

Transcript of audio interpretation

Including the voices of artist Ryan Gander; Bex Lynam, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; Dominique Bouchard, English Heritage and Rodney Forster, Marine Biologist, University of Hull.



RG

The sculpture's essentially a reproduction of concrete shapes that are gigantic that you find scattered along coastlines. They're sea defences, so the idea of them is that they prevent coastal erosion. And that they're made to compete with nature

I keep looking at and thinking how snow is really the material of our time and how significant it is. Because in 20 years, perhaps the climate of Britain will be that of Barcelona and snow won't fall anymore. So I thought what would happen if I was to produce a sculpture that could only be finished by snow. So we'd be waiting for nature.

When I was on the cliff at Scarborough, it struck me as being, like, completely obvious and a great way to remind ourselves of our responsibility and the way that we fit into the world. Purely because I felt incredibly vulnerable. There was this huge landscape and this huge sky and this huge sea, that were mighty and full of mystery and full of energy and power.

RG

I started to think about this idea that snow is a good marker of time, so I was thinking about that in relation to the sculpture, and I wondered how I could convey that in a physical form? When snow covers everything it has a volume and it changes the form of objects. I thought what would happen if I was to produce a sculpture that could only be finished by snow?

When I think about this idea of waiting for snow to complete the sculpture, nature to play its part, I think quite a lot about the film *Back to the Future*, this idea of time travel and para-possible realities from moments where the consequences of actions in the present, change the future. And just as there's a para-possible reality for those sculptures to be finished, or not finished, there's para-possible realities to whether in 20 years' time we will see snow in Britain.

RG

I like the idea that the work's called 'We Are Only Human', because it reminds us how small we are in relation to the problem.

DB

One of the reasons I like the sculpture so much is that I think it raises awareness of the important role that the sea plays and the ecosystems in which we reside, in which we play a role.

BL

We know that the marine environment and the terrestrial environment faces a huge challenge because of human impacts. But there is an awful lot of really good work going on to try and tackle some of the challenges that we face.

RF

Close to the shore, there are things that we can do. In sheltered areas for example, we can replant marine plants, things like sea grasses, which used to be very abundant. And they're really good, they grow fast, they

take down a lot of carbon and they store it in their roots. And they also trap sediments and sediments are rich in carbon. So you build up a bank, almost, you know a big reserve and people call that blue carbon.

BL

As you stand looking out at the sea now, in the same way that you can't necessarily see the problems that our marine environment faces, it will be equally difficult to see the changes that are occurring. We have the solutions to deal with the problems, we just need really urgent action to put those solutions into place.

DB

And we think about a kind of a romanticised vision of the sea and what might be coming over the horizon. I think in the past the sea has been a place of real danger, of course of connectivity as well. But it's often been where threats have come from.

BL

I'm hoping that we do take drastic action. And actually the change that we see is very much a positive one, and that we see more seabirds wheeling from the cliffs on the Yorkshire coastline, that we see more seals and whales and dolphins and porpoises. And that actually in the future, our coastline is one that is really thriving because of the positive changes that we've made. But if we don't act, then we can expect to see things go the opposite way.

BL

The big question is how do we ensure that we can work with nature, make sure that our activities are sustainable.

