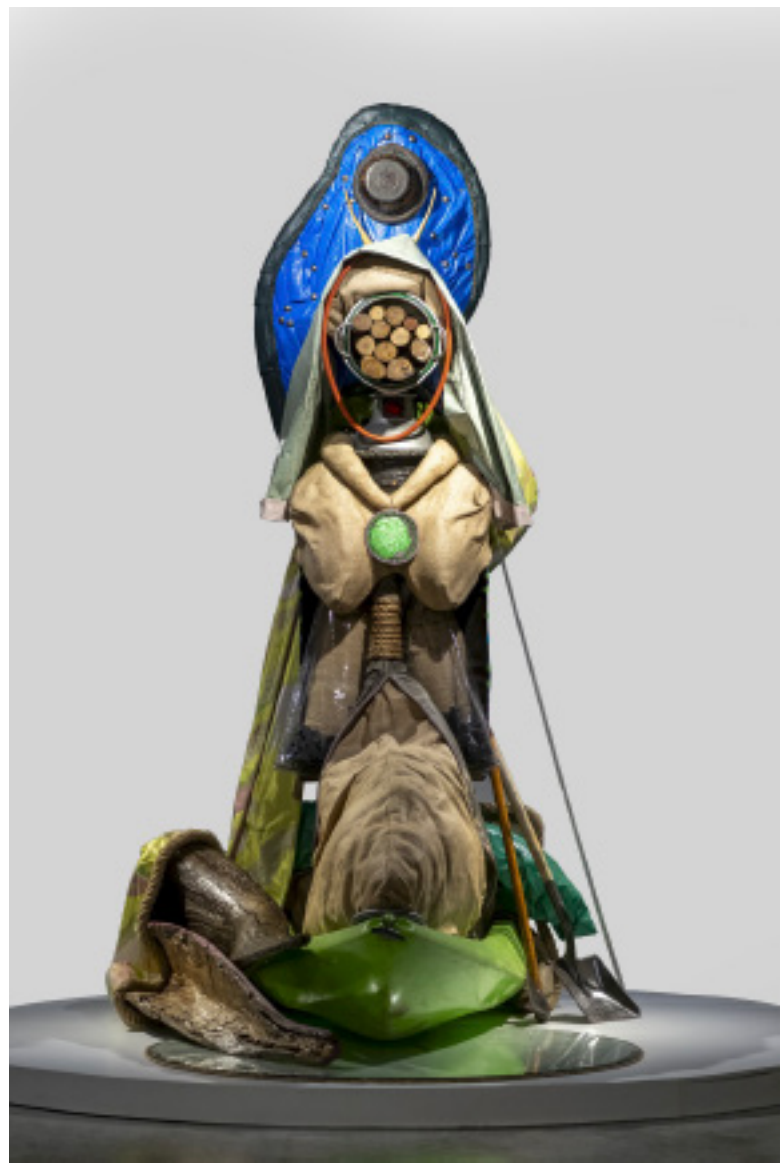


**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Daniel Lind-Ramos

Ensamblajes


**Easy
Read**



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Underlined
Words

In this Easy Read document, difficult words are underlined. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Daniel Lind-Ramos.

Nottingham Contemporary



We are showing works by Daniel at Nottingham Contemporary from 2 February to 4 May 2025.



Daniel is an artist from Puerto Rico.



Daniel speaks Spanish. Most of Daniel's artworks have Spanish names.

Puerto Rico and the town of Loíza



Daniel lives in a country called Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean. The Caribbean is a collection of islands in the sea next to Central America.



Daniel lives in a town called Loíza which is next to the sea.



Loíza was set up as a town over 500 years ago.



The town was set up by people who decided to live there and built houses and other things like shops and roads.



The people who set up the town of Loíza had been enslaved in the past. Enslaved means someone was forced to work without being paid. These people were owned by other people and were treated very badly.



The enslaved people had been taken from Africa to Puerto Rico on boats. They had no choice and were forced to go.



The town of Loíza was set up after these people were free from being enslaved.



When the people set up the town of Loíza they wanted to keep the customs and traditions from their home in Africa. Customs and traditions are things like dances, songs, stories and special events we celebrate every year.



Some people who live in Loíza today are called 'Afrodescendientes'. In English this means people whose ancestors were from Africa. Ancestors means the people in your family who were alive before you, like your grandparents and their parents.



The local 'Afrodescendientes' still carry on the customs and traditions of West Africa which have been passed down from grandparents and parents to children over the last 500 years.



These traditions include storytelling and a festival which takes place every year. A festival is a big party that involves all the local people.



The festival in Loíza is called the 'Fiestas del Santiago Apóstol' which means 'Festival of Saint James the Apostle' in English.

An apostle is an important person in stories from a religion called Christianity. A religion is when a group of people believe in a God or gods.



During the festival, local people come together to sing, dance and perform in a parade. A parade is when a big group of people dress up in costumes and walk through the streets together.



Lots of the local people wear costumes and masks to dress up as characters from local stories.

Characters are people or animals in a story.



You can see a video which shows people dressed as some of the characters from the festival in gallery 3. We talk about this video later in this easy read guide.

Found Objects



Daniel makes huge sculptures.



His sculptures are made up of lots of objects held together with thread, glue and screws.



None of the objects in Daniel's sculptures are new. He doesn't go out shopping for items.



Instead, Daniel finds the objects.



Sometimes Daniel's friends and family give him objects to use.



Sometimes Daniel finds things washed up on the beaches and mangrove forests in Puerto Rico. Mangrove forests are areas of trees which grow next to the sea in Puerto Rico.



Daniel thinks found objects have stories because they've had a life before they've come to him.



These objects might have travelled long distances in the sea before washing up in Puerto Rico. They might have come from the other side of the world.



Daniel likes thinking about the stories these objects might tell.



Daniel likes reusing objects because it is better for our planet.



Reusing objects is also an important part of Daniel's town where people pass on objects to other people once they don't need them anymore.

The objects in Daniel's sculptures include things like:



- Old boots

- Parts of fans



- The metal springs from inside old beds

- Sacks which might have contained food



- Boats which have washed up on the beach



- Bits of plants like coconuts.

Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States



One item which we see a lot in Daniel's sculptures is a bright blue tarpaulin. A tarpaulin is a big piece of waterproof fabric.



The tarpaulins in Daniel's sculptures were brought to Puerto Rico by a group of workers called FEMA. FEMA is a short way of saying The Federal Emergency Management Agency.



FEMA is a part of the government of the United States of America. Government means the people in charge of a country. These are the people who decide what rules the people in that country must follow.



FEMA was set up to help people during and after environmental disasters. Environmental disasters are caused by very bad weather like:

- Big storms.



- Wildfires. These are fires which happen in places like forests or fields. They happen when the weather is too hot and it hasn't rained in a long time.



- Tsunamis. These are very big waves from the sea which hit the land.



- Earthquakes. This is when the ground shakes because of things happening under the ground.



When these things happen they can damage buildings and roads and sometimes people die.



FEMA brought these tarpaulins to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria which happened in 2017. A hurricane is a very big storm which can cause a lot of damage.



Hurricane Maria was a very bad hurricane. 3000 people died in Puerto Rico because of this hurricane. Lots of buildings were destroyed too.



FEMA brought the tarpaulins to Puerto Rico to make temporary shelters. These were made to replace buildings like homes and hospitals that had been destroyed. This was done so that people had places to stay or to receive help. Temporary means the shelters weren't meant to stay forever.



FEMA didn't bring enough tarpaulins when Hurricane Maria happened because another hurricane called Hurricane Irma had happened in the United States in the same year. FEMA had already used most of their tarpaulins to make shelters after Hurricane Irma.



This meant there weren't enough shelters for the people in Puerto Rico.



People rebuilt homes and other buildings that had been destroyed. Once these buildings were rebuilt the tarpaulins weren't needed anymore.



FEMA did not remove the tarpaulins from Puerto Rico when they weren't needed anymore. This means that blue plastic tarpaulins are often seen in places like beaches in Puerto Rico where they shouldn't be. They are also still seen in other places, like on the roof of people's houses.



By including the blue FEMA tarpaulins in his sculptures, Daniel wants us to think about the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.



Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. This means that Puerto Rico isn't free to make its own rules about some things. The government of the United States sometimes tell Puerto Rico what to do. Puerto Rico is not able to tell the United States what to do. This means that the relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico is not equal and that is not fair.

Environmental Issues



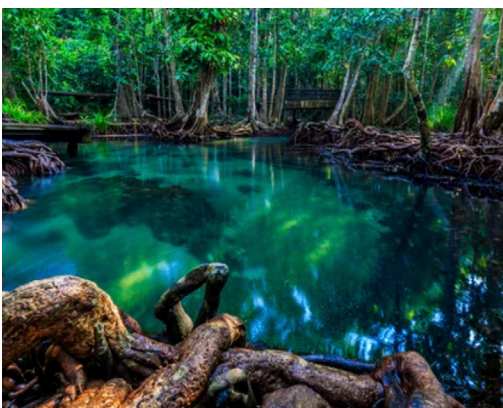
Puerto Rico is very badly affected by climate change. Climate change is a change in the earth's temperature and weather which is caused by the actions of humans.



Changes in the weather because of climate change cause things like extra rain, rising sea levels and big storms.



All these things affect people's lives in Puerto Rico.



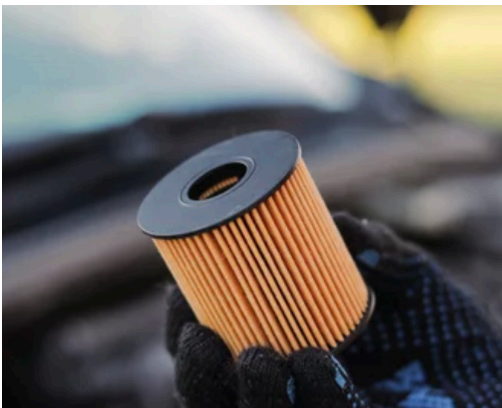
Puerto Rico has a special type of environment called mangrove forests where mangrove trees grow. The mangrove forests are very important to Puerto Rico.



The mangroves help to slow down coastal erosion. Coastal erosion is when the waves from the sea hit the land and make pieces of the land fall into the sea. Coastal erosion slowly makes the land get smaller.



The roots of the mangroves help to make the land strong and stop the land from falling into the sea.



The mangroves also help to keep the air and sea clean by filtering bad things out. Filtering means taking things you don't want out of something.



The mangroves take rubbish out of the sea. They also take toxins out of the air. Toxins are tiny things in the air that we can't see. If we breathe them in they can make us unwell.



Daniel has made a series of sculptures which show guardians of the mangroves. Guardians are people who look after something.

El Viejo Griot



This artwork is a sculpture.



The sculpture is called '*El Viejo Griot*' which means '*The Elder Storyteller*' in English.



The sculpture was made in 2022 and 2023.

The sculpture is made of lots of found objects including:



- part of a boat



- fabric sacks



- a hat



- a bugle which is a type of musical instrument you blow into to make a sound



- pieces of cardboard



- pieces of plastic



- coconuts



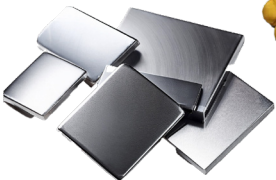
- a tambourine which is a type of musical instrument you shake with your hands to make a sound



- a drum



- gloves



- pieces of metal



- rope



- a mirror



The sculpture has a boat with a bright blue tarpaulin underneath it which looks like the sea. This tarpaulin is one of the FEMA tarpaulins we talked about earlier in this guide.



The boat has a person in it. The person is called El Viejo.



El Viejo is a character in the stories told by people in the town Daniel lives in. A character is a person or animal in a story.



The character of El Viejo is part of the festival which happens every year in Daniel's town. We talked about this festival earlier in this easy read guide.



During the festival, people dress up and join in a parade. A parade is when people dress up and walk through a town. Often there are people are singing and dancing in a parade too.



Someone from the town dresses up as El Viejo. They wear a mask and costume.



When Daniel was a child, he sometimes dressed up as El Viejo during the festival.



The sculpture doesn't just show Daniel's happy memories of El Viejo. It also shows parts of Puerto Rico's history. Some of these things from history are sad and some are things people celebrate.



The fabric sacks in the sculpture have dates printed on them.

These are the dates of things that happened in the past including:



- The Taíno Rebellion. This was a big fight that happened between the Taíno people who lived in Puerto Rico and Spanish people who arrived in Puerto Rico to try and take over the country. This fight happened in 1511.



- The failed British invasion which happened in 1797. This was when people from Britain tried to take over the country of Puerto Rico. The British people lost the fight.



- The United States invasion which happened in 1898. This was when people from the United States tried to take over the country of Puerto Rico. The United States won this fight.



- The Commonwealth declaration which happened in 1952. This was an agreement made between Puerto Rico and the United States when Puerto Rico won some freedom from the United States.

This meant Puerto Rico was still linked to the United States but could make some of their own decisions about the rules of their country.



- Hurricane Maria which happened in 2017. This was a very big storm which killed a lot of people and blew down a lot of houses.



These events from Puerto Rico's history are all linked to oppression. Oppression is when someone is treated unfairly by someone who has more power than them.

Ambulancia (2020)



This artwork is a sculpture.



The artwork is called '*Ambulancia (2020)*' which means 'Ambulance (2020)' in English.

An ambulance is like a car which takes people to hospital if they are unwell.



The sculpture was made in 2022 and 2023.

The sculpture is made of lots of found objects including:



- Parts of cars



- A siren. This is the flashing light on top of an ambulance



- A wheelbarrow. This is a cart on wheels which is used to carry things



- A loudspeaker. This is something you talk into to make your voice sound louder to other people



- Parts of a bed



- Chairs



- Fabric



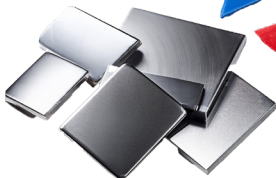
- Pieces of wood



- A shovel. This is a metal spade used to pick up soil and other materials



- Pieces of plastic



- Pieces of metal



- Shoes



- Rope



- Parts of a tree



Daniel made this artwork after the worst part of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic was when an illness called Covid-19 spread very quickly.

To keep people safe, lots of countries across the world told people to stay inside unless they really needed to leave the house. This meant a lot of people stopped going to work and only left their homes to do things like food shopping.



A lot of people died because of Covid-19 in Puerto Rico.



This artwork is about the effects of Covid-19 in Puerto Rico and across the world.

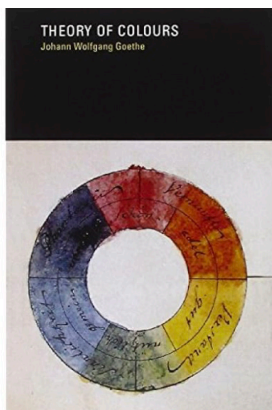


The artwork looks like an ambulance.



Daniel thought about ambulances as symbols. Symbols are things that represent another thing.

For Daniel, ambulances are symbols of help and anxiety. Ambulances help people who are sick. But ambulances can also cause stress and anxiety because they make loud noises and people think about illness and scary experiences when they see an ambulance.



Daniel read a book called *Theory of Colours* by a man called Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

The book was written in 1810.

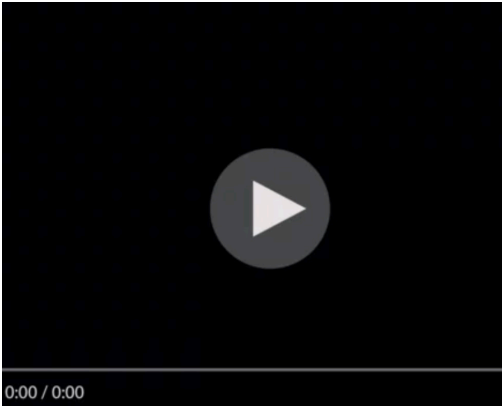


In the book, blues and purples are connected with coldness, darkness and weakness.



Blue and purple are also used at funerals in Puerto Rico. This means Daniel thinks about death when he sees these colours together. Funerals are a time when friends and family get together to remember somebody who has died.

Talegas de la Memoria



This artwork is a video.



The title of the video is '*Talegas de la memoria*' which means '*Sacks of memory*' in English.



The video was made in 2020.



The video is 16 minutes and 9 seconds long.



The video was filmed on a beach in Puerto Rico called Vacía Talega beach.



The video shows local people performing on the beach.



The people are dressed up as characters from the festival which takes place in Loíza every year. We wrote about this festival on page 7 of this easy read guide.



The characters in the video show things that have happened in the town's history.

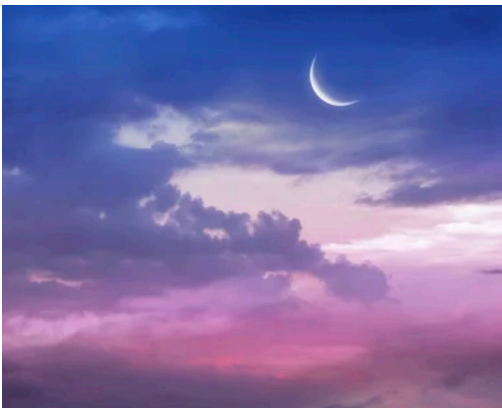


The music in the video is a mixture of Spanish, Taíno and African music. This mixture of music shows how the culture and history of Puerto Rico is a mixture from lots of different places.

Centinelas de la luna nueva



This artwork is a sculpture.



The artwork is called '*Centinelas de la luna nueva*' which means '*Sentinels of the new moon*' in English.

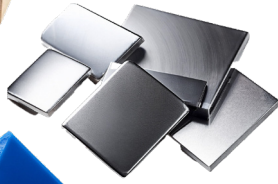


The artwork was made in 2022 and 2023.

The sculpture is made of lots of found objects including:



- Pieces of wood



- Pieces of metal



- Pieces of plastic



- Pieces of fabric



- Rope



- A drum



- A shovel which is a type of metal spade used to move things like soil



- Parts of a coconut plant



- A machete which is a type of knife



- A tripod which is used by photographers to hold a camera still



- Parts of an electric fan



- A wooden crab trap which is used by fishermen to catch crabs to eat



- A mask made of cardboard



- A boxing punchbag. This is a special bag filled with soft stuffing. People punch these bags to train for a sport called boxing

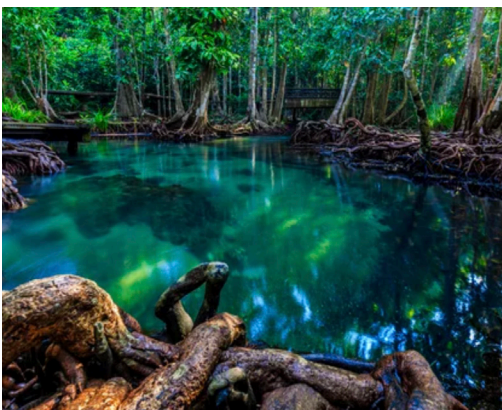
- A big plastic bucket

- A mirror

- A pitchfork. This is a tool used by farmers to move plants



All the objects in this sculpture are to do with farming, cooking and fishing.



This artwork is from a group of sculptures about Puerto Rico's mangroves.



The title of the artwork refers to the new moon. The moon in our sky moves every day. Because of the way the moon moves, it sometimes looks like a complete circle. This is called a full moon. The day after the full moon, it looks like there is almost no moon at all. This is called the new moon.



People who work with mangrove plants use the moon to tell them when to do things. The new moon is when mangrove roots are harvested and planted. Harvested means that parts of a plant are cut off and taken to be eaten or to make things from.



When he was making this artwork, Daniel was thinking about the work of women. Women are usually the people who plant and harvest mangroves.



The sculpture shows a group of people standing in a circle.



In the middle of the circle is a mangrove tree which is being protected by the people.



The mangroves in Puerto Rico are damaged by bad weather and people deciding they want to make new buildings. The people who make new buildings sometimes cut down mangroves to make space for their buildings.



Local activists work to protect the mangroves. Activists are people who talk about important issues that mean a lot to them. The activists who work to protect the mangroves tell people how important the mangroves are and try to stop the trees being cut down.



Daniel wants this artwork to show how important the mangrove trees are and why we need to protect them.

Centinel de la luna negra



This artwork is a sculpture.



The artwork is called '*Centinel de la luna negra*' which means '*Sentinels of the black moon*' in English.



The artwork was made in 2023.



The sculpture is made of lots of found objects including:

- Parts of a table



- A green kayak which is a type of boat



- Rope



- A blue jerry can which is used to carry petrol. Petrol is used in cars and boats and is needed to make them move



- A plastic flipper which swimmers use to swim fast and dive in the sea



- Pots and pans used to cook food



- A stove which is used to heat food up

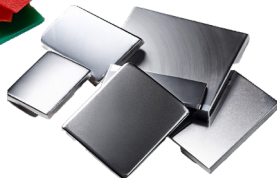


- A wooden chopping board used to cut up food on

- Parts of a car



- Pieces of plastic



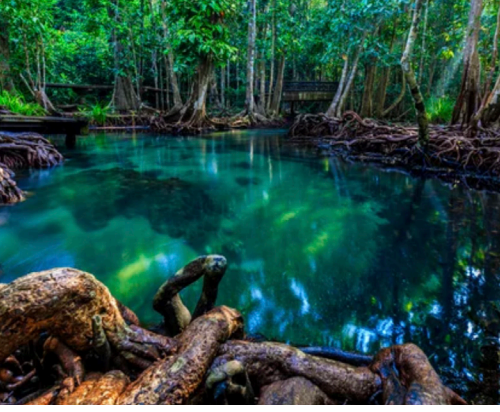
- Pieces of metal



- Pieces of a coconut plant



- Clothing



This artwork is from a group of sculptures about Puerto Rico's mangroves.



Daniel wants this artwork to be a tribute to the female activists who protect the mangroves in Puerto Rico. A tribute is something which shows that you like and respect a person.



The mangroves in Puerto Rico are sometimes cut down to make space for people to build hotels and houses. Lots of people want to build things where the mangroves are because they are right next to the sea in very beautiful places.



Some local people need the mangroves for food and building materials.



The local people also know the mangroves are important because they help to protect Puerto Rico from bad weather.



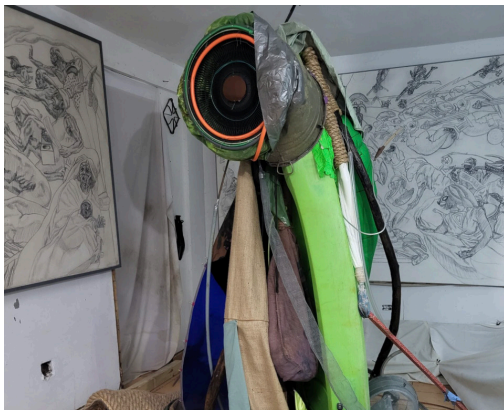
The local people tell the people who want to build hotels and houses that cutting down trees to make room for new buildings is a bad idea.



Local activists tell people there are other ways to allow tourism in their area. Tourism is when people who aren't from a place visit there on holiday.

Activists say tourists should see the mangroves on boat trips which celebrate the beauty of the mangroves without hurting them.

The Green Guardian



This artwork is a sculpture.



The artwork is called '*The Green Guardian*'.



The artwork was made in 2024.



The artwork is a brand new artwork which Nottingham Contemporary asked Daniel to make for the exhibition.

The sculpture is made of lots of found objects including:



- a green kayak which is a type of boat

- parts of a fan

- pieces of plastic

- pieces of metal

- pieces of fabric

- pieces of wood

- rope

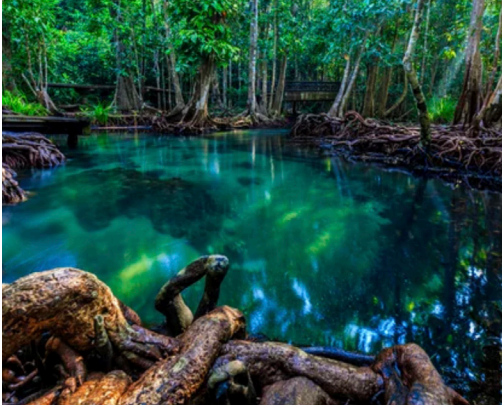
- a bucket

- pots and pans

- a knife

- fishing equipment used to catch fish

- a glove



This artwork is from a group of sculptures about Puerto Rico's mangroves.



When Daniel made the other artworks in this group he was thinking about the people who work with the mangroves.



When Daniel made this artwork he was thinking about the mangrove trees instead of the people.



Daniel started making this artwork from an old fan which he found stuck in the branches of a mangrove tree.



Daniel found the fan in 2017 after Hurricane Maria damaged lots of houses in Puerto Rico and blew objects from people's homes into the mangrove forests.



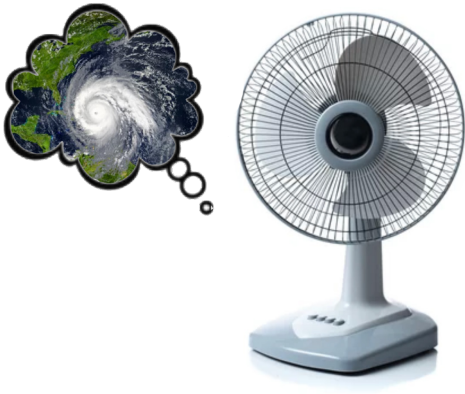
Daniel kept the fan for 7 years before he started making an artwork with it.



Daniel often starts making his sculptures from one object which he has kept for a long time.



Daniel thinks these objects often have memories attached to them because he remembers where and when he found them.



For Daniel, the fan holds memories of Hurricane Maria.



The fan in the sculpture looks like an eye.



Daniel thinks the eye is like the way the mangroves protect communities. Daniel thinks the mangroves are watching the sea and bad weather to protect the local people.



Daniel also thinks about the fan as being like a filter. Filters remove unwanted things from something. Some fans have filters that help to keep the air clean by removing things like dust from the air.



Daniel thinks about the fan being a filter is like the way the way mangroves help to keep the sea and air clean.



Daniel says the way the person in this sculpture is standing up shows that they are alert rather than resting. Being alert means someone is awake and watching out for things.

For More Information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:

nottinghamcontemporary.org



If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

We suggest £5 as a good amount.



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