed / have been climbing* the 29,035-feet Mount Everest since the New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing first [2] *scaled / were scaling* its heights in 1953. But, unlike Hilary and Tenzing, these adventure tourists [3] *have dumped / have been dumping* tonnes of used equipment on Everest's slopes. Buried under snow in the winter, this junk is revealed in summer when the snow [4] *melts / is melting.*

However, now 15 Nepalese artists [5] *turn / are turning* the junk into art. They [6] *have worked / have been working* for a month to transform eight tonnes of Everest rubbish into 75 sculptures, which [7] *are now shown / are now being shown* at a hotel in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu.



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The rubbish used in the artworks [8] *was collected / was being collected* by Sherpa climbers. It [9] *includes / is including* old rope, tent poles, oxygen cylinders, drink cans, and even the remains of a helicopter. Kripa Rana Shahi, the project organizer, [10] *looked / was looking* for a way to spread awareness about keeping Everest clean when she [11] *had / was having* the ingenious idea of recycling the rubbish as works of art. She believes that Everest is Nepal's 'crown jewel'.

The sculptures [12] *range / are ranging* in price from $15 to $2,300. A percentage of the money [13] *will have gone / will be going* to the artist and the rest to the Everest Summiteers Association (ESA).

'Garbage on Everest is shameful.' says ESA chief, Wangchu Sherpa. 'We [14] *try / are trying* to turn it into gold here.'

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NIAGARA DAREDEVIL

Tomorrow will be a historic day if Nik Wallenda [1] *becomes / is becoming* the first person in more than a century to cross the Niagara Falls from the US to Canada on a tightrope.

For nearly 30 years, Wallenda [2] *has tried / has been trying* to persuade the Niagara Parks Commission in Canada to let him walk across the Falls. At last, he [3] *has granted / has been granted* permission for the stunt to take place.

Daredevil Nik is a member of The Flying Wallendas, a family of circus performers spanning seven generations, who already [4] *holds / is holding* six Guinness World Records. He [5] *started / was starting* tightrope walking at the age of two and now has over 30 years' experience.

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