

**B a r g a t e  
M o n u m e n t  
G a l l e r y ,    H i g h  
S t r e e t ,  
S o u t h a m p t o n ,  
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**ARTEL  
The  
Oceanography  
Project**

A selection of works by 9 artists from the Chichester based *Artel* artists collective, exploring connections between artists and scientists at Southampton's National Oceanography Centre.

**Private View:**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
6 - 8pm

**Dates:**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May Friday  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Gallery Opening Hours:**

Wednesday – Friday  
11 > 6,  
Weekends  
12 > 5



# ARTEL – The Oceanography Project

*The Oceanography Project* is the result of a series of collaborations and discussions between artists from the Chichester based artist group **Artel** and researchers at the **National Oceanography Centre** that have taken place over the past 2 years.

The **National Oceanography Centre** in Southampton is one of the worlds leading centres for research and education in Marine and Earth Sciences. The centre is the home of two Royal Research Ships, the James Cook and Discovery as well as Europe's deepest diving autosub. The research carried out ranges from satellite technology to deep-sea exploration and investigates some of the most important issues in marine science today from global warming to tsunamis.

**Artel** is an artist-led organisation that creates exhibition opportunities for professional visual artists based in and around West Sussex. With no permanent exhibition venue it presents work in a variety of formats and locations. For *The Oceanography Project* the artists from **Artel** present work resulting from creative investigations and collaborations with scientists at the NOC. As well as the stimulating the creation of new work, the collaborations have allowed the artists to explore



connections between the working practices of scientists and artists. The common areas of interest investigated have included the intuition, research, the interrogation of fact, problem solving and creativity, amongst others.

This project has more than met **Artel's** commitment to raising the profile of the arts in the region through promoting cultural and artistic exchange. With the power to generate fruitful insights and change perceptions **Bargate Monument Gallery** is proud to present this exhibition at a time when perceived boundaries between sciences and arts are proving themselves more porous than ever before.



## Pippa Blake in collaboration with Dr Sheldon Bacon

Pippa Blake's light boxes explore research into the effect of ocean currents on climate. Pippa joined the research team on the research vessel Discovery during August and September 2006.

The work onboard involved the deployment and recovery of measuring instruments to and from the seabed on miles of conducting cable, leaving installations such as current meter moorings to take measurements in the scientist's absence. Measurements and ocean movement have informed the creation of Blake's work.



## Carolyn Booker

Carolyn Booker's painting is based on research on coastal erosion and man's often futile attempts to hold back the tide.

I have taken the idea from the retreat and advance of the sea in my local area. The sea both creates and destroys the land. The shoreline at Chichester was once at the base of the downs.

Ancient man hunted at Boxgrove, on a river estuary now several miles inland. Just a short distance along the

coast the opposite has occurred, several villages and a huge area of deer park have disappeared beneath the waves since medieval times.

King Canute famously tried to hold back the sea at Bosham just south of Chichester. Today, huge piles of rocks have been built on the beach near Bognor in an effort to protect houses. This has in turn changed the shape of the foreshore in just a couple of years.

How will this effect erosion further down the coast? Will it work? Can we really hold back the sea? Only time will tell.

## Irina Brzeski



Human debris in the oceans provides the inspiration for Irina Brzeski's work. Washed up on beaches and shores, objects and junk, alien to the sea environment, are such a common sight it is easy to forget that they are actually out of place.

## Frances Desforges in collaboration with Dr T Tyler

Frances Desforges develops an intimate relationship to a tiny single celled plant, *Emiliana huxleyi*. The plant drifts on ocean currents and eventually its shields disintegrate and fall to the sea bed. These shields,

with other ocean structures, constitute a large part of the white cliffs of Dover. This microscopic plant plays a vital role in the food chain and carbon cycle of the planet. In drawing our attention to it, Frances Desforges elevates it to the iconic level which she feels it deserves.

## Helena Hines in collaboration with Dr Travis Mason

Working with the Channel Coast Observatory, which monitors continually shifting beaches along our coast, Helena Hines' work explores the process of collaboration itself as well as the pattern and effect of journeying waves. The installation explores flow of ideas formulated as a travelling wave, an extremely efficient form of energy transfer. 'Filed' sand traces capture a sense of fragility and continual shift as the wave heaps sediment in changing profile at the end of its reach.

## Jess Loseby (Pirate)

Rock pools and pirate games for a hazy childhood seaside experience provide inspiration for Jess Loseby's video installation. Using Digital Video, she has created a rock pool made of visual and textual data harvested from the NOCS website



## Margaret Marks in collaboration with Dr Ken Collins, Dr John Allen and all on RRS Discovery

Margaret Marks was privileged to observe and work with many research scientists and technicians as well as the artists and their collaborators during the project. She has assisted in model making from data collected about the underside of the Arctic ice shelf and has been involved in practical data collection on board RRS Discovery in the North Atlantic for three weeks in October 2006. Her aim has been to **fathom** (to understand; to comprehend; to think through) this plethora of ideas and activities that have been encountered in this project. She presents four short films of multilayered images and sound, each exploring various aspects of this collaborative endeavour.



## Jayne Sandys- Renton in collaboration with Lis Maclaren and Tania Smith

Jayne Sandys-Renton  
presents work derived from

deep sea explorations and films taken by and roV – an unmanned research vessel. Just as the research carried out by the scientists focuses on the impact of deep sea oil pipes so the artist exposes the human presence deep beneath the oceans.

## Walter Van Rijn collaborating with Robin Hankin

The sound installation created by Walter Van Rijn combines recordings taken during a research trip on RRS Discovery with sound generated by a digitally modelled ellipse. The effect, as you enter the gallery, is to transport you on board the research vessel purely through the medium of sound.



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