

# BEACH of DREAMS

UK-wide Coastal  
Arts Festival  
1 May – 1 June 2025



KINETIKA  
DESIGN THAT MOVES



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



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# Contents

<b>Welcome to Beach of Dreams</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Climate emergency and key dates</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Map</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Designing your silk</b>	<b>6 – 8</b>
<b>Inspiration</b>	<b>9 – 10</b>
<b>Organise your Beach of Dreams event</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Share your story</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Reimagining our future</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Make a Climate Commitment</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Why 'Beach of Dreams'?</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Team, Funders &amp; Partners</b>	<b>18</b>

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# Welcome to Beach of Dreams

## UK-Wide Coastal Arts Festival

1 May – 1 June 2025

We invite participants – organisations, artists, walkers, writers, activists, and scientists – to join a month-long journey in 2025 to explore, celebrate, and engage with the UK’s coastlines. We encourage you to participate by organising walking and arts-based activities that reflect on and respond to your coastal environment and the climate emergency.

As part of the Beach of Dreams network, you are invited to contribute to Kinetika’s evolving national artwork – an installation of hundreds of naturally dyed silk pennants, each representing an individual’s dream connected to a unique part of the coastline. This collaborative project, started in 2021, tells the collective story of our relationship with the coast.

This Resource Pack will guide you in designing your own pennant, sharing your story and making a Climate Commitment for meaningful action. So far, 620 silks have been created through pilot projects in Suffolk and Essex (2021) and Morecambe Bay (2023).

To learn more, please visit our website:  
[beachofdreams.org](http://beachofdreams.org)

Thank you for being part of the journey, we look forward to creating with you.

*Ari Pretty*

Artistic Director, Beach of Dreams



# Climate emergency & coastal change

From June 2024 to June 2025, we will embark on a journey to explore the diverse coastlines around the UK.

Our aim is to uncover the hidden treasures along our shores – on cliffs, beaches, sands, saltmarshes, and mudflats – while reflecting on how climate change and other factors are reshaping these landscapes.



We ask: How can we create a better future for our coastlines, our environment, our wildlife, and ourselves?

## Take a moment to reflect, pause, and envision the path forward.

The goals of Beach of Dreams are to:

- Explore, through creative outdoor coastal activations, how we can protect our environment, support our communities, and shape a sustainable future.
- Promote health, wellbeing and happiness.
- Inspire climate awareness for future generations through shared creativity, ideas, pledges, and resources.
- Strengthen the connection between participants and their coastal landscapes.

## Key dates

2024



Beach of Dreams 2025 launched.



First submission for the design for your silk pennant.

2025



Second submission for the design for your silk pennant.



**Festival Month  
Beach of  
Dreams  
UK-wide  
Coastal Arts  
Festival**

TO



Finale event in Weymouth.



Ards Peninsula

Fife

South Tyneside

Morecambe Bay

Colwyn Bay

# BEACH of DREAMS

Great Yarmouth

Suffolk & Essex Coastline

Thames Estuary

Hastings

Weymouth

- 2025
- 2023
- 2021

# Designing your silk



If you are a Beach of Dreams Member or have signed up to contribute to the national artwork – The Beach of Dreams Silks by Kinetika – you’ll play a part in adding to the dynamic, evolving and travelling installation of hundreds of naturally-dyed, hand-painted silks. To date, over 600+ pennants have been created, showcasing the profound connections people have with their coastal environments.

Your questions, Climate Commitment, drawings, and photographs will inspire the creation of your bespoke silk pennant at Kinetika Studios by Kinetika artists. These pennants celebrate your connection to the coast and can be carried, performed with, or displayed during outdoor activities during the 2025 festival.

Submit your designs via [this form](#) by 15 February 2025. After registering, you’ll receive a link along with reminders as the deadline approaches.

Submit your designs: <https://bit.ly/4fKAKYI>

For questions about the submission process, contact us at [info@beachofdreams.org](mailto:info@beachofdreams.org)

## 1

## Begin with a question

Beach of Dreams invites you to respond to the question: How can we create a better future for our coastlines, our environment, our wildlife, and ourselves? Questions are at the heart of the Beach of Dreams programme, with each commission centred around a particular thought-provoking question and its response, sparking reflection and creativity. We encourage you to embrace this spirit of inquiry as you embark on creating your pennant.

What kind of future do you envision? Perhaps resilient shores brimming with wildlife, communities coming together to combat climate change, or a coastline shaped by personal memories. Your questions and ideas will serve as a powerful catalyst for your pennant creation.

- What if the tides could tell stories of change?
- How can we balance our love of the sea with its preservation?
- What does your coastline need most to thrive?

Let your curiosity guide you.



## 2 Capture your coastline

Your photographs will serve as the foundation for your drawing, which Kinetika artists will transform into a unique design. To guide this process, we invite you to view the landscape as if it were a drawing. Look for the lines, shapes, and graphic elements that stand out – what is easy to interpret visually?

We ask you to take two high-resolution colour photographs of your beach or coastal location:

- Wide shot: A landscape view that gives context and captures the essence of where you are.
- Close-up: A detailed image of something that inspires you. This will help shape your bespoke silk pennant. Focus on elements such as patterns, textures, shapes, or colors that make your coastline unique.

Need inspiration? Look at the ground beneath your feet and the surrounding landscape and seascape. What catches your eye? Sea, sand, rocks, shells, plants, animals, piers, posts, graffiti, nets, or even the play of light and shadow.



## 3 Reflect and write

In 300 words or fewer, describe your connection to this stretch of coastline.

- Begin by revisiting your central question
- What drew you to this location? What do you see there that captures your attention?
- Reflect on who you share this stretch of coastline with. Are there cherished memories tied to this place?
- Consider how the coastline has changed over time. What transformations have you observed, and how have they impacted the environment, the community, or your connection to this place?
- Your dreams and concerns for the future of this coastline, what do you hope for its preservation, growth, or resilience in the face of challenges?

Give your piece a meaningful title, to encapsulate its essence. Let your words capture the beauty, history, and aspirations that link you to this unique stretch of coast.



### Shells at Shoeburyness

I had wanted to walk to the end of the bar at Shoeburyness ever since I'd set foot on East Beach about three years ago. We'd checked the tide on this chilly November morning, and followed rivulets of receding water as it lured us as far as we dare go. Surprisingly the sun emerged and pierced through the limpet covered concrete pillars reflecting on the wet shiny cracked mud, revealing clusters of cockle shells, embedded in soggy sand, washed up on top of each other, cracked, broken, fragmented.

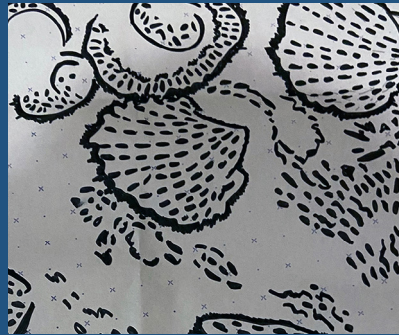
Since working in Thurrock, I've walked many times, the miles that stretch and wind down river from Purfleet-on-Thames to this point at the mouth of the estuary, where the Thames meets the North Sea. I've met and



## 4 Create a line drawing

This step is optional (the Kinetika artists will create a drawing from your photographs if you prefer), but we highly encourage you to give it a try. Your drawing can be any size.

1. Download our pennant template  
Pennants are 180cm x 50cm
2. Print out your close-up photo and use a pencil to trace its lines, patterns, and textures.
3. Refine your design within the template, simplifying or exaggerating these patterns with a thick marker.
4. Scan or photograph your completed drawing for submission.



Your interpretation will help guide the Kinetika artists in

## 6 Submit

By 15 February 2025, upload the following via the provided online form:  
<https://bit.ly/4fKAKYI>. You will submit:

- Your question
- 2 high-res colour photographs (wide shot and close-up)
- 300 words describing your connection to the coast
- Your optional black-and-white line drawing
- Your Climate Commitment

## 5 Turn your reflection into a Climate Commitment

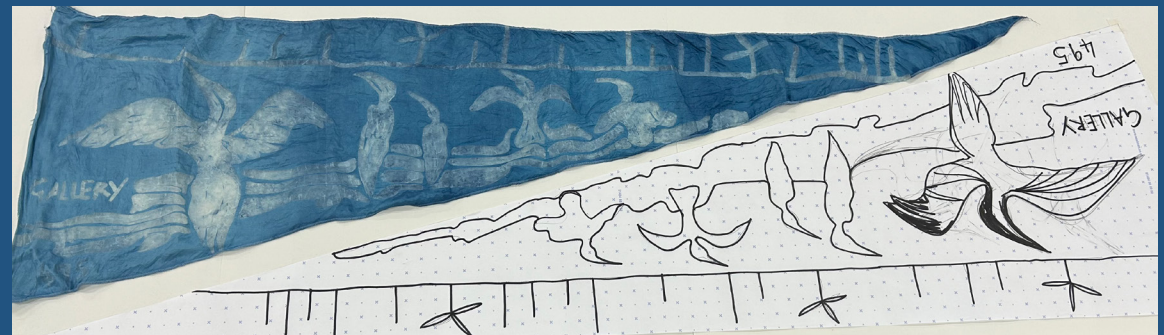
Think about the role your actions can play in protecting your coastline and the wider environment. Use your observations and written reflections to shape a meaningful Climate Commitment. What do you value most about our shorelines? How have you seen them change over time, and what do you hope for their future? For example:

- "I will advocate for the protection of coastal habitats, working to safeguard wildlife and biodiversity in the face of climate change."
- "I will actively campaign for policies that promote sustainable practices, ensuring the preservation of this coastline for future generations."
- "I pledge to organise monthly beach cleanups, helping to reduce plastic pollution and protect marine ecosystems."

Share this commitment pledge alongside your submission to show how your personal connection can inspire real-world action. Whether big or small, every step counts.

wW

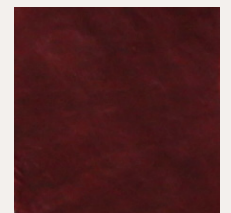
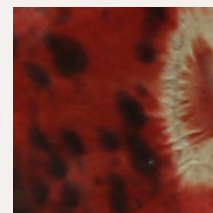
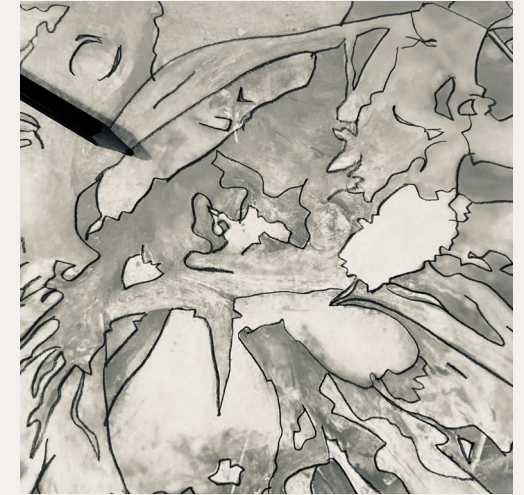
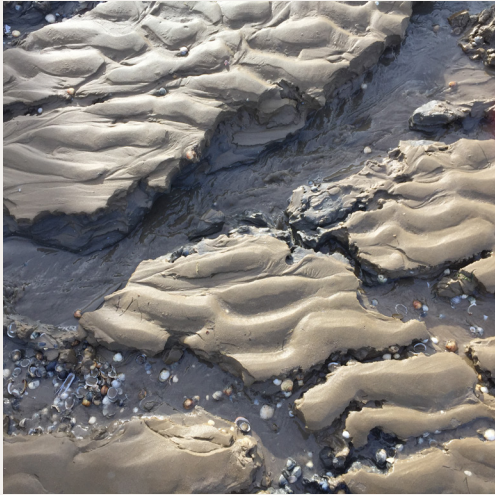
For more resources and guidance on writing your Climate Commitment, [click here](#) and visit page 14.





# Inspiration

Here are some examples of natural shapes and textures to inspire your designs – things to observe on your initial walk. You'll also find ideas on how these elements can be transformed into patterns for your pennant, along with a selection of natural dyes Kinetika has been experimenting with for the silk flags.



# Inspiration

Step-by-step guides demonstrating how two flags were transformed from photograph to finished design.



Ali Pretty's photograph of her original inspiration at Covehithe Beach, Suffolk; two stages of the line drawing in progress; and the wax pattern being applied to the silk.



The drawing that Kinetika made, based on Elizabeth Lynch's original photograph of Maggi Hambling's Aldeburgh Scallop (inset); transforming the drawing into a pattern on the flag, and finally waxing the silk.



# Organise an event or activity

Host your own event, share it with us, and see it featured on our interactive map – inviting others to explore and participate. No idea is too small or too ambitious – this is a platform for communities to showcase their unique stories, talents, and traditions. Anyone can participate by hosting an event that inspires others to spend time on the coastline. Whether it's a walk, cycle, row, or swim; a picnic or communal meal; a dance performance on the beach or a circus show on the promenade – the possibilities are endless.

For more guidance on organising your own event and to submit your event details, please visit: [beachofdreams.org/take-part](https://beachofdreams.org/take-part)

Need some inspiration? Here are some ideas.

- Coastal walks led by experienced walking groups
- Coastal mobility and access group activities
- Site specific creative writing workshops (or walkshops)
- Film screenings, music or outdoor performance
- Beachcombing and litter picks
- Mud walks and mud larking
- Visits to hidden coastal gems
- Environmental workshops
- Coastal arts and crafts activity
- Coastal storytelling circles
- Natural history, environmental, wellbeing, artist, talks and discussions
- Environmentally friendly foraging
- Natural dyeing activity



# Share your story

As you begin to connect and plan your activity as part of the festival, we would love to share your stories over on the Stories area of our website. Continue to creatively capture your project and theme anyway you like.

Here are just a few ideas: photos, quotes, film, hand-drawn trails and maps, prints, music, travel diaries, audio journeys, articles, interviews, poetry, writing, essays, illustrations, zines, newsletters.



Tessa  
Bunney



**Stories help us imagine the future differently. Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others... telling stories is our best hope of reflecting the kind of world we want to live in and, therefore, gives us hope of creating it.**

**– Peter Forbes**

Richard Soper



# Reimagining our future

Throughout this project we encourage you to reflect on the following:

- **What impact can Walking Artists have on local groups and individuals through engaging them in creative outdoor coastal activity?**
- **Will the impact of co-curating artworks engender an emotional connection to their stretches of coastline?**
- **Will that result in active communities who are prepared to change attitudes/values and take action in response to the current climate emergency, towards building a sustainable, happier, healthy future?**



# Make your Climate Commitment

Every action counts. By making a Climate Commitment, you're joining a collective effort to safeguard the beauty, heritage, and resilience of the UK's coastlines for generations to come

Your pledge can take any form – big or small, creative or practical. Whether it's organising a beach clean-up, reducing single-use plastics, or inspiring your community to act, every step forward brings us closer to a more sustainable future.

Each commitment you make helps build a nationwide map of collective action. This map allows us to see the bigger picture, track progress, and build a lasting legacy of change that will inspire future generations. Our coastlines are at a critical moment, and your commitment is key to ensuring they thrive. Every commitment plays a vital part in a much larger story.

Not sure where to start? Explore our resources to find inspiration and submit your Climate Commitment here: [beachofdreams.org/take-part](https://beachofdreams.org/take-part)

“

**We will develop and support resilience plans to ensure that we are prepared for coastal climate change.”**

“

**We will seek to use locally sourced, seasonal produce for our community meals.”**

“

**We pledge to share information about the species and habitats on our stretch of coast through leading nature walks.”**

“

**We will seek to use locally sourced, seasonal produce for our community meals.”**



# Why 'Beach of Dreams'?

In 2017, Kinetika's Silk River project connected ten communities along the Thames in the UK and the Hooghly River in India through a creative exploration of their environments. These connections were forged through long-distance walks with local residents, accompanied by stunning silk banners that told the unique stories of each location.

Kevin Rushby, a traveler, author, and journalist, joined these walks and documented his journey in a daily blog. On one memorable day, he walked with Kinetika's Art Director Ali Pretty from Tilbury to East Tilbury. Along the Thames Estuary's glittering foreshore, he was struck by the remnants of history scattered across the landscape, which led him to name it "The Beach of Broken Dreams." His reflections reveal how the river still holds echoes of World War II, a poignant reminder of lives disrupted and dreams shattered.

[silkriver.co.uk](http://silkriver.co.uk)

Silk River, 2017



“A few years ago, near Tilbury, I experienced something profound. In the bleakest setting, on a grey flat day, with a muddy tide sucking on a scraggy shoreline, I came across a beach filled with marvels and treasure. It was the place where London had dumped its Blitz debris on top of a Victorian tip which was itself on top of a Georgian dump, and so on back to the Romans. I was totally unprepared for it. No one had warned me. I'd strayed from the path and was watching my feet when I began to zigzag between the strange objects that were sticking out from the shingle and sand.

Gently extracting a complete 19th century glass bottle from under a broken WWII wireless set and a vicious thistle, I reflected that you just never know where joy and salvation are coming from. Beauty and hope can crop up in the unlikeliest of places.

The beach is always the place where human life is exposed, with all its frailties, ambitions and dreams. Voyages begin and end here. Clothes are removed to expose the hard-won six-pack, or the beer belly. Novels are started and finally finished. Children and dogs have fun, but sometimes, tragically, drown. On beaches we find sublime

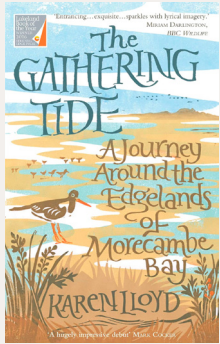
panoramas, but also all the rubbish that we had thrown away and hoped never to see again. With a brutal disregard for human sensitivities, the sands bear witness to our mistakes: the dead dolphin in a broken fishing net, the empty container with the skull and crossbones sticker, and the stricken seabirds marinated in crude oil - all things I have encountered on the British coast. And somewhere high up in the dunes among the rare orchids and butterflies, there is often a wavy line of dried seaweed, like a hastily scribbled message from the sea, warning us of even higher tides to come.

This is a blog extract from Kevin Rushby. His Silk River blog page can be found at: [silkriver.co.uk/uk-walk-blog](http://silkriver.co.uk/uk-walk-blog)

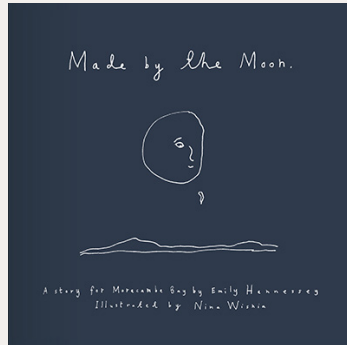


# Bibliography

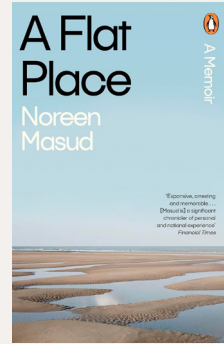
## Writers that have inspired us



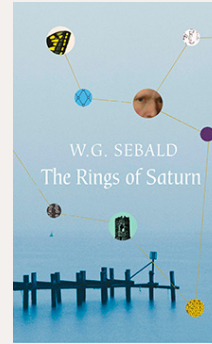
The Gathering Tide  
Karen Lloyd



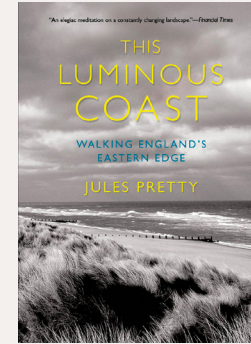
Made by the Moon  
Emily Hennessey  
(Children's Book)



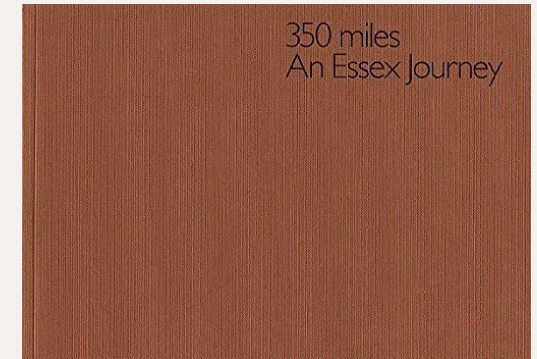
A Flat Place  
Noreen Masud



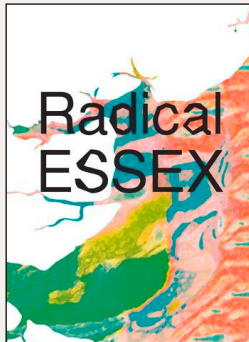
The Rings of Saturn  
W.G. Sebald



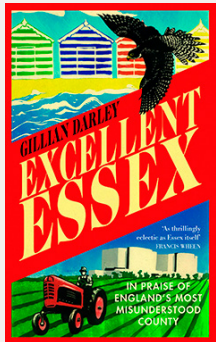
This Luminous Coast  
Jules Pretty



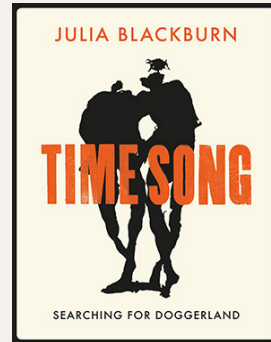
350 Miles: An Essex Journey  
Ken Worpole with  
photographs by Jason Orton



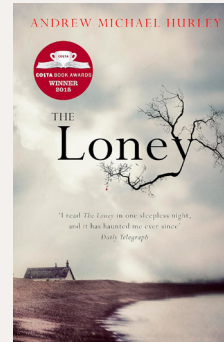
Radical Essex  
Published by  
Focal Point



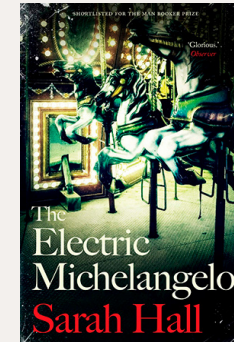
Excellent Essex  
Gillian Darley



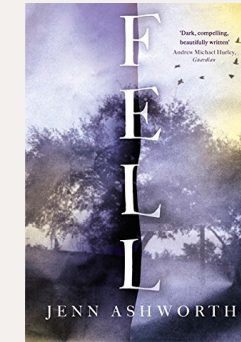
Time Song: Searching for Doggerland  
Julia Blackburn



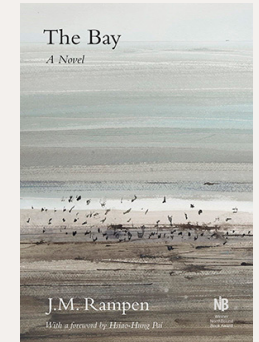
The Loney  
Andrew Michael Hurley



The Electric Michelangelo  
Sarah Hall

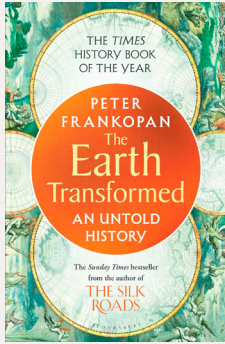


Fell  
Jenn Ashworth

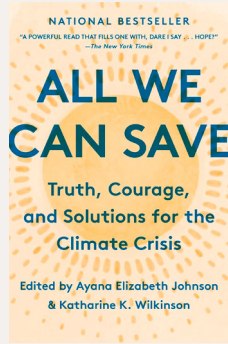


The Bay:  
a Novel  
Julia Rampen

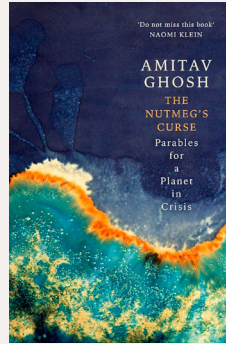




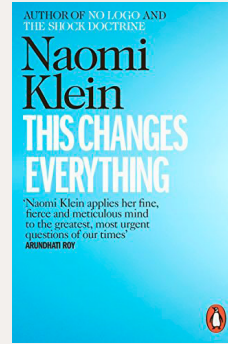
The Earth Transformed  
Peter Frankopan



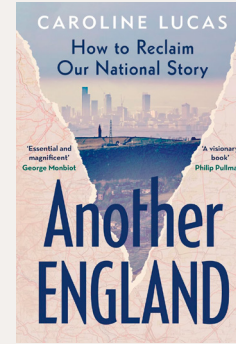
All We Can Save:  
Truth, Courage,  
and Solutions for  
the Climate Crisis  
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Ayana Johnson  
and Katharine  
K. Wilkinson



The Nutmeg's  
Curse  
Amitav Ghosh



This Changes  
Everything:  
Capitalism Vs  
The Climate  
Naomi Klein



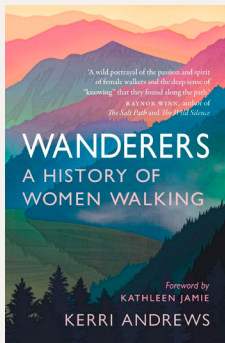
Another England:  
How  
to Reclaim Our  
National Story  
Caroline Lucas



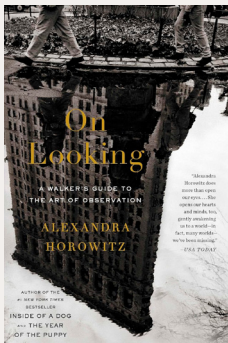
Ocean of Life:  
The Fate of Man  
and the Sea  
Callum Roberts



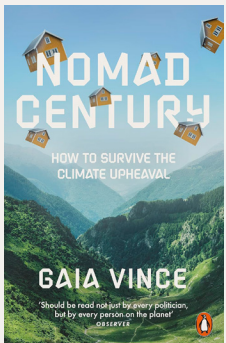
Walking:  
Documents of  
Contemporary Art  
Edited by  
Tom Jeffreys



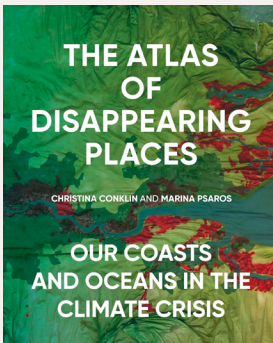
Wanderers:  
A History of  
Women Walking  
Kerri Andrews



On Looking:  
A Walker's Guide  
to the Art of  
Observation  
Alexandra  
Horowitz



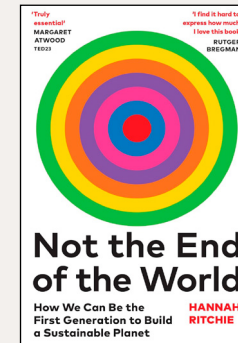
Nomad Century:  
How to Survive  
the Climate  
Upheaval  
Gaia Vince



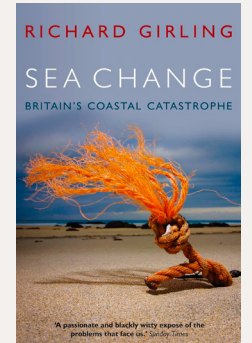
The Atlas of  
Disappearing Places:  
Our Coasts and  
Oceans in the  
Climate Crisis  
Christina Conklin  
and Marina Psaros



The Art of  
Disruption:  
A Manifesto For  
Real Change  
Magid Magid



Not the End of  
the World: How  
We Can Be the  
First Generation  
to Build a  
Sustainable Planet  
Hannah Ritchie



Sea Change:  
Britain's Coastal  
Catastrophe  
Richard Girling

# Presented by Kinetika

## About Kinetika Design that moves

Kinetika unites communities through exceptional silk-based designs and public spectacles that inspire social action and enrich local environments. Guided by a vision to pioneer community-driven art and design, we aspire to ignite enduring positive change, cultivate cultural diversity, and empower resilient, sustainable communities worldwide.

Our 27 years of experience champions an adaptable and accessible approach to cocreating designs in silk. Our methods engage and empower diverse communities, enhance social cohesion and foster a sense of pride and belonging.

Flagship projects include Thank You Dance for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant (2022); Silk River a British Council commission for the UK/India Year of Culture in (2017); T100 Festival a walking, talking and making outdoor arts festival in Thurrock and En Flag as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the Paris Olympics (2024).

Founded in 1997 by Ali Pretty, Kinetika is a charity and a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

## About Ali Pretty Artistic Director, Kinetika & Beach of Dreams

Ali Pretty is the Founder and Artistic Director of Kinetika, established in 1997 to unite communities through extraordinary silk-based designs and public spectacles that inspire social action and enrich local environments. With a distinguished background in carnival arts and community engagement, Ali has collaborated on major events worldwide, including WOMAD, the Olympics and Cultural Olympiads (Atlanta, Athens, Beijing, London, Paris), and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant. Since 2012, Ali has pioneered transformative walking arts projects, including T100 festival.

She served as the Artistic Director for Silk River, a British Council UK/India Year of Culture project, and now leads Beach of Dreams, a year-long creative programme exploring the UK's coastal heritage and climate futures.

Instagram @aliwalkingpretty  
LinkedIn

## Beach of Dreams Team

Ali Pretty, Artistic Director  
Donna Plakhtienko, Operations Director  
Maria Bota, Residencies & Seminars Curator  
Aniela Zaba, Creative Producer  
Bibi Delair, Production Assistant  
Ava Szajna-Hopgood, Digital Engagement & Content Producer  
Emma Collins, Marketing Manager  
Lesley Robinson, Natural Dye Specialist  
Kevin Rushby, Journalist & Stories Writer

## With thanks to our funders

Arts Council England  
Historic England

## With thanks to our Regional Partners

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Beat Carnival  
Activate  
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Stronger Shores  
Essex Book Festival