

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Leave No Plastic Behind announces:
Artist's Plastic Bags Have Style

(Portland, OR). The Portland based plastic conscious art group, Leave No Plastic Behind (LNPB) announces that participant Mabel Johnson is now selling her wares at Gumbo Gifts & Gallery on Portland's Mississippi Ave. The 83 year old artist, who joined the art group in 2007, is the first artist attached to LNPB that has had commercial success. Her focus is on designing purses and hats from woven plastic bags.

Mrs. Johnson learned the craft of braiding and hat making at age 23 along with friends in her native country of Nicaragua. She learned the craft of being resourceful during World War II when the materials she made into hats could no longer be delivered by ship. "We used crepe paper and kite paper, whatever we could shape into a form."

In Portland, decades later, she discovered that there was one product not in short supply-plastic.

"I made plastic hats for my friends as Christmas presents in 2005," says Mabel Johnson, "and now everyone I talk to says how much they like my hats, so I keep making them!" She continues, "Even though I don't know exactly how much, I'm helping the environment by taking plastic and putting it to use, I hope that it will catch on."

In the past year, over two dozen northwest artists have participated in an episode of LNPB. This Reality-Based art project exhibits plastic acquired from hard-to-avoid packaging in our daily lives & goods saved from entering the landfill. Concentrating on plastic consumption and reduction is an individualized start to lessening the plastic waste stream.

Leave No Plastic Behind aims to creatively enlighten consumers of all ages about the impact their daily routines have on the environment. Through a series of plastic episodes, this collective considers the true costs of modern convenience and demonstrates the importance of collaborative resourcefulness.

**More information can be found at www.lnpb.org.
Gumbo Gifts & Gallery is located at 3636 N. Mississippi Ave.**

"Think Ahead, Leave No Plastic Behind."

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