

SITE SPECIFIC PROJECT PAINTBOX 2025

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PROJECT BRIEF

Create a piece of site specific work in response to the landscape, environment and history of the stretch of land between Cockenzie and Port Seton Harbours in East Lothian, Scotland.



Spend time in the location exploring, reflecting and gathering inspiration.



INSPIRATIONS AND INSIGHTS

As I wandered the stretch of land that was our starting point, I was drawn to the nooks and crannies in the rocks - nature formed dwelling places and miniature shelters from the storm.



I thought of all the souls lost at sea over the centuries and thought these little shelters could call out to the lost spirits and guide them home to safe harbour.

Perhaps I could build some myself and lure them back if they were lost. I would build some dwelling places, protected from the elements inspired by the dolmens and burial mounds I have been learning about in other research.

Spirit Houses.



THE SEA WAS STORMY ON THE DAY OF OUR VISIT AFTER A FULL MOON AND THE TIDE WAS RISING . . .

DWELLINGS



I built my spirit houses on the rocks, I had hoped to place them looking out to sea but the rocks had different ideas.



Three dwellings were built and some twigs and bones found with the idea to make some beings to live inside them.

These could act as totems to communicate the use of these dwelling places to the lost and call them home.



BEINGS





Ancestral figures/beings/totems made from bone, wood, paper and string in their nature-made cave dwellings. Could they work as a lure to draw the lost souls home?





FOLLOW THE STONES

Maybe the quartz pebbles could mark the path up to the shelter as quartz is known for it's properties of electrical conductivity and will shine bright in the moonlight.

As I am constructing shelters for my beings, the tide is creeping in . . .





RECLAMATION BY THE SEA

The sea rises with the tide to take back the earlier spirit houses that I made. They would need to be made past the high tide lines to perform their true function. Maybe I will come back another time to make sanctuaries of more permanence.

REFLECTIONS AND FURTHER EXPLORATIONS

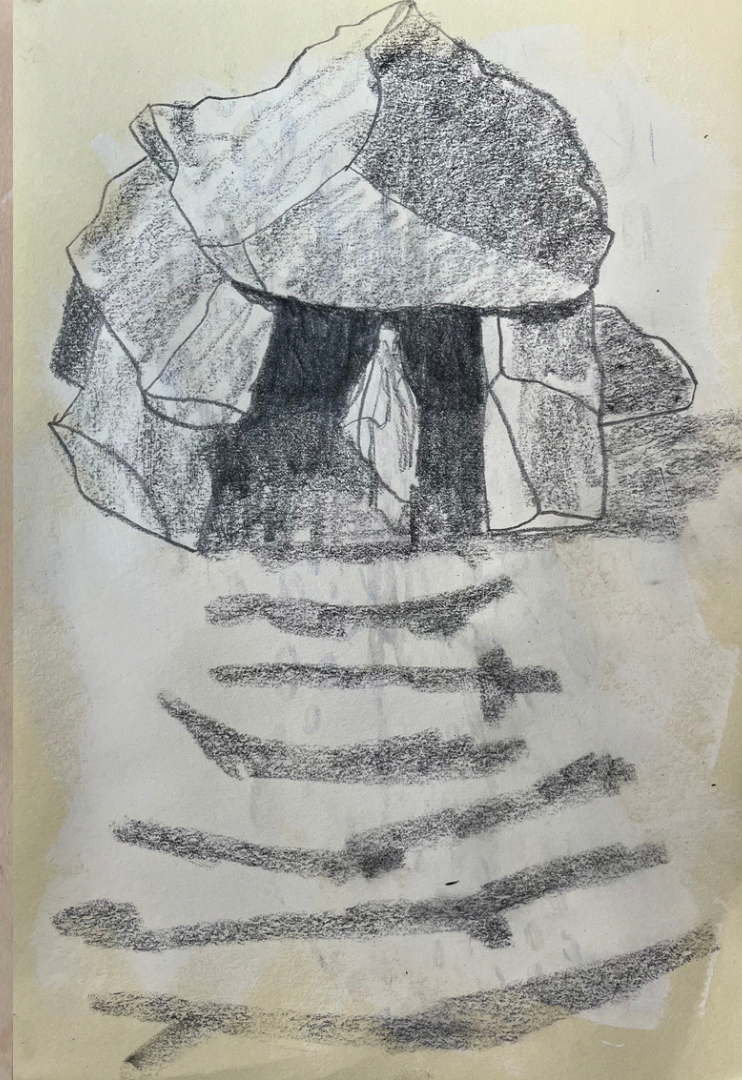


I felt deeply inspired to continue my explorations, after creating these structures and beings, and felt them begin to feed into other ideas that have been informing my work. I liberated a few rocks to recreate a dwelling house in my studio and made a wraith to inhabit it from a twist of tissue. I find humble materials often create a more powerful image as they transcend their mundane origins.

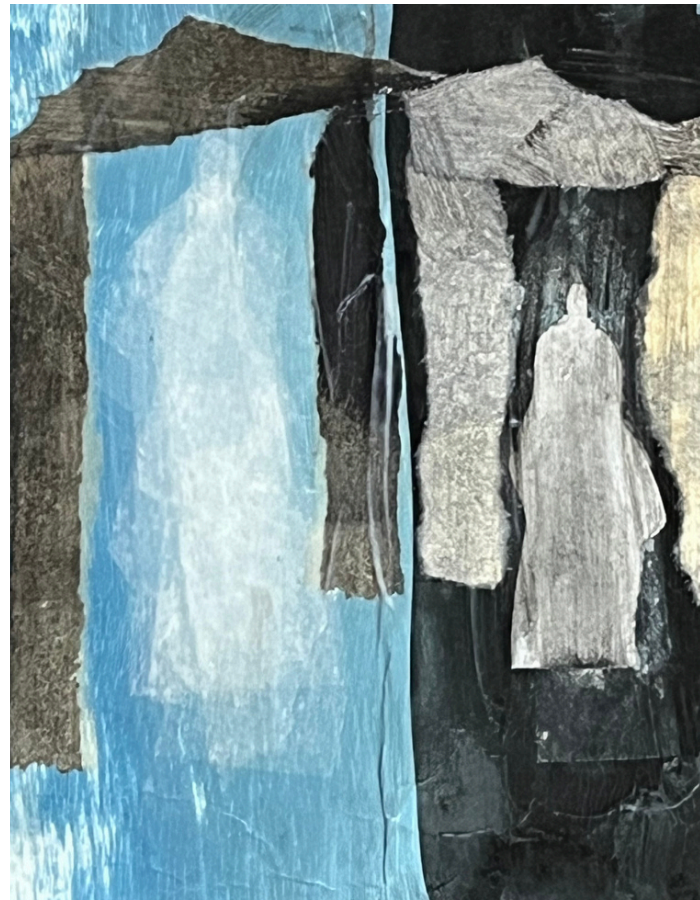


ARTWORK CREATED AFTER THE PROJECT

Drawings made with charcoal, graphite and ink in my studio from dwelling rebuilds and sticks to lead a pathway in.



FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

After exploring the possibilities of construction with my liberated rocks from Cockenzie I realised I needed more rocks and collected some from my local river to build with. I am now in the process of creating and photographing the forms I can make with them to use as spirit houses in my paintings, portals, entry points and doorways to travel to and from the otherworld.

What a rich seam of inspiration this project has allowed me to uncover and one I look forward to excavating in the coming months.



Thank you Paintbox!

For forcing me out of my comfort zone and creating fresh inspiration from my site specific adventures.



2025

