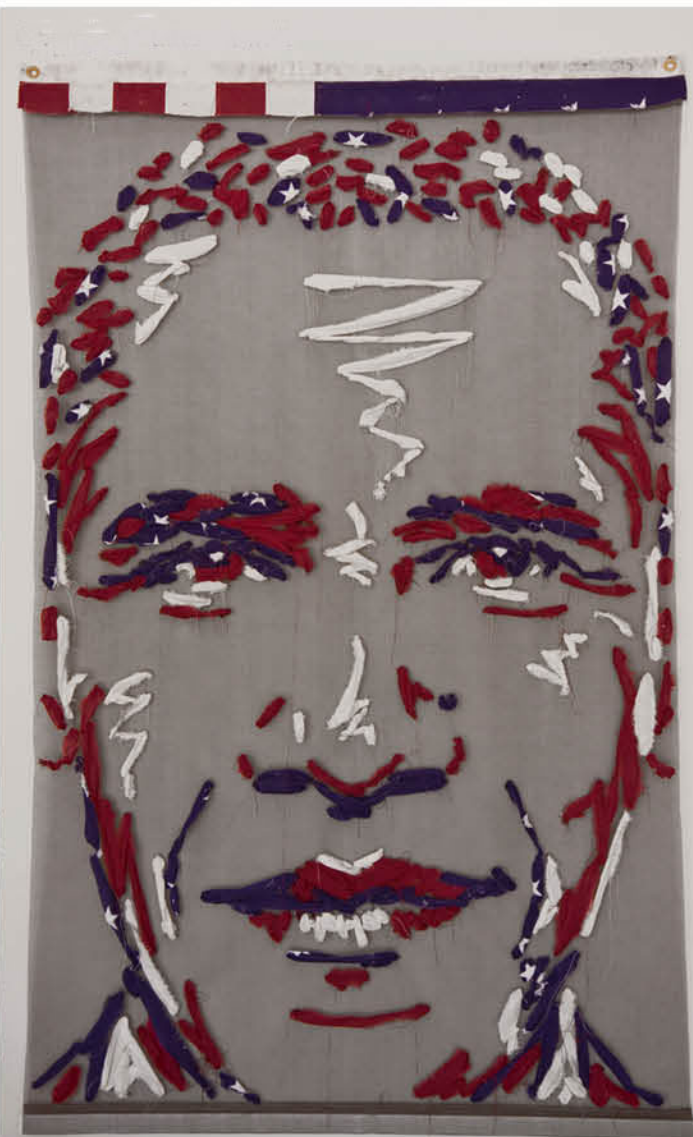




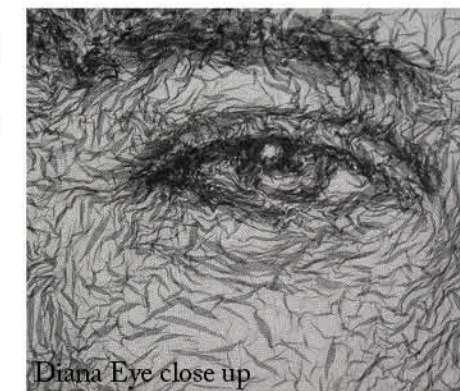
Lady Thatcher



Inspired by the Prince's passion and concerns towards ecological issues, and coupled with Monaco's ongoing commitment to recycling, Benjamin decided to explore a sustainable approach in constructing the portrait of the Prince: "I wanted to highlight the scope and variety of recycling processes, from the local community's involvement to the latest technology and traditional craftsmanship."

Over 1000 plastic bottles and numerous plastic bags were collected and donated by pupils from the International school of Monaco. The bottles were compacted and granulated in Monaco before being heat-compressed into a unique panel onto which thousands of recycled plastic eyelets were embedded. Plastic bags from local businesses were shredded into ribbons and woven through the eyelets to create the portrait image like a giant dot-to-dot.

His portrait of President Obama,



Diana Eye close up

entitled "Changing States" provided a poignant and powerful image of the 44th President and was officially unveiled at the New York Museum of Arts and Design shortly after the inauguration ceremony on January the 20th. In addition, Shine's image was replicated on Barnes and Noble's official commemorative range of products, including mugs, t-shirts and posters sold throughout the US.

It is present day and Shine's latest technique takes his fabric medium to yet another dimension. This time a single

length of tulle is manipulated through pleating and pressing to form intricate representations. The first of such artworks bravely depicts Rembrandt. Entitled "the Space between light and shade", the piece references the old master's pioneering method of emulating light and dark. "I'm really intrigued by this technique as there is a lot of scope to really push the qualities of this material to its limits, particularly the ability to create such tonal variation" says Shine.

With an ongoing array of projects ranging from artworks and fashion collaborations to creative toys and furniture, Benjamin Shine continues to stretch the boundaries between Art and design. While it would be easy to ride the wave of his various achievements and awards to date, it's clear that Shine remains more focused than ever on exploring the creative challenges the world has to offer. We certainly look forward to seeing the results.

By Miriam Kaabeche