



## Postmodernist architectural inuit concept with 250 red PE recycled cans

# THE BIBIGLOO

The Bibigloo (contraction of Bibi and Igloo) is at the same time a work of land art, a design object, a light source and a plastic art installation. It is a habitat type polyethylene (PE) igloo to replace the 20<sup>th</sup> century igloo traditionally made of ice. The Bibigloo was created for the first time for the Wirksworth Festival (UK) in September 2010.



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Bibigloo is made with 250 red PE recycled cans which are usually used as container for chemical products used in swimming pools.

Indeed, following the melting of the ice caps, innovative solutions must be found to relocate the Inuit people. The Bibigloo is made with 250 red PE recycled cans. These cans are usually used to contain chemical products for swimming pools. At 4m in diameter, by 2m high the design object is spacious. At night it is illuminated by compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and resists wind, rain and, naturally, snow.

The Bibigloo is an interactive experience for the general public. Getting to know the Bibigloo is first done by scrutinising the inside through little holes. These holes (round bottom quarter of each

plastic can) enable the curiosity of the on-looker to be satisfied. The public projects his fantasies on to and into the igloo. The plastic art installation harks back to the huts we made as children and to the igloos of our imagination. It is a kind of architectural fantasy. Whereas the "real" Inuit igloo is made with big blocks of ice, arranged in a helicoid way pattern, the Bibigloo is constructed with bricks/cans made out of plastic. This gives it something of an urban feel, or even maybe an industrial concept. The igloo of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has become a thing of the past. It serves only to remind us of an unspoilt and pristine landscape.

[www.bibi.fr](http://www.bibi.fr)



The Bibigloo casts a devilish glow, red as the depths of hell, warning us of the threat of global warming and the crumbling of our illusions, graphically described in Regis Debray's 2011 book, "La neige brûle" (The snow is burning).

### Statement by the artist Bibi (\*1964):

"Since 1992, by using daily life objects, made of a highly contemporary matter, my artworks have explored our relationship to our environment, as well as our capacity to face up to our contradictions as regards the waste we produce. I have searched for the hidden forms – animal or anthropomorphic – which the designers of these objects had in the back of their minds. Light has proved particularly helpful in revealing those forms to me. As such, in order to give plastic the place it deserves – the 6<sup>th</sup> element – I have fought especially hard against two universally distributed icons: the PE "Container" and the traffic "Cone". (...) I have built up my work around my personal experiences. (...) As such, I have organized my work around several themes - Hell, the Ark, the Fish, the Hunt and a very special building, the Bibigloo. Nonetheless, those installations remain playful, and most importantly, ironic."