

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

Center for Sustainable Futures
at Teachers College, Columbia University

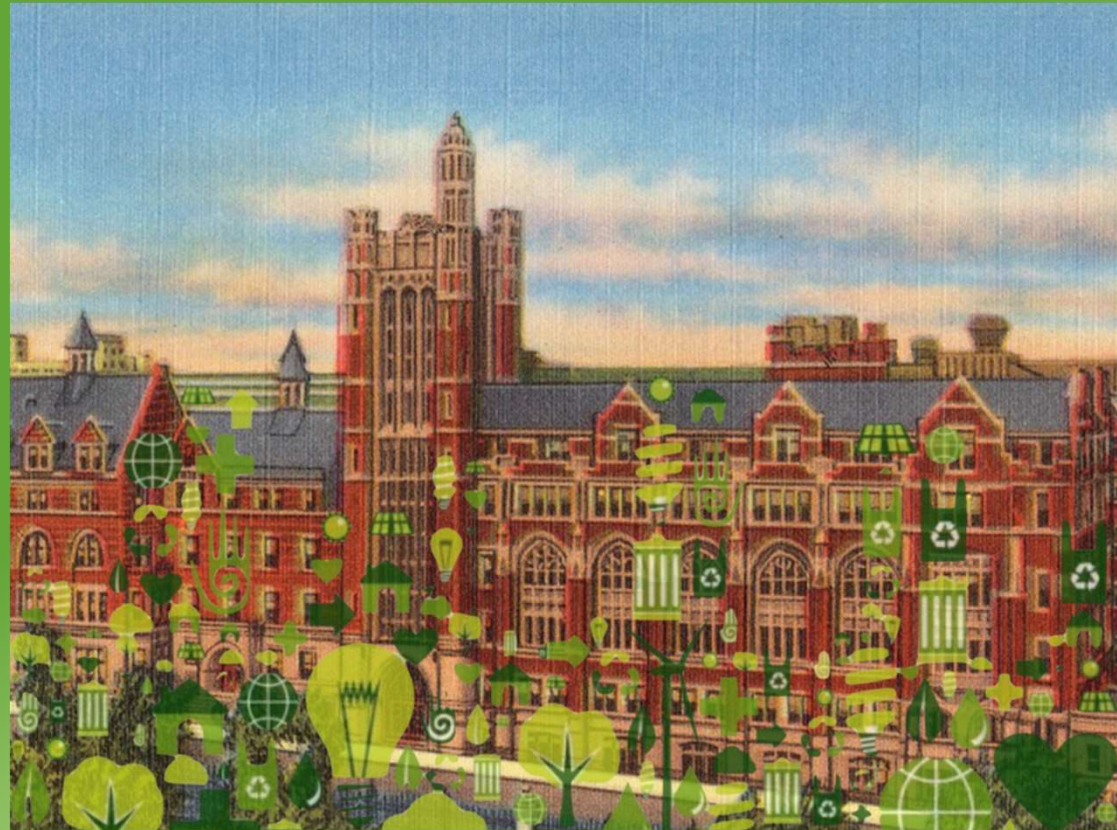
<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/sustainability>

Thank you for joining us!

What is Earth Day?



Center for Sustainable Futures



Center for Sustainable Futures

- The Center for Sustainable Futures (CSF) at Teachers College envisions a regenerative world in which we achieve a balance between planet, people, and prosperity.
- Our mission is to promote **learning, awareness, attitudes, and skills** to work **individually** and **collectively** toward long-term sustainability of complex living systems. CSF supports and conducts original research, engages in research-practice partnerships, mentors and trains graduate students, and uses data to inform evidence-based policy, practice, and communication.

Center for Sustainable Futures

- Visit our website:
[**https://www.tc.columbia.edu/sustainability**](https://www.tc.columbia.edu/sustainability)
- Check out a special collection on climate change & education:
[**https://www.tc.columbia.edu/sustainability/resources/climate-change--education**](https://www.tc.columbia.edu/sustainability/resources/climate-change--education)
- Follow-us on Twitter: @TCSustainable



Along with Auntie Liz, Vincent collected leaves, sticks, and twigs in the yard, and we made a fairy house to help celebrate Earth Day. We hope they enjoy the home we've made!!

Elizabeth Rollins



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Some preschoolers from the Rita Gold Center made drawings in response to the story copied below while listening to What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong. The drawings feature the beauty of the world as represented by curls and swirls, a rocket ship, dolphins and other animals, the Earth, stars in the sky, and the Sun.
Kuan and Margaret, on behalf of the Rita Gold Center Preschool Room

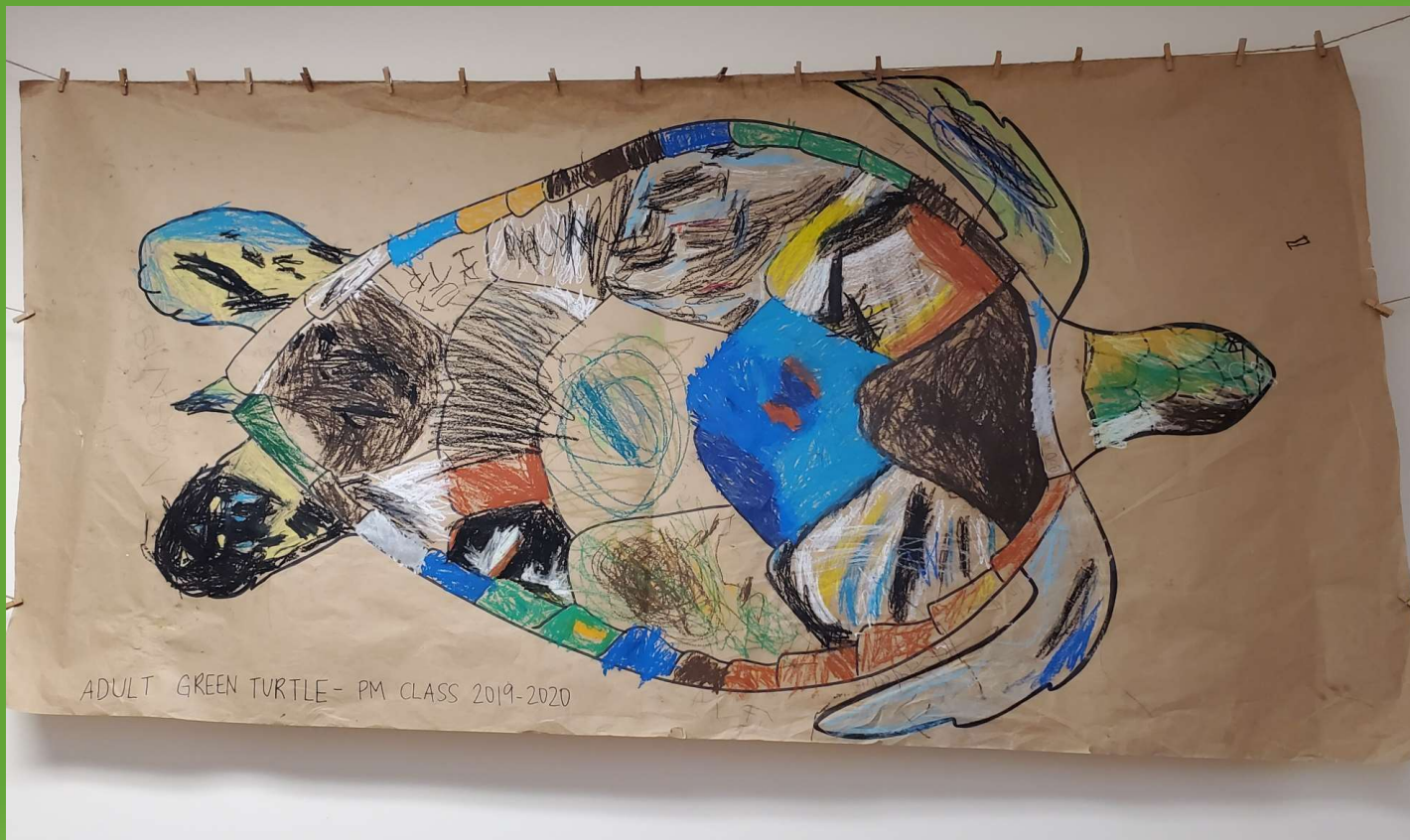


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Art work by **PM Class at Hollingworth Pre-School**



Barak Pizmony-Levy Drezner



I would like to share a photo I took (with my phone) at Torres del Paine National Park in Chile during the spring break in March. It was an amazing experience to hike there and appreciate the beauty of Planet Earth. Hope the Nature will continue to inspire and guide us, and give us wisdom and strength to go through difficult times.

Henan Cheng



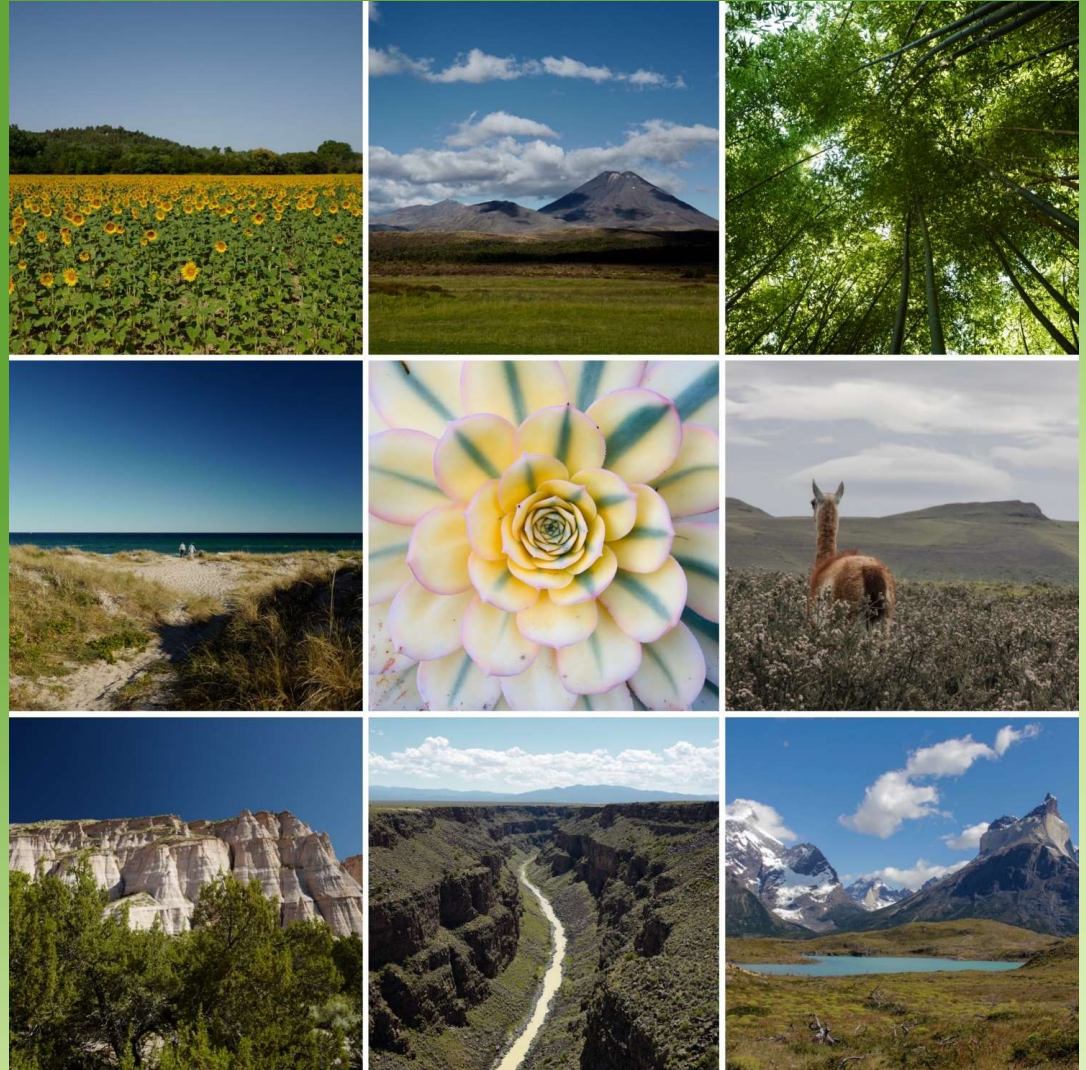
A photo from a trip to Argentina
Jonathan Chastain



Trish McNicholas

I am an avid (amateur) landscape photographer and created a collage of some pictures I took in different places over the last few years. I call it “The Peace of Wild Things” as per Wendell Berry’s poem.

Carine Verschueren





Sunflowers for sustainability
Elisabeth Barnett



Sunflowers for sustainability
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In the picture, you can see a series of bio-plastics made by TC students in the Snow Day Learning Lab. The exploration of bio-plastics was done in the context of my dissertation The Human Nature Project that invites students to create technologies that heal and restore our relationship with nature.

Isabel Correa





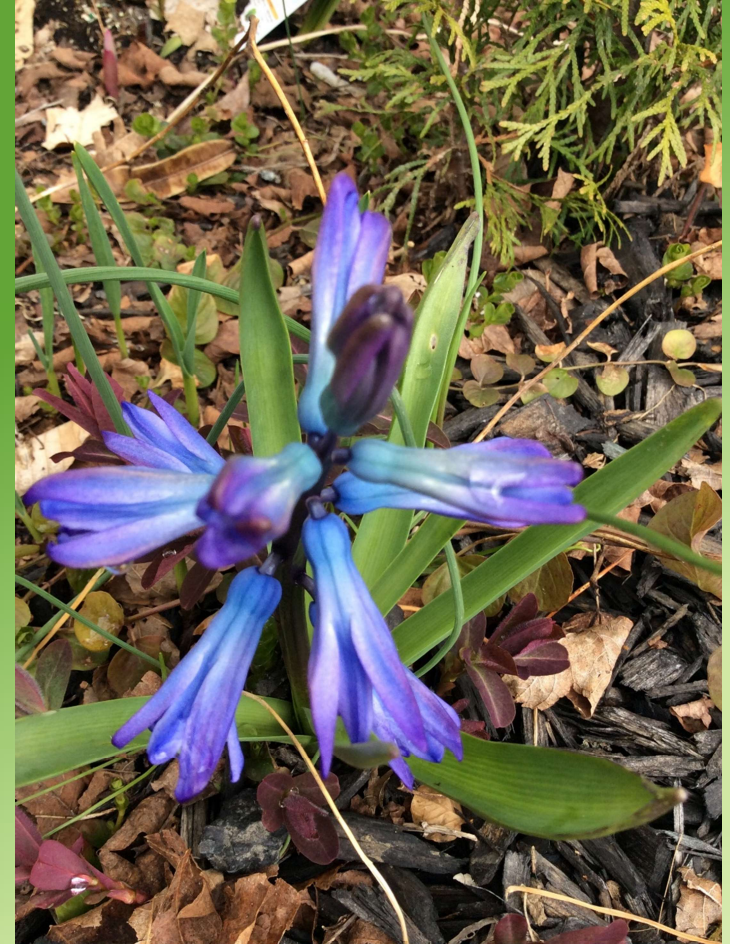
Silent Spring
Ansel Oommen

This piece is a tribute to Earth Day, National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (April 19-25), and to all of us who are finding our balance in this unsteady time.

As an artist, urban naturalist, and medical technologist working in clinical microbiology, I find myself unusually entangled in the NYC outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pandemic. As a technologist working nights at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, I have conducted SARS-CoV-2 PCR tests on hundreds of patient samples since March. Sometimes, after a rough shift, I like to visit the parks to get away from the madness. Yet, as I walk the barren streets and eerily quiet green spaces, I am often reminded of Rachel Carson and her *Silent Spring*. But instead of the presence of pesticides, it is the absence of people that is most deafening. Even when many of us are experiencing our own winters while withdrawn indoors due to quarantine, nature has broken her dormancy and is greeting spring instead. This collage was created to metabolize the strange sense of grief I feel as of late.

It is composed out of a familiar laboratory element, the biohazard label, which was repurposed to convey how elements of public health, mental health, and ecology overlap. The use of biohazard labels also alludes to my first degree in toxicology. By using aposematic color codes, this piece is a visual warning for viewers to stop and reflect on how we use and abuse each other and our environment. Indeed, the beauty of art is that it requires us to be fluent in our own humanity so that we can speak it as a universal language.

Silent Spring
Ansel Oommen



As these flowers bloom through a snow covered ground, it gives us hope that nature will prevail.

Gioya DeSouza-Fennelly

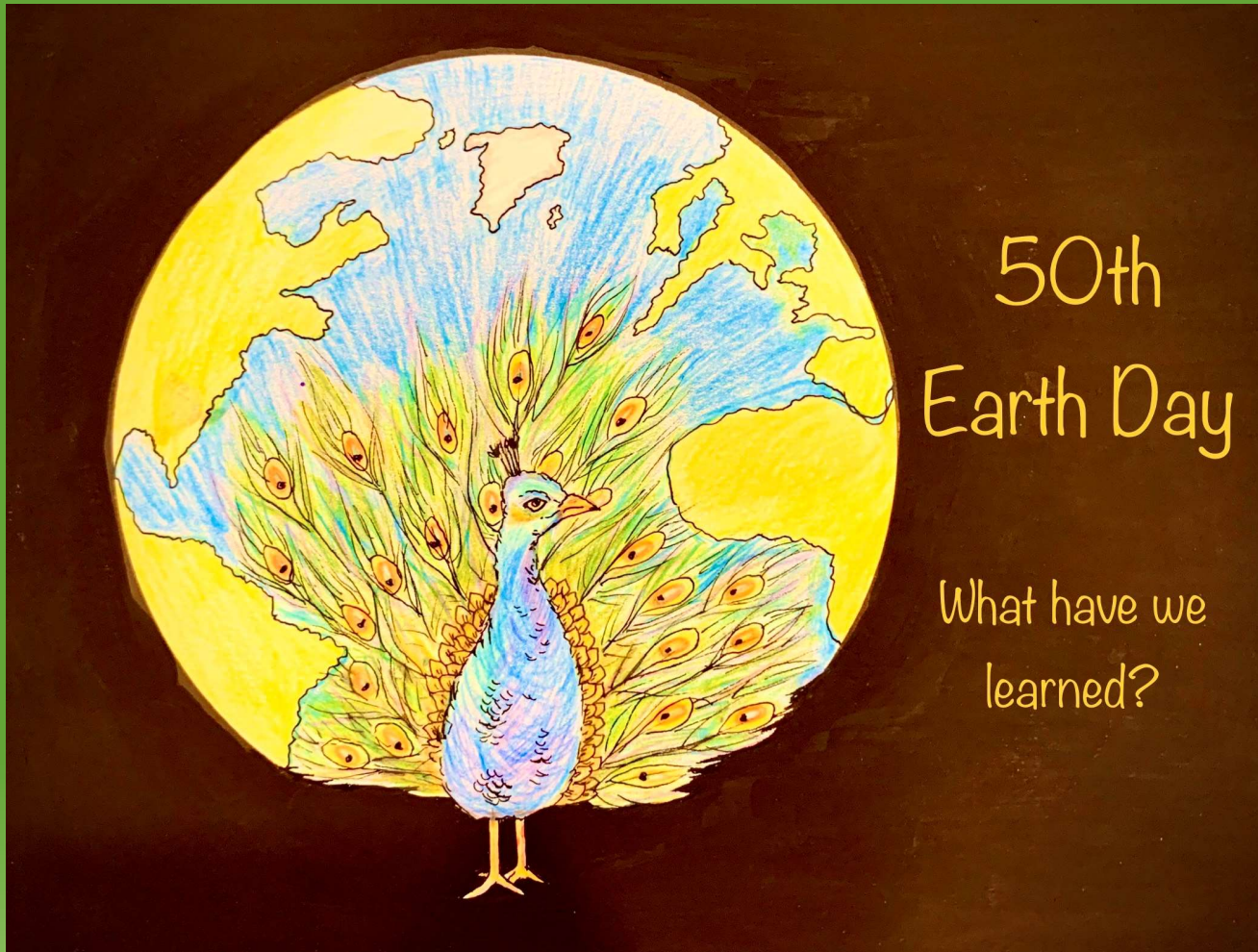


Seed starters of heirloom seeds saved from last year in paper pots made from old phone directories pages and recycled takeout containers.

Gioya DeSouza-Fennelly



Elaine Perlman

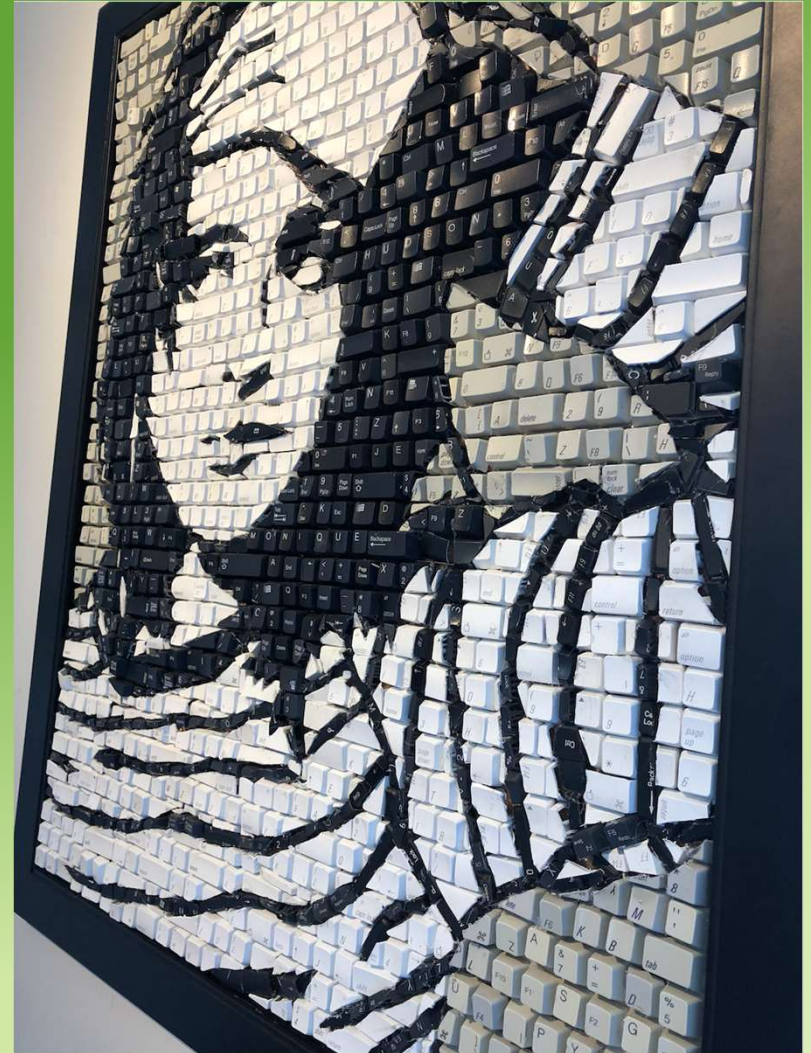


50th Earth Day

What have we
learned?

Ayesha Rabadi-Raol

Upcycled Art Piece, Brooklyn SIMS Municipal Recycling Center
Woo-Jung Amber Kim



Let's pause and reflect

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