

BEACH of DREAMS

London, UK
15 October 2024

Beach of Dreams: A nationwide celebration of our coastlines unveils new participatory artist commissions

- Beach of Dreams is a **UK-wide coastal arts festival** activating and exploring the unique heritage, cultures and climate futures of our coastlines
- From **1 May to 1 June 2025**, Beach of Dreams will present impactful artistic commissions created in collaboration with communities across the UK's coastlines
- The festival will unveil **new artist commissions from renowned creators**, including artist **Julie Brook**, playwright **Anders Lustgarten**, and sound artist **Jason Singh**, among others
- **Individuals, groups and organisations are invited to get involved** in Beach of Dreams, a Kinetika project, supported by **Arts Council England** and **Historic England**



Jason Singh (Credit: Julian Fraser); Julie Brook, *Firestack*, (Scotland, 2016); The Beach of Dreams Silks, Kinetika (2024)

From 1 May to 1 June 2025, Kinetika will present Beach of Dreams, a UK-wide coastal arts festival, supported by Arts Council England and Historic England. This remarkable programme will feature major new commissions from internationally acclaimed and emerging artists together with organisations across the UK. Today marks the first reveal of the artists and their commissioned projects alongside a diverse array of community initiatives and partnerships that showcase the expansive interdisciplinary creative programming of Beach of Dreams.

"The Arts Council is thrilled to support Kinetika's Beach of Dreams. The creativity and collaboration between renowned artists and local communities in celebrating the UK's shoreline is truly inspiring. Festivals like these not only highlight the beauty and heritage of our coastlines but also encourage meaningful conversations around climate action. We're excited to see the impact this project will have in bringing people together and fostering a deeper connection to the natural environment."

– Hazel Edwards, South East Area Director, Arts Council England

Iconic and distinctive locations throughout England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will provide stunning backdrops for these captivating commissions. From the historic wonders of the Ards Peninsula in Northern Ireland, to the charming fishing villages of Fife and the rugged cliff paths of the South Tyneside coast, the festival will transform the UK's coastal landscapes into vibrant canvases of artistic expression. The commissioned artists span a wide range of disciplines, from soundscapes, sculpture, and outdoor performance art to dance, textiles, writing, and photography. Their works explore an equally diverse array of themes, such as coastal protection, historical coastal narratives, sustainable textiles and public access to the coast.

Beach of Dreams aims to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the UK's coastlines while fostering a profound connection between art, community, and the natural environment.

"We are overjoyed to share the news of these incredible artist commissions for Beach of Dreams, made in collaboration with coastal communities across the UK. Beach of Dreams is about exchanging ideas, making space for dialogue, collaboration and community. We invite you to engage with these commissions, walk together, share stories, imagine possible futures and work collectively towards positive change."

– Ali Pretty, Artistic Director, Beach of Dreams and Kinetika

Get Involved

Kinetika invites individuals, groups, and organisations to be part of Beach of Dreams by hosting coastal events or activities. These will be featured as part of the national festival, contributing to a growing network of environmental, cultural, and community-driven partners. Together, we aim to unite around shared concerns for the future of our coastlines and engage in creative climate action.

The Nationwide Artist Commissions

Each commission is inspired by a thought-provoking question that invites artists and communities to delve into the complexities of our coastlines, encouraging them to explore themes of heritage, culture, and the climate crisis. The Beach of Dreams commissions are:

- **Where does colour come from?**
The Beach of Dreams Silks, Kinetika
Region: Touring the entire UK

A national artwork by Kinetika: the Beach of Dreams Silks is a dynamic and travelling silk installation composed of hundreds of naturally-dyed pennants, each representing a personal story that reflects our relationship with the coast and sea. This evolving tapestry weaves together a rich narrative of hope and inspiration for our shared future. Visitors can view the installation as it journeys up and down the coastline, connecting communities and celebrating the diverse voices of those who have contributed. To date, over 600+ pennants have been created, showcasing the profound connections people have with their coastal environments.

- **When is it that we are in our element?**
Tide Line, Julie Brook
With partners Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, ArtMovesFife
Region: Fife, Scotland

Artist Julie Brook will create a tidal sculpture from locally sourced materials, inspired by walks along the Fife coastline and talks with residents and artists. She will also lead workshops with local schools and community groups. In May 2025, the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, with project partners, will organise a 12-day journey along the 117-mile Fife Coastal Path, featuring a programme of walking and creative events.

- **Whose story is it anyway?**

Dungeness to Bulverhythe, Anders Lustgarten

With partner MSL Projects

Region: Hastings

MSL Projects' three-day programme invites playwright Anders Lustgarten to create a contemporary Canterbury Tales. The modern day tales will bring the voices of 'pilgrims' from contemporary British society in the South East to the forefront. These stories will be performed to, and informed by, audiences along the journey, with stops in Hythe, Rye, Hastings, and Bulverhythe.

- **What role does the shifting coast play in shaping our collective dreams?**

Collecting Dreams, Shifting Futures, Historic England

With partners Essex Book Festival, Out There Arts

Funded by Historic England

Region: Great Yarmouth, Harwich, and Orford Ness

A collaborative story-gathering project that brings together local communities from three key locations along the East Coast: Great Yarmouth, Harwich, and Orford Ness. Through a rich exploration of heritage sites, creativity, and walking, the project delves into both the shared and distinct coastal histories of these areas. With a special emphasis on coastal heritage, the initiative centres on inclusivity, working closely with diverse local communities and groups with access needs.

"The shifting coastline narrates our past while shaping our future, connecting us through shared histories and inspiring creative responses to today's challenges. I'm excited to see how creativity, history, and collective experience can spark new ways of thinking about our coastlines and coastal heritage as part of Beach of Dreams."

– Duncan Wilson CBE, Chief Executive, Historic England

- **What can be revealed if we truly listen?**

Cyd-Wrando (Listen Together): A dialogue between land and sea, Jason Singh

With partners TAPE Community Film and Music, Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Region: The Bay of Colwyn, Wales

Sound artist, beatboxer, and DJ Jason Singh will collaborate with TAPE and local community groups to create a bespoke soundscape for Beach of Dreams. Inspired by seascapes and nature, this immersive work will be experienced as a live multi-channel soundscape, and through

Augmented Reality plaques around the Bay, offering listeners binaural recordings and voice notes captured during the project.

- **What tales do our waste tell?**

Threads For Tomorrow, Rahemur Rahman

With partners T100 Festival, Estuary Festival and Start Thurrock

Region: Thurrock and the Thames Estuary

This commission stitches back together torn fragments from the original 500 Beach of Dreams Silks that were damaged in a coastal storm. Designer and textile artist Rahemur Rahman, in collaboration with eight local sewing groups, will employ diverse embroidery techniques from around the globe to craft intricate silk panels. The panels will be used to adorn processional boat structures and a vibrant carnival costume, forming the new centrepiece for The Beach of Dreams Silks.

- **What does the sea sing to you?**

Our Siren Song, Stephen Beggs

With partner Beat Carnival

Region: Ards Peninsula, Northern Ireland

Actor, writer, theatre director, and producer Stephen Beggs will join forces with Beat Carnival to engage a diverse range of community members, from arts and community regeneration groups to commercial fishing and environmental campaigners. Together, they will deliver a vibrant programme featuring coastal walks, oral history sharing, willow and fabric puppet making, natural dyeing, carnival arts, and song workshops. This creative journey will travel through the coastal villages of the Ards Peninsula, culminating in a spectacular parade and the debut performance of the newly created Siren Song.

- **What lies beyond the water edge?**

The power of nature: Kelp! Oysters and Seagrass, Tessa Bunney and Saira Niazi

With partner Stronger Shores

Region: South Tyneside

Photographer Tessa Bunney and writer and walking artist Saira Niazi will collaborate with *Stronger Shores*, a DEFRA-funded initiative led by South Tyneside Council, and with communities in the North East to shed light on how hidden habitats beneath the waves – such as seagrass meadows, kelp forests, and oyster reefs – can help reduce erosion, stabilise shorelines, and support wildlife. The project will culminate in an outdoor photography exhibition and a co-produced booklet featuring original writing, poetry, and photography inspired by the coast.

- **How do temporary, sustainable structures build shared identity and learning?**

MORPHOSIS, Cie MOSO

With partner Out There Arts

Region: Great Yarmouth

A spectacular commission by Cie MOSO and Kinetika, exploring sustainability through materials.

Together with local communities, they will create a large-scale installation on Great Yarmouth beach. Cie Morso's evolving bamboo structure, *MORPHOSIS*, will engage audiences as observers, builders, or climbers, while Kinetika's *The Beach of Dreams Silks*, designed with communities, will add vibrant movement to the installation through a celebratory choreographed performance.

The final programme will be announced in March 2025.

Beach of Dreams will engage national and international audiences through an interactive digital platform, sharing stories and climate pledges gathered by thousands of participants. This platform will raise awareness of the climate challenges we are facing, shining a spotlight on hundreds of local initiatives and engage audiences in the creative process of producing new work in response to the UK's unique coastal environment across four nations.

Take part in Beach of Dreams and learn more at beachofdreams.org

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Images are available for download here: [Press Pack](#)

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Notes to editors

About Beach of Dreams

Beach of Dreams, presented by Kinetika, is a UK-wide coastal arts festival activating and exploring the unique heritage, cultures and climate futures of our coastlines. A major interdisciplinary creative programme will see ambitious new participatory art commissions, creative walks and events taking place across the coasts of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, and digitally, from 1 May – 1 June 2025. Beach of Dreams is a platform for celebrating, reflecting and imagining new possible climate futures for our coastlines and planet. The festival takes place outdoors and in public spaces and is free to attend – everyone is welcome. Beach of Dreams is presented by Kinetika and supported by Arts Council England and Historic England.

Take part in Beach of Dreams: beachofdreams.org/get-involved

#BeachOfDreams

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About Kinetika and Artistic Director Ali Pretty

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. 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. Since 2012, Ali has led groundbreaking walking arts projects both nationally and internationally, including the creation of T100 Festival, a decade-long walking, talking, and making festival in Thurrock.

Kinetika is a charity and a National Portfolio organisation of Arts Council England. 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 co-creating designs in silk. Our methods engage and empower diverse communities, enhance social cohesion and foster a sense of pride and belonging.

Flagship projects include *En Flag* as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the Paris Olympics (2024), *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, WOMAD, the Olympics and Cultural Olympiads (Atlanta, Athens, Beijing, London, Paris).

kinetika.co.uk

Instagram: [@kinetikapeople](https://www.instagram.com/kinetikapeople)

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LinkedIn: Kinetika

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Historic England

We are Historic England, the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. We protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. We care passionately about the stories these places tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists we share our passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all. We fundraise from individuals, charitable trusts and foundations and public sector bodies to enable us to deliver those aspects of our work that are not funded by our Government grant. historicengland.org.uk

Credits

Presented by Kinetika

Supported by
Arts Council England
Historic England

Regional Partners
Activate Dorset
ArtMovesFife
Bay of Colwyn Town Council
Beat Carnival
Essex Book Festival
Estuary Festival
Fife Coast and Countryside
Trust
MSL Hastings

Out There Arts
Stronger Shores
T100 Festival
Tape Community Film Music

Members
2Ms
Abergele Town Council
Anstruther Improvements
Association
Awen Wales
Chelmsford 100
CLP Nature Action
Conwy County Borough
Council
East Tilbury Primary

Findhorn Bay Arts
GB Carnival CIC
Gallery 465, Cellardyke Trust
Largo Communities Together
LWDA London
Nature's Rainbow
New Carnival Company, IOW
Ports Fest
Quakers
SWECET
The Creative Seed CIC
Thurrock Young Carers
Thurrock Youth Cabinet
U-Turnships