

FAREWELLS

SOLOMON BROWNE



PAPER, PAINT 42X30CM

SOLOMON BROWNE

On December 19th 1981 all 8 crew on the Penlee Lifeboat called Solomon Browne and all 8 crew on the Union Star drowned at 21.22. Time ceased and quiet fell around the villages of Mousehole and Newlyn, all that could be heard was the wind and the sea ebbing and flowing....and the wailing cries of grief.

The Solomon Browne crew had successfully managed to rescue four members of the Union Star. However, at 21.22 the Union Star toppled over on top of the Penlee lifeboat, and all souls were lost.

The memory of this night lives on in everyone. In my painting the background depicts an abstract portrayal of the two vessels colliding and sinking. I have used gold leaf to represent the fragmentation of both the vessels and the emotional response. Everything and everyone is broken. The gold leaf represents a beacon of failed hope.

The sea in the foreground is full of volume and depth, created from the back of oyster shells. A blanket of tears.

As we currently live within a Pandemic and endure Lockdown we learn to grieve as one Nation and express Collective Hope. We fall silent in our prays together and we feel empathy to every story. I share this story in my painting because I understand how such tragic loss can affect us and for generations to come. Society is our Lifeboat and our collective prays and behaviour will save us all as we navigate our emotions through the waves of this Pandemic.