

The Sea People

Nabil Ali



The Sea People

by Artist Nabil Ali

From the weeds of the sea that covers the east coast of Essex, wrapped around spiral shells, fish bones and old weathered wood, they tell the hidden stories from the depths of the North Sea and beyond. Artist Nabil Ali has created a haunting installation called *'The Sea People'* that depicts semi-abstract figures and brings awareness concerning rapid coastal erosion and the loss of land. The decaying coastline that reflects the eastern shores crumbles beneath our feet onto the beach below, with echoes of dwellings long gone found along our shores. The sea is taking the land, spitting back bricks and old twisted iron objects onto the London clay from a time that no longer exists, merely distant memories of the past. These sculptures have been made using natural materials and painted using powdered terracotta pipe and London clay collected from the beach, mixed with hot beeswax, then applied to the hessian cloth. Willow frames are structurally formed and found cuttlefish bone soundlessly spins in the sea breeze from the peoples' hats. The facial characteristics of each figure replicate the washed-up clay stones found scattered across the coastline and symbolically signify the forgotten ancestors and lost communities of yesterday that lay beneath the sea today.























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