



# STINK TO INK

Thanks to Air Ink, pollution is ready to be drawn somewhere much healthier than our lungs

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**AIR** Ink is the ultimate creative use for reducing our carbon footprint. Created by MIT spin-off Graviky Labs, it's the first ink made entirely out of recycled air pollution.

Anirudh Sharma, co-founder of Graviky Labs, on one of his many trips home to smog-heavy India had the concept for creating a tool that would repurpose a harmful substance in a useful manner. He and partner Nikhil Kaushik, initially developed this idea by creating printer ink from candle soot. After successfully demonstrating this experiment at conferences, the team found support through environmentalists and artists to continue and further evolve the project.

They built a device, called a Kaalink, that connects behind the exhaust pipe of a car, boat or truck. The Kaalink, working like a filter, captures the raw carbon (i.e. soot). After collection it is taken through a purification process to remove heavy metals and carcinogens. It is then combined with oils and solutions and turned into black ink that is safe for use.

The devices were tested on trucks, generators and ferries all over Asia for several months and the ink created and bottled. They found that each refillable 1-ounce (30-mL) bottle of ink would negate around 45 minutes worth of pollution. Thanks to a successful Kickstarter campaign, the team created a variety of available Air Ink products: from round-tip pens ideal for shading and small details, chisel-tip

The goal of Air Ink is to capture vehicular pollution before it reaches our lungs while safely repurposing it for a more creative use. Their 2mm round tip pen (above) is ideal for artists working on shading and small detail. The amount of Air Ink inside it negates approximately 50 minutes of diesel car exhaust.

markers more suited for thick lines and smooth strokes, to a thicker, wide-tip version made for murals and large-scale pieces.

Following this, they partnered with the Singapore-based beer Tiger to get the Air Ink tools into the hands of those who would ultimately use it: artists. They supplied several creatives throughout Asia and marveled as they turned something ugly into something beautiful.

Air Ink will be available for use everywhere this June with prices starting at \$35 for a single 2mm marker.

+ [air-ink.com](http://air-ink.com)

