

# STREET LEVEL PHOTOWORKS

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## MANDY BARKER OUR PLASTIC OCEAN

7TH AUGUST - 10TH OCTOBER 2021

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**8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the world's oceans every year. If these trends continue, our oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.**

For over a decade, **Mandy Barker** has worked at the intersection of art and science to reveal the global crisis of marine plastic pollution. *Our Plastic Ocean* features the series *Beyond Drifting*, *Indefinite*, *Soup*, and *Penalty*, as well as Barker's journals and objects collected across the globe.

Working alongside scientists from Hawaii to the Inner Hebrides, Barker has followed a trail of plastic pollution across the globe. She collects plastic specimens from both beaches and birds' stomachs, to create striking composite images designed to draw you in.

At first glance, Barker's images suggest sea creatures suspended in the dark void of the sea, but closer inspection reveals a more disturbing reality. From footballs to fishing nets, cotton buds to coffee cup lids, Barker highlights the everyday plastic items now commonplace in our seas. She says, '*I hope to inspire positive action in tackling this increasing environmental challenge which is of global concern*'.

**Find out where plastic accumulates on our giant world map and take action by making your Plastic Pledge on the gallery wall.**

*An Impressions Gallery touring exhibition, curated by Angela Sheard.*

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