

COAST Exhibition

COAST is an exhibition of contemporary art aimed at raising awareness of coastal pollution and erosion around Britain's coastline. More generally though the exhibition questions the barriers sometimes set up to delineate art from science. The project is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the leading government agency sponsoring scientific research in the UK, under their Public Engagement programme. The exhibition is by Glasgow-based artist Marianne Greated through her involvement with scientists at Edinburgh University and her own personal experience of the coastal environment. Marianne has made paintings addressing these coastal issues and is currently researching ways in which artists and scientists interact and engage with the public. In addition to the paintings there is a working model wave tank, a DVD made up of interviews with people closely connected with the coast e.g. a surfer, a beach cleaner, a ranger, a coastal engineer and scientific researchers, and a soundscape of the coastal environment from different perspectives. As well as being of outstanding natural beauty and one of the country's most important natural amenities, the coastline is of major commercial interest. Tourism is highly reliant on coastal resorts and most of Britain's fish farms are located around the coast, either in sea-lochs or in open water.

Both sewage out-falls and power stations are located on the coastline and rely on seawater for their operation. The exhibition aims to show how coastal pollution and erosion affect the natural environment and people's lives and to drawing attention to some of the often-conflicting issues that arise. A set of posters explain the scientific background to the issues, as well as current research aimed at addressing them. The COAST exhibition has been shown at several venues around Scotland, ranging from an empty shop unit in the Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre in Leith to the prestigious Talbot Rice Art Gallery in Edinburgh, and has been visited by well over 30,000 people. It has also been shown at The National Bank Cultural Centre, Thessaloniki and The Goulandris Natural History Museum, Athens where it attracted publicity on radio and television. Recent showing has been at the Scottish Seabird Centre, the Hull Maritime Museum and the Naturhistorisk Museum in Aarhus, Denmark. It is currently showing at the Nordsomuseet in Hirtshals, Denmark and from there it goes to Copenhagen.

The Artist:

Marianne Greated is a Lecturer at the Glasgow School of Art. She has exhibited extensively throughout the UK and internationally since graduating from Glasgow School of Art in 1998 where she was a winner of the Meryll Lynch Prize for painting. She was co-director /curator of the Switchspace gallery.

Catalogue:

There is a printed catalogue for COAST. A reduced-size electronic version can be accessed at <http://www.ph.ed.ac.uk/~clive/COASTcatalogue.pdf>