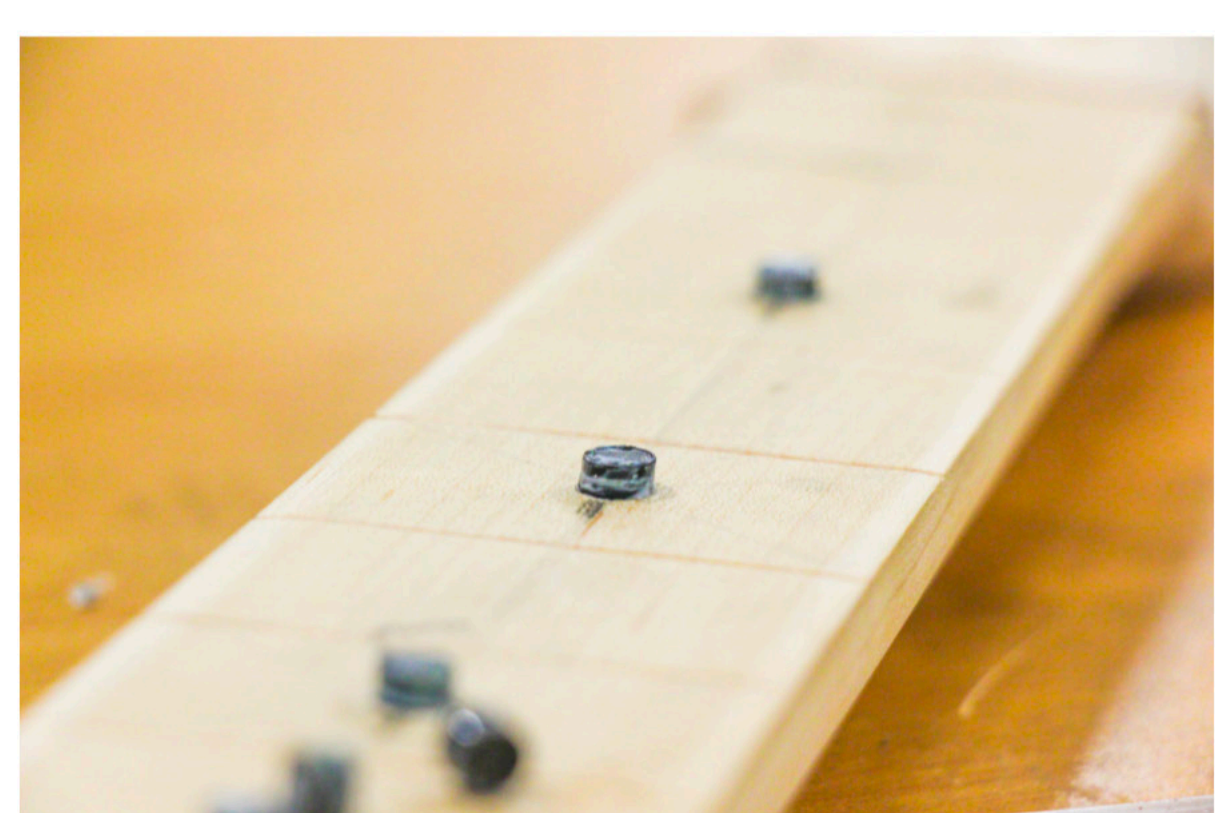
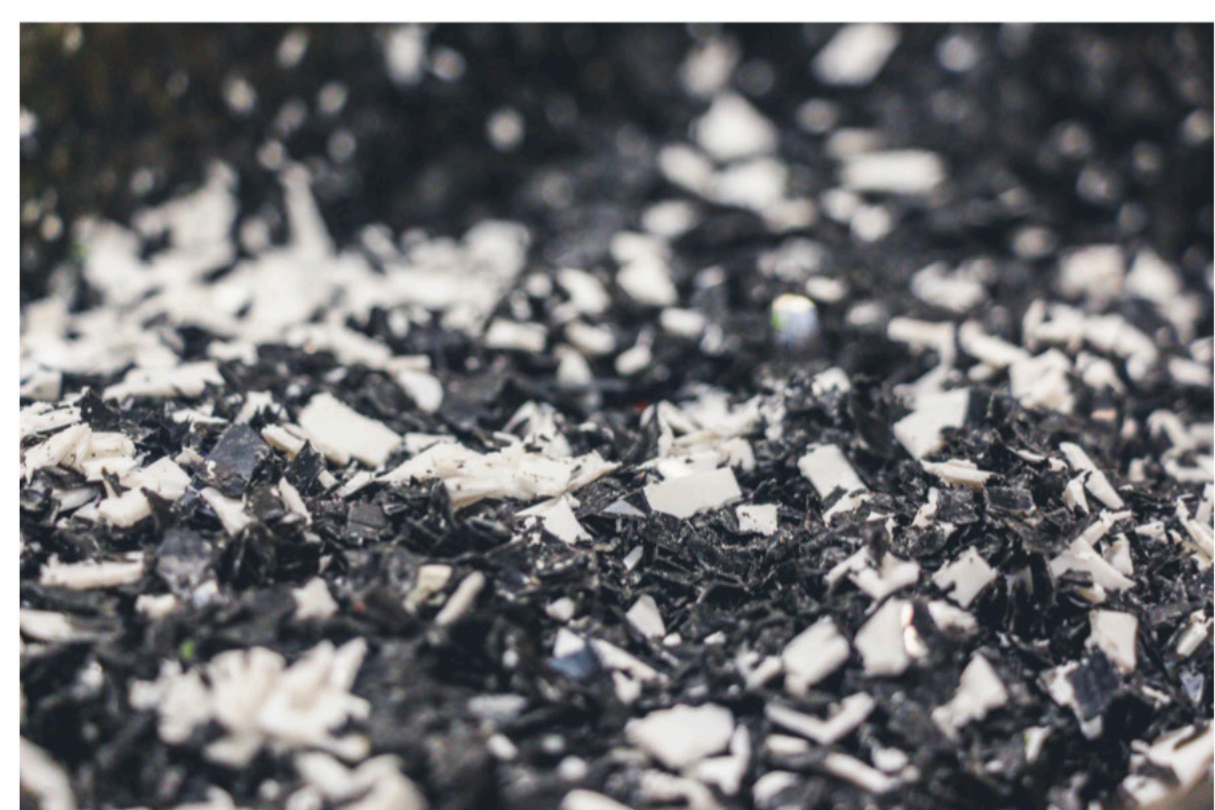


The Plasticaster



An instrument like no other.

With a bright and snappy tone, the single humbucker, stripped controls and hardtail bridge is a no-frills approach to a guitar finished as black marble with a fractured vintage blonde top in a linseed oil coating. Handcrafted from North American hard maple and locally sourced recycled polypropylene, the Precious Plasticaster truly is an instrument like no other.



Plastic is often misperceived as cheap and discardable with recycled plastic even considered of inferior quality. This prevents consumers from seeing value in these materials leading to a self-perpetuating cycle of plastic pollution.

As environmental concerns continue to grow, the impact of wasteful plastic usage is gaining widespread awareness and acceptance of renewed materials is fast becoming a social norm with recycled plastic now being used in products made by the likes of adidas, Apple and LEGO.

The aim of the Precious Plasticaster is to demonstrate to the local and wider community the potential of recycled plastic as a reusable and valued material. The combination of a maple neck with a plastic body elevates the reprocessed materials to the same level of preciousness as the more traditionally valued wood and metal.

Utilising the integrated plastic recycling unit built by Precious Plastic Monash, buckets of polypropylene were layered into an aluminium tray and baked in an oven to produce a solid slab which was then machined, while recycled polyactic acid was laser cut to shape. The wooden neck was crafted from a single board of hard maple.

The Gravestone



Speculating plastic's persistency through a product that rarely sees innovation

100% polypropylene

Plastic gains new values as a hand-made piece.

Provocative

The work challenges existing perception and opens up new ways of thinking about plastic.

Unique patterns

Distinctive aesthetics can be achieved with recycled plastic. It is an alternative to the monotony of stone.



A wicked problem

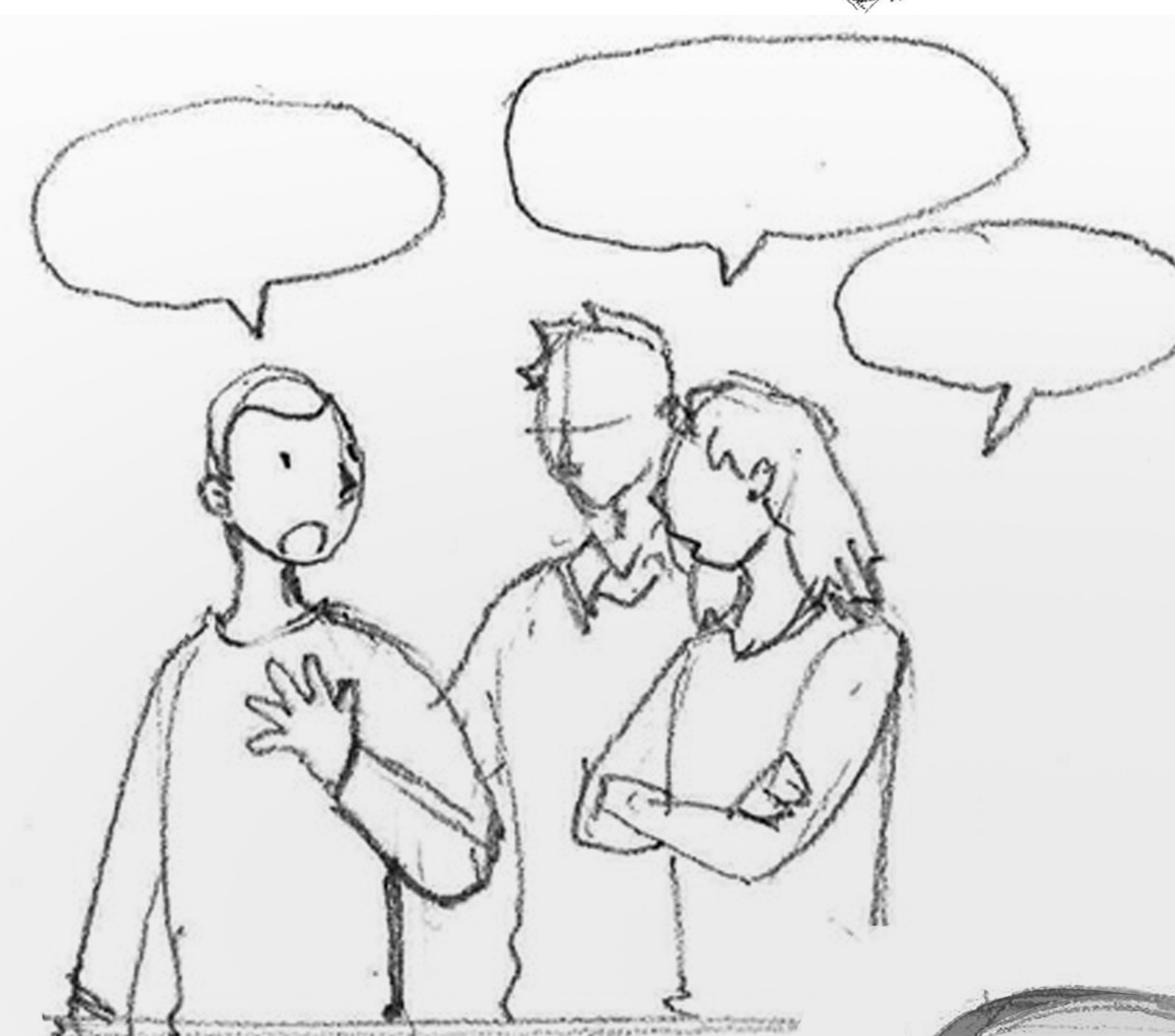
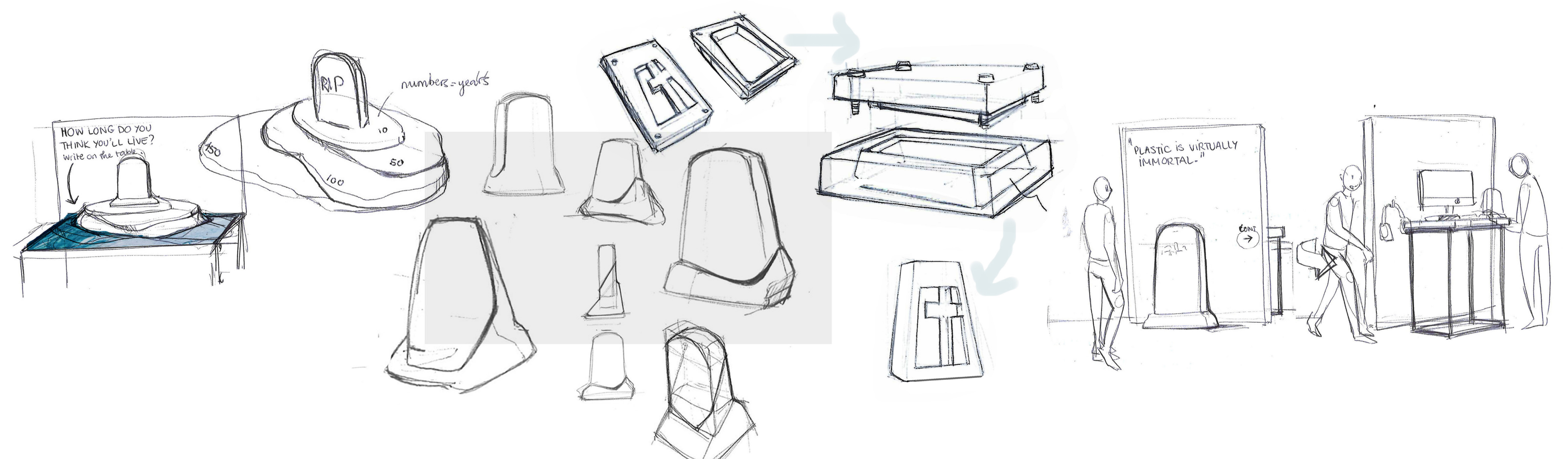
Our conflicting values and beliefs of plastic make it a problem that is difficult or impossible to be solved. Traditional design approach may not be effective.

Speculative design

Thrives on imagination and aims to generate discussions about alternative ways of being.

Plastic's immortality

UV light breaks down plastic. However, in the deepest parts of the ocean where no sunlight penetrates, polymer debris could stay there forever.



← Starting conversations

Pushing beyond the utilitarian mindset, the gravestone highlights design's role to ask questions, which is as important as solving problems.



Leaving a flower ↗

Visitors are invited to leave a flower at the grave reflecting how the work has influenced them. This helps measure the project's success, and contributes to the main narrative.

The Gallery



Plastic can be a precious, beautiful material.

To create an experience that allows people to walk in and witness art and design that utilises recycled plastic.

These artworks are not merely aesthetic - they are statement pieces, designed to portray plastic as a precious material.



The Workshop

Engaging future generations through creative workshops

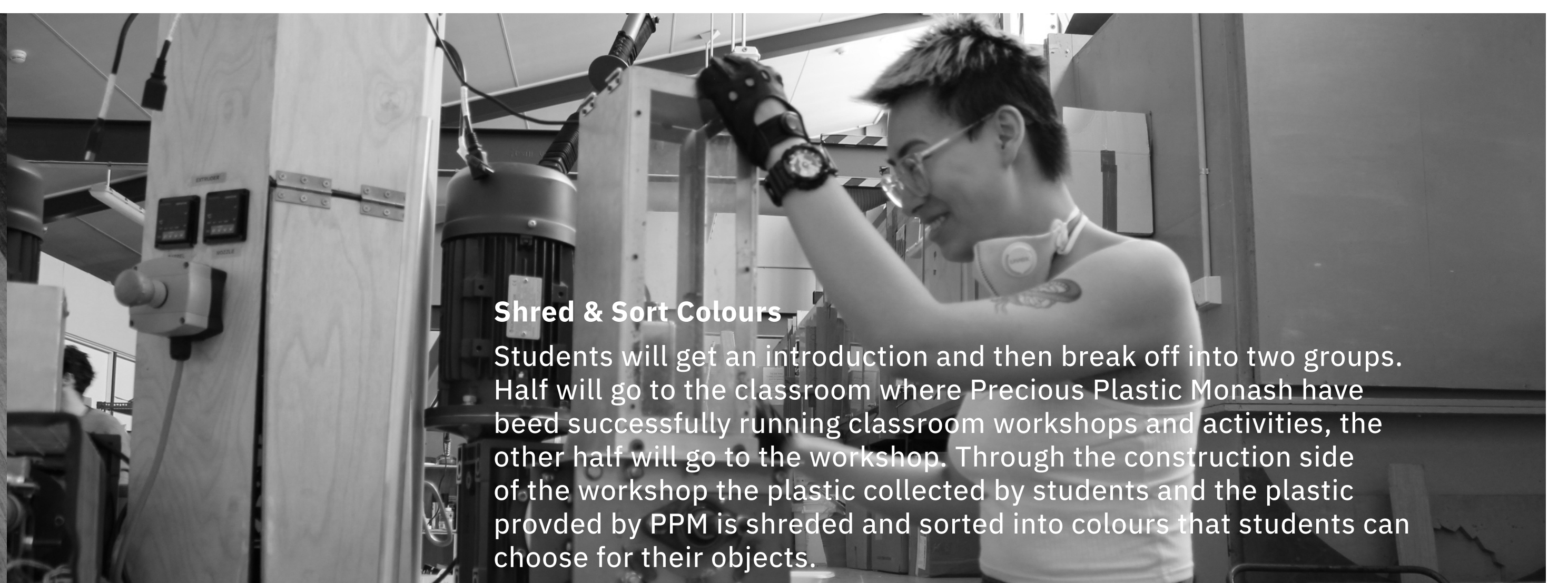
The Workshop provides a flexible series of moulds that can be constructed in many ways to encourage creativity and individuality whilst still providing structure.

Intended to be used with the mobile plastic recycling unit, the workshop is designed to run at schools and other engagement events to educate children and encourage the reduction of plastic waste.



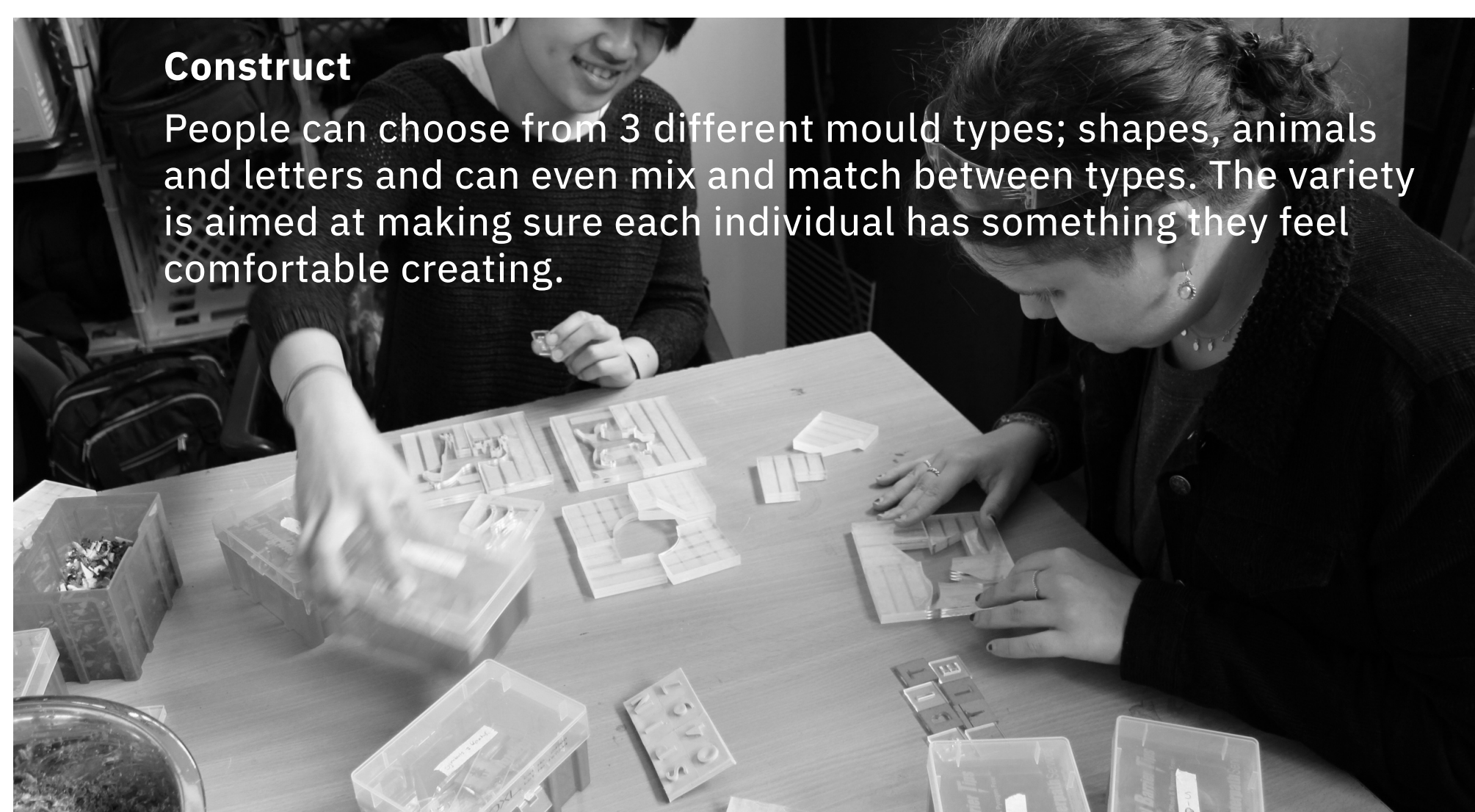
Collect & Clean

Prior to school events and some public events people will collect and clean their recyclables to bring in for the workshop, some plastic will also be provided.
(Public collection may not always be included but is excellent for engaging with schools)



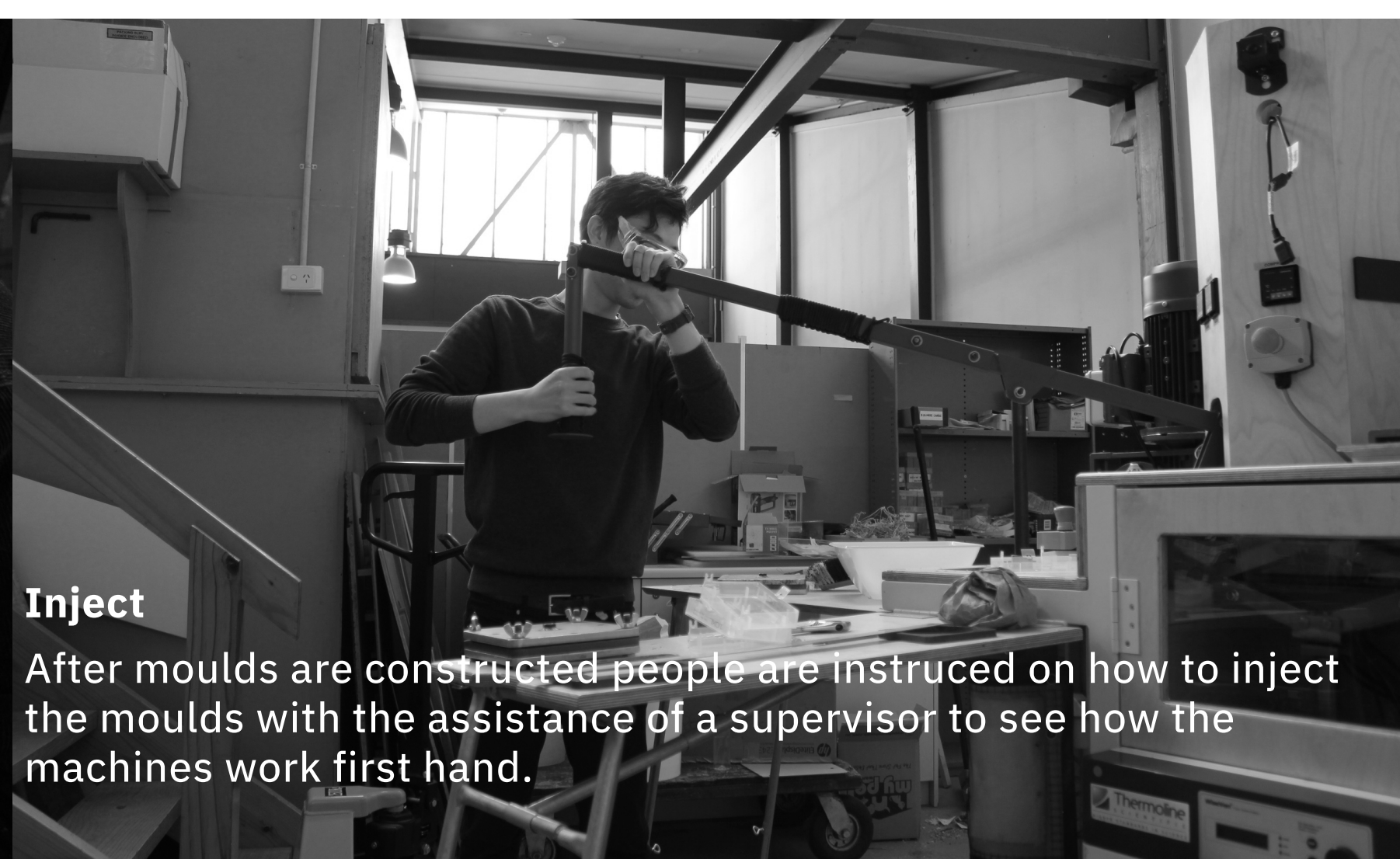
Shred & Sort Colours

Students will get an introduction and then break off into two groups. Half will go to the classroom where Precious Plastic Monash have been successfully running classroom workshops and activities, the other half will go to the workshop. Through the construction side of the workshop the plastic collected by students and the plastic provided by PPM is shredded and sorted into colours that students can choose for their objects.



Construct

People can choose from 3 different mould types; shapes, animals and letters and can even mix and match between types. The variety is aimed at making sure each individual has something they feel comfortable creating.

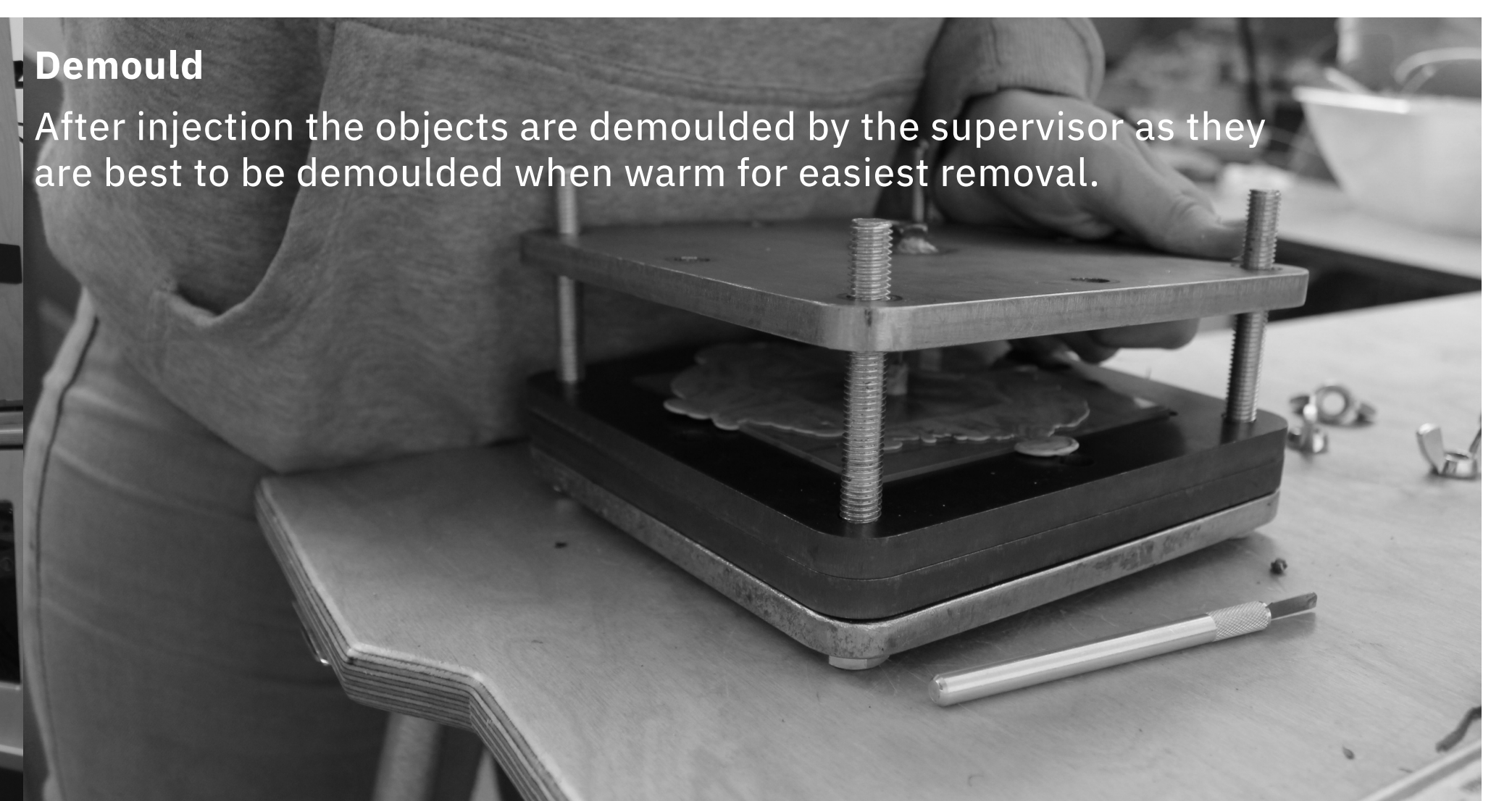


Inject

After moulds are constructed people are instructed on how to inject the moulds with the assistance of a supervisor to see how the machines work first hand.

Demould

After injection the objects are demoulded by the supervisor as they are best to be demoulded when warm for easiest removal.



Resulting Objects

The result of 'The Workshop' is anything the students choose to do with the moulds, the idea is to give people the freedom to create something that is their own idea whilst also educating them on the value and potential of recycled plastic.

