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A NEW WORLD RISES

TALES OF A LEGO® FUTURE



JACKSON HARVEY

& ALEX TOWLER



WITH
CRISTY BURNE



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATORS

In 2020, the seed was planted for Relics: A New World Rises – an imagined future where humans no longer remain on planet Earth, and LEGO® minifigures have risen out of our forgotten debris to build new worlds in the objects we've left behind. We were asked by the Perth arts organisation FORM to get involved with Scribblers Festival, a local celebration of writing and storytelling, and the brief was to create an exhibition in their gallery, a rustic old goods shed that had been converted into a contemporary art gallery. The space was beautifully weathered, brimming with character and full of its own stories, and the creative constraints placed on us, such as the size of the building and the rustic architecture, contributed to the development of the core concept behind the Relics exhibit. Otherwise, we were given free rein to build whatever we could imagine.

We're passionate about using LEGO as a visual medium for storytelling. Although we both grew up playing with LEGO, the palette back then was simple, with limited colours and themes available. Today, it's a very different story. The vast array of pieces and colours on offer allow for practically limitless creation, enabling us to render much more detailed and sophisticated worlds with these little modular plastic bricks. With our art, our goal is to take LEGO beyond people's expectations of what they might see in a store and explore more mature and contemporary themes.

The more we developed this idea of a future overrun by minifigures, the more we were drawn to exploring the big-picture ideas of environmental decline, the consequences of our consumerist actions, and how they relate to what we throw away and leave behind. Although the worlds we created are playful and humorous, we'd also like our audiences to think about the path that led to this imaginary future.

Today, humans are producing and consuming at an unprecedented rate, and many of the products that are manufactured now will outlive their creators by centuries. Everything we manufacture today will eventually impact our environment in some way, including LEGO. The choice of the plastic brick as a medium to discuss topics of sustainability is aimed at drawing attention to the way our society uses, recycles and discards manufactured products.


Wherever possible, we built with used and salvaged materials – including the majority of our LEGO bricks, most of which were acquired through second-hand suppliers. Unlike many plastic toys in circulation, LEGO is incredibly durable. The first LEGO bricks produced in the 1950s are readily compatible with LEGO bricks made today, making it something that can be enjoyed across generations.

Despite the heavy themes and sombre questions behind these bright and colourful worlds, we love that we've rediscovered the joy of play and creativity that LEGO encourages. It's been a childhood dream come true for both of us, and we're excited to share our creations with you. Go forth and explore the new world rising!

Alex
Towler Jackson
Harvey



THE YEAR IS 2130...



After a century of environmental decline, humans no longer remain on planet Earth. In their absence, the world is slowly recovering and showing signs of new life. Among the waste, a collection of forgotten objects is blossoming with LEGO® worlds, each one inspired by the object the minifigures now call home. A marauding band of inventors have reverse-engineered a grandfather clock into a time machine. Retro arcade games house a futuristic space port. A cryonics facility is nestled inside a vintage fridge to protect the minifigures from the effects of climate change. And each object contains many more curious worlds to discover – all with their own stories to tell.

POST-HUMAN TIMES

Inspired by the mechanical intricacies of a rusty typewriter, the ingenious minifigures of the *Post-Human Times* have engineered a printing press to distribute the news of tomorrow. This antiquated contraption was once used by humans to laboriously stamp their words onto paper, letter by letter. Today, this popular newspaper is the leading source of knowledge and information in the new world.

With the printing press sitting atop the typewriter, the team keep the presses running hot around the clock. Beneath

the desk, where the drawers once were, the newsroom floor is a hive of activity, with intrepid journalists and editors furiously fact-checking and drafting copy.

The determined, truth-seeking reporters toil diligently, sifting through a world of uncertainty on a mission to unearth the credible. From in-depth coverage of the protests at Beetlesville to scandalous gossip columns spotlighting the stars of Cathode Studios, the *Post-Human Times* has something for everyone in 2130.

