

PRIMAL: EPHEMERAL Eco Art Residency

Edwina Cooper | Adelaide | South Australia



art + environment learning connections

about the artist

I am an emerging artist based in Adelaide, who has undertaken two international residencies around water and our relationship and engagement with it. The focus of my practice has encapsulated our sustained attempts at fathoming oceanic space through measure and control, contributing to my understanding of oceanic phenomena. Through my practice as a sailor, I have identified the boat to be the mediator of my ocean in experience. The act of sailing, as well as its materiality, informs an intimate and embodied understanding of oceanic space. The work produced through this process is 'rigged', as a human response of control through relevant systems (such as forecasting and mapping), as comparable generalised quantitative documents of the uncontrollable.



the importance of the environment

As a sailor and an artist, my environmental focus is primarily the ocean and my practice often questions our human relationship and interactions with it. Acknowledging the environment and its issues are inherent in this understanding. It is my opinion that the ocean is a foreign space, one which requires us to make great efforts over its thresholds in order to be able to traverse it. Whilst this has led us to many successes, such as seafaring, there are consequences on both local and global scales. Human impact can be found far beyond the bounds of 'normal' habitation. Through this project, I hope to re-examine oceanic literacy. For most people who stand on the threshold of the shore, the tumultuous surface is held away from us. It is my intention to share the sense of oceanic immensity and responsibility by grappling with the ocean's movement on the shore itself.



the eco art project and what it can achieve

I hope to create an installation which is responsive to its site, the environment and the phenomena it is exposed to. This enables me to physically work beside and draw parallels with my subject matter, the ocean. Through the making of work on-site, I hope to enact accessible and productive discussion about our relationship with the ocean, whilst standing alongside it. This will bring to people's attention the very human constructs we place on this foreign space. In addition to this, this project offers the opportunity to engage with a community who border the ocean and to learn about the local concerns and issues from recounted experiences. Our shared relationship and sense of responsibility is key in being able to have meaningful discussions.

further reading and eco art links

<http://edwina-cooper.squarespace.com>
<https://www.hauserwirth.com/stories/13971-roni-horn-saying-water>
<https://www.hakaimagazine.com/article-short/amplifying-data-through-art/>
'Seven-Tenths, The Sea and its Thresholds'—James Hamilton Paterson
'Shipwreck with Spectator: Paradigm of a Metaphor for Existence'—Hans Blumenberg

<http://edwina-cooper.squarespace.com>
<http://2mares-edwinacooper.tumblr.com/>
<https://vimeo.com/133921725>
<https://vimeo.com/204373153>
<http://aceopen.art/essay-shipshaped/>

PROJECT LOCATIONS | STREAKY BAY

- Doctors Beach, Wells Street
- Foreshore Lawns, Corner of Stuart Street & Eyre Avenue
- Campbells Landing, Corner of Linklater Street & Eyre Avenue

visit VISIBLEstreakybay.com