

**DESIS**  
**NETWORK**  
Design for  
Social Innovation  
and Sustainability

# Life Without Single-use Plastics (SUPR)

*...Because everything leads to supper*



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**Emily Carr Desis Lab, Canada**

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**Collaborators: Zero Waste Canada**

Disposable coffee cup lids

Plastic cups

Plastic cutlery

plastic grocery bags

Gum packaging

Chocolate bar wrappers

Candy wrappers

Potato chip wrappers

plastic sandwich bags

Water bottles

FROZEN FOOD PACKAGES

Dry clean bags

Plastic straws

Contact lens cases

Cosmetics packaging

Styrofoam food containers

Plastic gloves

Coffee pods

Plastic dip sauce containers

Disposable plastic rain ponchos

shrink wrap

CLOTHING PRICE LABEL FASTENERS

Bulk bin bags

Cling Film

Police tape and construction tape

PLASTIC MAILING ENVELOPES

BANDAIDS

bread bags

yogurt tubs  
ice cream tubs

Roasted chicken containers

Zip ties

Construction flags and survey markers

Marinating and vacuum seal bags

Single-use Plastics are everywhere

## Context.

DESIS Emily Carr is questioning our relationship with single-use plastics.

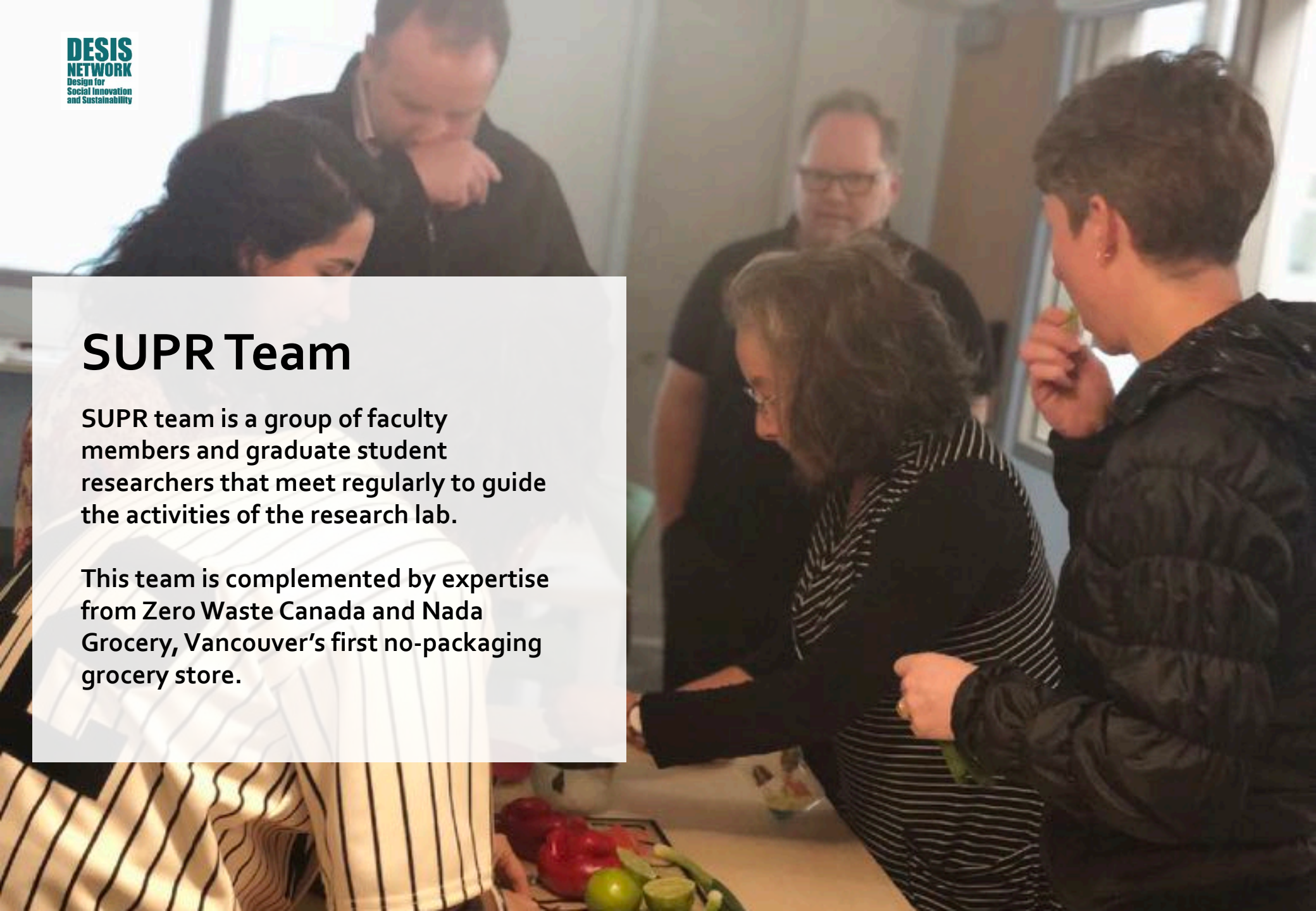
We speculate that deep inquiry into our personal relationship(s) with single-use plastics would lead to insights about how social innovation could support the cultural shift from dependency on single-use plastics.

This will inspire how DESIS can support this change in our communities.

## SUPR Team

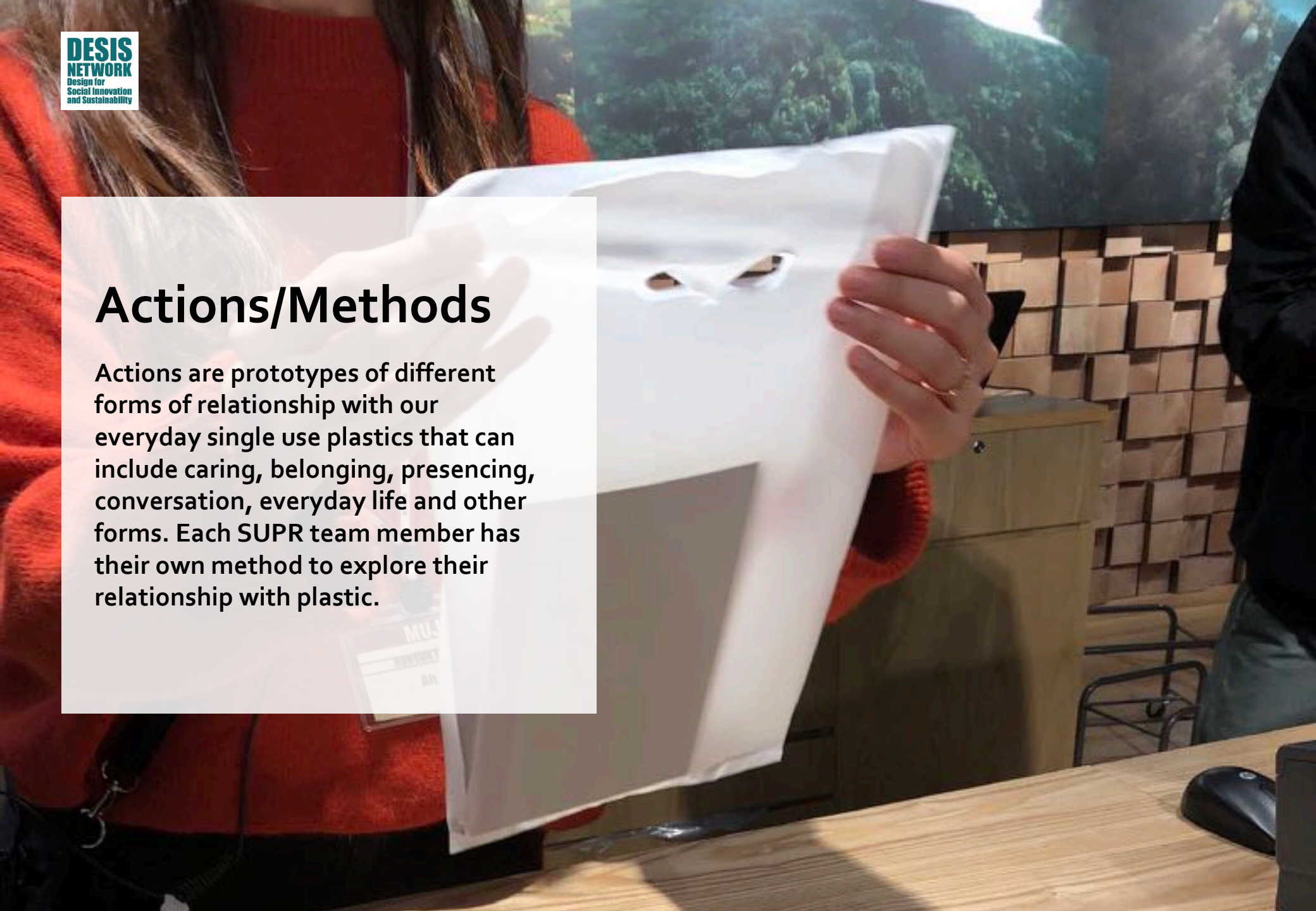
SUPR team is a group of faculty members and graduate student researchers that meet regularly to guide the activities of the research lab.

This team is complemented by expertise from Zero Waste Canada and Nada Grocery, Vancouver's first no-packaging grocery store.



## Actions/Methods

Actions are prototypes of different forms of relationship with our everyday single use plastics that can include caring, belonging, presencing, conversation, everyday life and other forms. Each SUPR team member has their own method to explore their relationship with plastic.





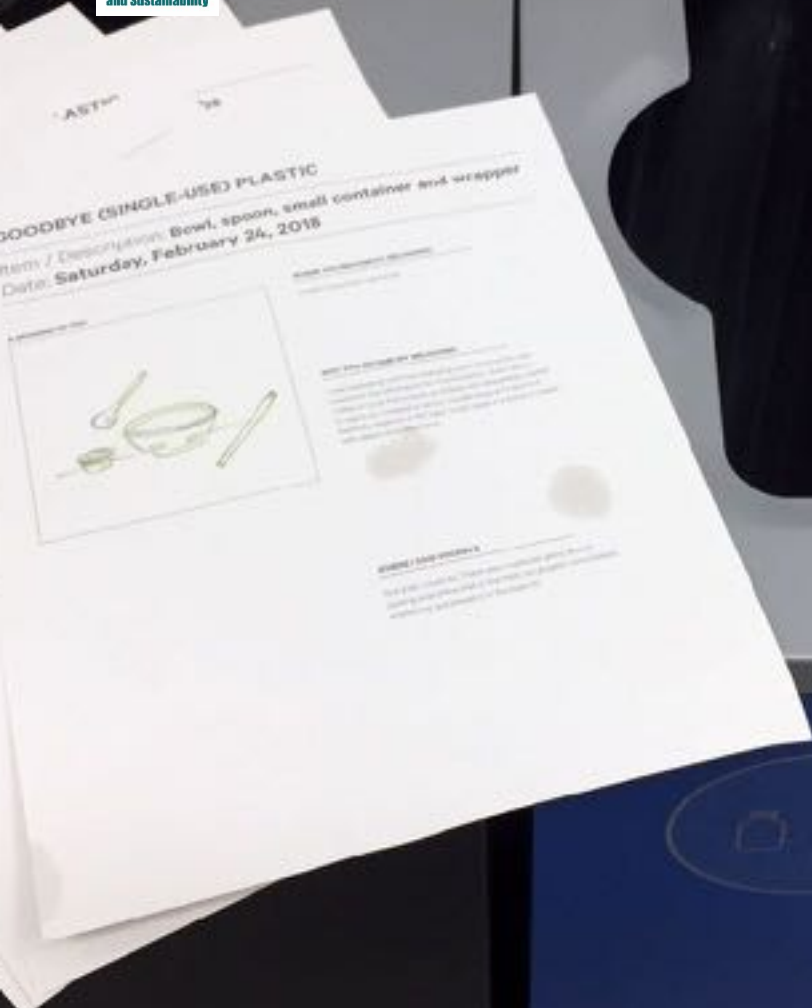
## Caring

We commit as a community to an ongoing caring relationship with these SUP artifacts. Keeping them close to us, We nurture them. We are encouraging an ethos of care, that can involve a gathering, or that encourage both a situated and relational response. Caring is less about keeping close and more about knowing and having foresight to intervene as needed. Exploring interdependence and intimacy.



## Belonging

By questioning our relationship with SUP as our belonging, we are trying to seek actions that acknowledge the belongingness of the SUP. Positioning SUP as our belonging will shift our relationship. Also, seeking the actions of affect when the SUP is no longer our belonging. Actions that acknowledge its existence and that it belongs and it is no longer disregarded. Actions of care, repair, preserve and keep.

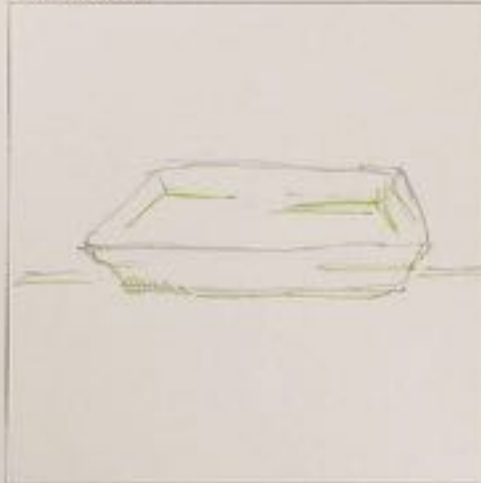


## GOODBYE (SINGLE-USE) PLASTIC

Item / Description: **Possibly compostable salad lid**

Date: **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

### A DRAWING OF YOU



### WHERE YOU BECAME MY BELONGING

Vendure, Main Street

### WHY YOU BECAME MY BELONGING

We were on our way home from grocery shopping and suddenly too hungry to think about making food at home. We ordered two salads and they came in compostable fiber containers with compostable plastic lids.

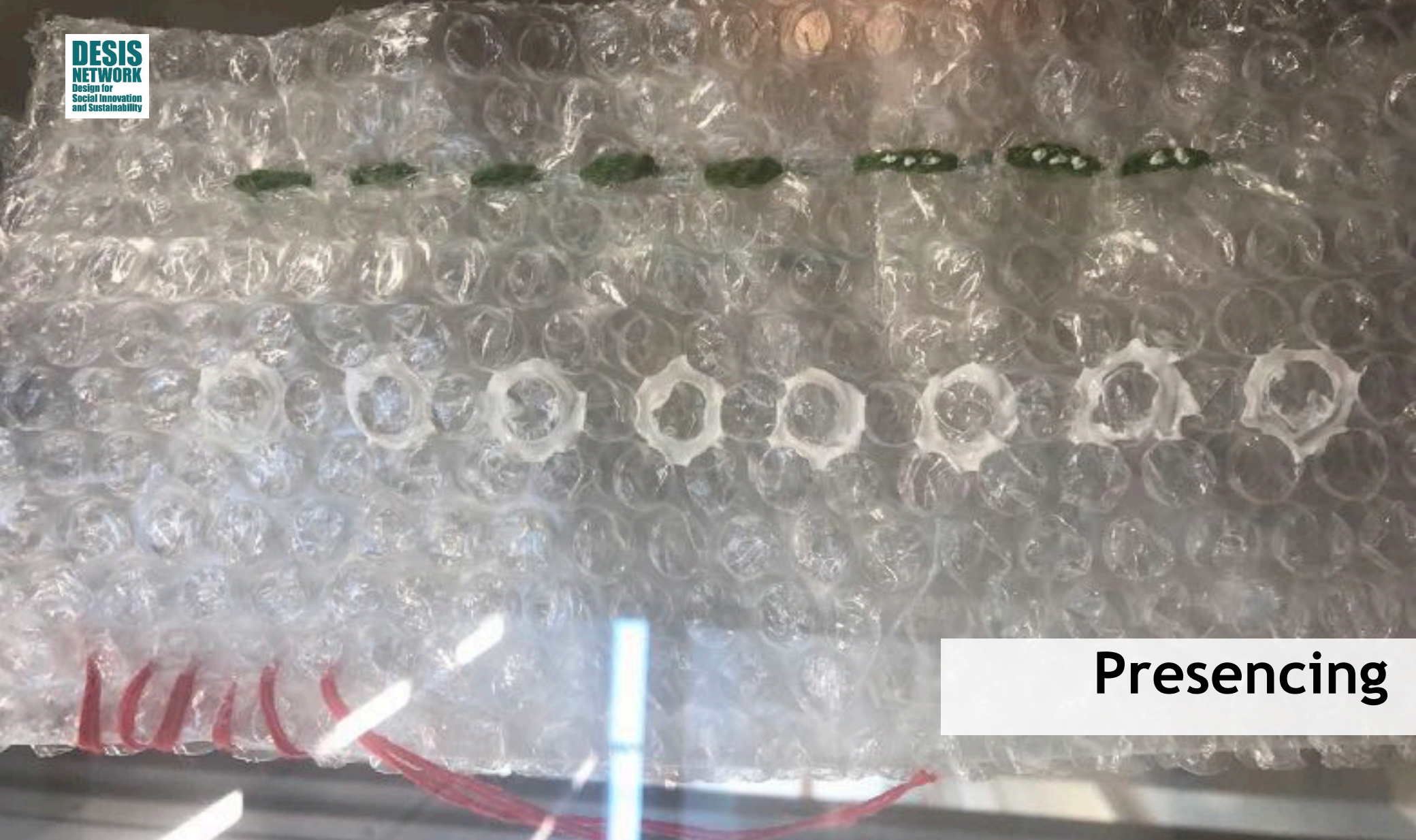
### WHERE I SAID GOODBYE

Unsure if whether the City of Vancouver can process this type of plastic or with the organic waste, we put you in the recycling with the other plastics.

# Saying Goodbye

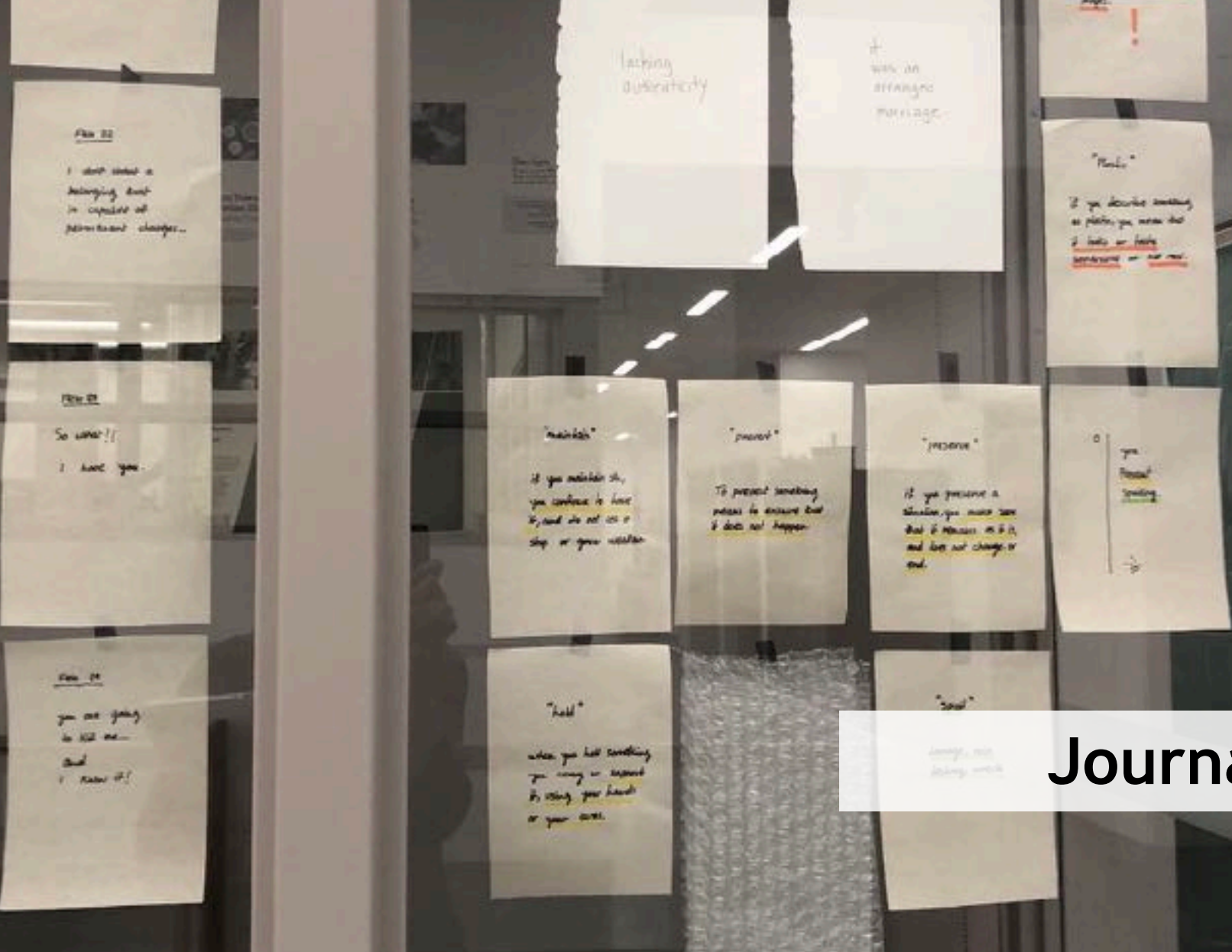
Saying goodbye acknowledges the brevity of our relationship with single use plastics. By doing this, we become more mindful of where we part ways with the ones we inevitably encounter. We logged **how** the plastic became our belonging, **why** they became our belonging and **where** we said goodbye, along with a quick drawing of the item.





## Presencing

The relationship can be a form of close awareness in a Buddhist sense, embracing plastic as a presence with which we are interdependent (we inter-are). Breathing mindfully and remembering to be non-judgmental about the material provides new observations and insights.



File 22  
I don't want a  
belonging that  
is capable of  
permanent change...

File 22  
So what!!  
I love you.

File 22  
you are going  
to kill me...  
but  
I know it!

lasting  
substantively

if  
with an  
affairing  
marriage

"Plan"

If you describe something  
as plastic, you mean that  
it holds or holds  
something or that you

"maintain"

if you maintain it,  
you continue to love  
it, and do not let it  
slip or give up.

"prevent"

To prevent something  
means to ensure that  
it does not happen.

"respond"

if you preserve a  
situation, you make sure  
that it remains as it is,  
and does not change or  
end.

you  
Plastic  
Journaling

"hold"

when you hold something,  
you carry or support  
it, using your hands  
or your heart.

"release"

change, not  
belonging, which

# Journaling

Being mindful of our everyday plastics, we started engaging in an intimate conversation with them through our daily journal. This includes educating ourselves on what actions these plastics play in our daily life and how is our response to those. Every day a letter to one of our plastics provides a time for self-reflective moments.

*"Excuse me, but do you have one of these that's not packaged in plastic?"*

*"Maybe. Let me check with the folks in the back..."*

## Conversational

Public conversations around avoiding single use plastic can lead to "social frictions", which are a normal part of social change. This in turn leads to inspiration for social innovation, new supportive relations, between members of a household (and plastics, Between researcher and members of the public, service staff (and plastics), between the members of a community (and plastics).



# SUPR Network

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**NADA.**