

The Sea People







The Sea People

by Artist Nabil Ali

From the weeds of the sea that expands across the east coast of Essex, wrapped around spiral shells, fish bones and old weathered wood, the spirits tell hidden stories from the depths of the North Sea and beyond.

The Sea People are depicted as semi-abstract beastly figures, bringing awareness concerning the rapid coastal erosion and the loss of land. The decaying coastline reflects the eastern shores crumbling beneath our feet onto the beach below, echoing the dwellings long gone found at the edges of the land. The sea consumes the living, spitting bricks and rust twisted iron objects back onto the London clay, from a lost time existing no longer, merely a distant memory of the forgotten past.

Natural materials, painted with powdered Victorian terracotta pipe and London clay, utilised from the beach, mixed with hot bubbling beeswax applied to the hessian cloth. Weaved willow frames structurally formed, with found cuttlefish bones attached to the peoples' hats soundlessly spinning in the sea breeze. The facial characteristics replicate the washed-up clay stones scattered across the coastline, symbolically signifying the ghostly ancestors and lost communities of yesterday that brokenly lay beneath the sea today – they are, the Sea People.







I see the sea – indeed it sees me,
destructively claiming me back to
the bleakness of time;
where once I dwelled whilst
shackled to the breaking tides –
now, I see the sea watching me.

























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