



Fran Crowe:

Andrew Stuck accompanies **Fran Crowe** on a walk along the shingle beach at Thorpeness in Suffolk – a beach walk undertaken by Fran on many occasions as she scavenges for washed up plastic.

Notes from the podcast interview by Andrew Stuck: Recorded in August 2010 and published in April 2011 on <http://talkingwalking.net>

Fran’s websites: <http://www.flyintheface.com> and <http://www.museumofbeyond.org>

Fran’s blog: <http://ayearattheedge.blogspot.co.uk/> in which Fran recorded one year of walks, collecting and coastal change at her favourite beach Thorpeness.

Fran uses art to make an impact and to inspire change. Shocked by the amount of plastic discarded and found floating in a square mile of ocean, Fran walked her local beaches to pick up 46,000 pieces of plastic – to “save” a square mile of ocean. <http://www.flyintheface.com/46000.html>

Fran brings her skills as a conceptual artist and past experience of working in fast moving consumer goods to create eye-catching but shocking site-specific installations from her finds, as well as provocative beach litter “souvenirs”. Her art is playful - but deadly serious... <http://www.flyintheface.com/exhibitions.html>

Her work has brought attention to the Marine Conservation Society and their own Beachwatch initiatives: http://www.mcsuk.org/what_we_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/Beachwatch/Beachwatch

Fran recommends a walk from Thorpeness around the Suffolk coast

<http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/assets/Publications/Outstanding-Landscapes-Walks/Aldeburgh-Thorpeness-Walk.pdf>.

For many more fantastic coastal walks in this area, see <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/publications/walking-and-cycling-guides/>.

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Since her interview, Fran has exhibited widely both here and overseas, including as part of the acclaimed GYRE exhibition, which was commissioned by the Anchorage Museum in Alaska and toured in the USA 2014/15.

One of Fran’s walks on Orford Ness was featured on BBC Coast in 2015.

In 2014 Fran launched the *Museum of Beyond*, a provocative and tongue-in-cheek imagining of what people might think of our plastic waste still washing up on beaches in a future beyond oil: “a sea of plastic seen through future eyes”...

Described by visitors as “absolutely mind-blowing” and “extraordinary and moving”, the Museum uses humour to deliver a powerful message about the way we live now.

Recently Fran created a ‘roaming gallery’ in a lovingly restored vintage horsebox.

The gallery features *The Museum of Beyond* including many of the plastic items that Fran has found on her walks. For news of where the gallery will be popping up next and to browse the museum’s collections, see <http://www.museumofbeyond.org>. Fran welcomes additions to the museum - so if you find something interesting whilst walking on the beach and would like to add it to the museum, do get in touch!



Fran is particularly interested in how creativity can be used as a catalyst for change and how it can help people (of all ages) imagine how things could be different - *and* better...

For more than 10 years Fran has been campaigning about the impact of plastic in our seas so is delighted that BBC's Blue Planet 2 has succeeded in making this front page news in recent months. She hopes real change will result from this and her work on plastics will become redundant.

Research is an important part of Fran's work. In the last two years Fran has been studying: Social Sciences and, more recently, Evolutionary Biology. Keep an eye on her website to see what direction Fran's work takes next!

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