

VALENTINE WAVE



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The painting pays homage to the St. Valentines Storm in 2014 which caused so much destruction to the landscape, buildings and the lives of so many. The railway track was obliterated in Dawlish, Devon and washed away by the sea. Cornwall became isolated cut off from the rest of the country.

Another natural disaster but the intelligence of the country could have prepared for it by investing in the infrastructure of the old Isambard Kingdom Brunel track. The Pandemic is no different - with an oversized world population and people hopping on aeroplanes like buses at the cost of a free school meal it was just a matter of time before there was a Pandemic. To which again this country wasn't prepared for and yet the government still let people travel into the country unchecked.

The lives of Cornwall were devastated by the St Valentine Storm. The painting illustrates abstract buildings which represent communities being destroyed by a colossal wave. The fragmented buildings symbolise the shattered and broken emotions of the people of Cornwall. The wave is full of depth and energy, and partly created using the back of an oyster shell. Ironically, the storm happened on St Valentine's Day - a day that symbolises Love. Love did prevail that day as people within the community helped each other to survive the flooding and the utter devastation to their homes, not just on that day but for the years that followed.

I was eleven years old when it happened and I witnessed people coming together. Today with the Pandemic I only see people deliberately creating divisions within the community and our Country. This painting demonstrates how the repeated onslaught of waves can destroy a community physically. But the words spoken during this Pandemic will soon flood our society and destroy the hymns we sing together. Choose Love and Togetherness.