

WATER THERAPY

Curator Jane Withers' exhibition is bringing awareness to what's going on in our oceans

This year is the fifth iteration of Selfridges' Project Ocean, an exhibition aiming to expand public understanding of plastic pollution in our oceans. Greeting visitors at the entrance, 'Flotsam', an undulating installation by How About Studio uses 5,000 plastic bottles, approximately the amount used in the UK in under 15 seconds.

The exhibition also includes 'Gyrecraft' by Studio Swine and Andrew Friend, a collection of five objects crafted from plastic retrieved from the gyres where it accumulates. The Water Bar, a collaboration between Withers and

Arabeschi di Latte, serves visitors with water treated with charcoal, minerals and herbs – encouraging them to imagine life without the plastic bottle.

Previously, Withers has curated shows at the V&A and the Royal Academy highlighting environmental issues, and describes her obsession with water as 'hydrophilic'. She also works as a design consultant and is co-founder of Wonderwater, an initiative developing projects around the world aimed at raising awareness of global water issues.

Photo: Andrew Friend

For the exhibition, Studio Swine and Andrew Friend created a replica of the Sea Dragon, the research vessel on which the designers sailed into the North Atlantic Gyre.



Using plastic from the South Atlantic Gyre, this object is inspired by the area's treacherous waters and the polar expeditions that have crossed this passage.



Photos: Andrew Meredith, Petr Kratoch

How About Studio's installation of plastic water bottles simulates clear blue waters and also acts as a navigation through the exhibition.



For their representation of the North Atlantic Gyre, Studio Swine were influenced by the traditional local Scrimshaw craft of engraving practised by whalers.



Photos: Peter Kragel

Studio Swine's Indian Ocean piece is based on a shipping container, as 10,000 of these large metal crates are lost in the ocean each year, according to the designers.

Italian studio Arabeschi di Latte and curator Jane Withers installed the bar at London's Selfridges that aimed to make visitors "imagine life without the plastic water bottle".

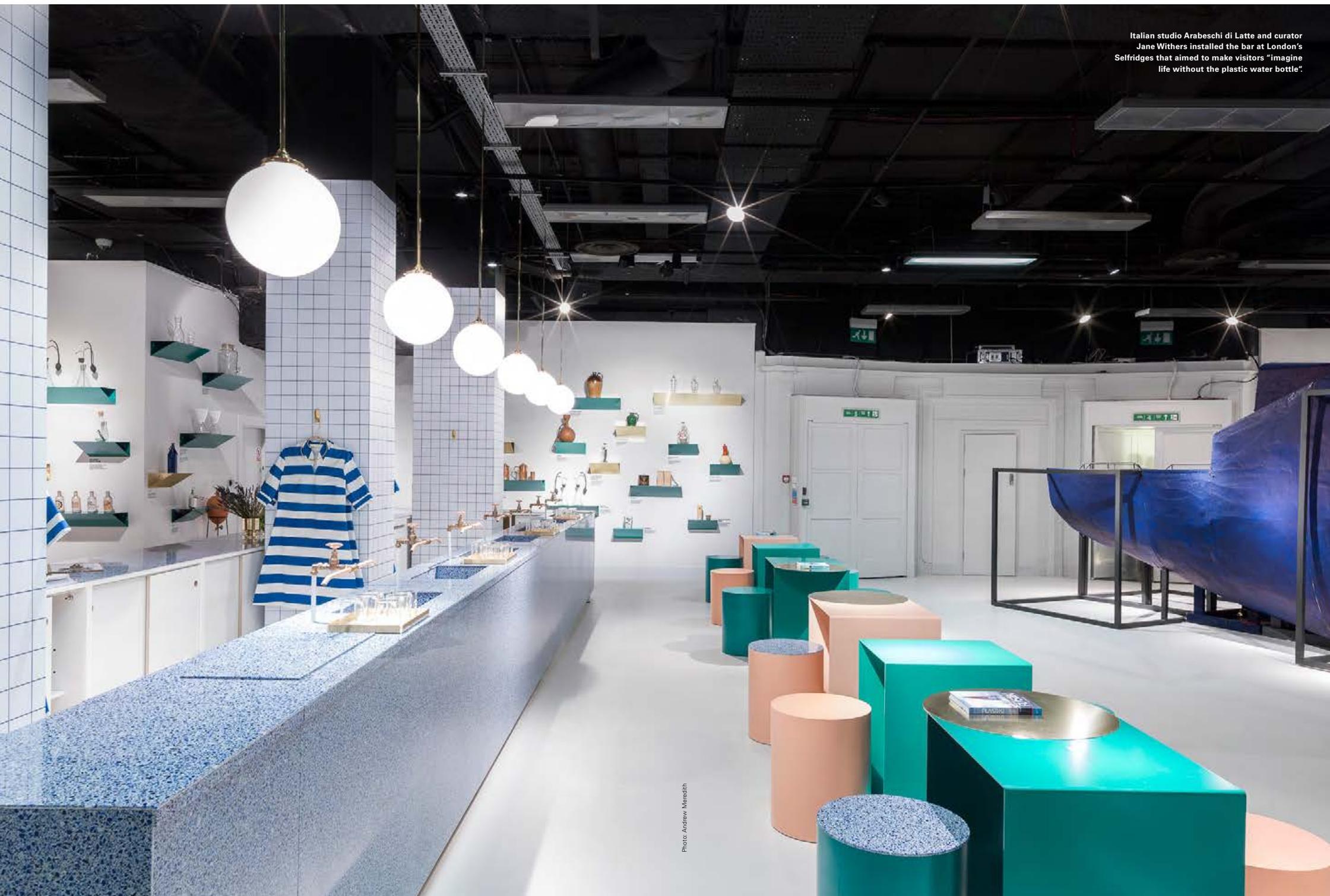


Photo: Andrew Meredith