**Wade Thompson - Our Vista**

I was invited to be part of this exhibition because I am 'fired up' about what I do. I am passionate about my work and if you are here today I hope you can see that within my artwork.

Eighty percent of pollution to the marine environment comes from land. There are 3.2 million items of plastic pollution that enter the world’s oceans every day. Plastic bottle tops, clips off bread bags and cigarette lighters are commonly found in this deadly plastic soup. Think about the implications of that amount of pollution clogging up the already messy ocean. That is just the ocean, Each year, U.S. factories spew 3 million tons of toxic chemicals into the air, land, and water.

Other artists have created pieces addressing the issue of pollution before such as Alessia Giardino who creates wall surfaces that react with air pollutants to create motifs that gradually become more visible over time and Tetsumi Kudo, a Japanese artist who predominantly creates contemporary sculptural art pieces. His Garden of Metamorphosis inspired me to add a sculptural element to my work as I fell it gives much more depth and emphasises what I am trying to portray. After observing the works that Vidhi Shah created for the Central Pollution Control Board I felt that the idea of where we have been and where we are heading all within the one artwork was a powerful way to portray the message that we need to 'lift our game.'

I have used assorted pollutants found mostly on my local beach and some in gardens and gutters around an industrial area to create this piece. I wanted to show the connection between the waste from factories and their impact on our air and waterways. I created this piece to illustrate an area of coastline where the 'photograph' shows where we used to be and the rest of the work illustrates where we may end up if we continue down this path.

I want to make people aware of what they are throwing out. Everything that can be, should be recycled or re-used. Litter should be non-existent and if we do not improve our ways of waste management and pollution emissions then 'The end to this journey might be the end itself.'

One person can make a difference.

**Art Journey - http://visualartwade.blogspot.com.au/**