



SUSSEX
CONTEMPORARY
ILLUSTRATORS
& PRINTMAKERS



PRESS RELEASE DATE 18TH APRIL 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sussex Contemporary Illustrators & Printmakers (SCIP) presents

The Beacon Show

Dates

The Beacon Show – 27th May to 3rd October 2022 | (PRESS CALL 26TH MAY)

Beacon Day, part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Saturday 4th June 2022

Lecture Nights: Dates and locations TBC

Free children's workshops: Dates & Locations TBC

IN BRIEF

This summer, Sussex Contemporary Illustrators & Printmakers (SCIP), will be launching The Beacon Show, a public arts trail running along the iconic Seaford Coastline. The exhibition shines a light on the community who use, love and maintain this amazing coastline through the use of contemporary illustration, photography and the written word. The trail will explore the impact of the climate crisis on our local landscape, the science of sea swimming, the history of Seaford beach and so much more.

IN DETAIL

This summer Seaford based arts charity, **Sussex Contemporary Illustrators & Printmakers (SCIP)**, will be launching **The Beacon Show**, a public arts trail running along the iconic Seaford Coastline which will shine a light on the coastal community

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who love, use and maintain the Seaford beach and local waters. The exhibition explores the sea swimming community, runners and sailors, beach cleaners and historians who are all passionate about their coastline.

Seaford beach is one of the most visited coastal areas in East Sussex, its untouched beaches attract thousands of seasonal visitors annually, and it acts as a gateway to the South Downs, The Cuckmere Valley and the Seven Sisters Country Park.

The 4 month exhibition will include new contemporary illustrations by 9 of the world's best loved artists including **Sonia Alins, Naima Almeida, Sören Selleslagh, The Printed Peanut, Graham Carter, Asoko Masunouchi, Svabhu Kohli, Dave Bain, and See Creatures Design**. This contemporary creative approach offers visitors a unique opportunity to view artworks from within the very landscape which inspired them,



Artwork created by Sören Selleslagh for The Beacon Show

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and by artists who's creative approach is not often associated with the traditional British landscape. Posters of these incredible artworks will be available to buy online for the duration of the The Beacon Show exhibition and all the profits go towards SCIP's future projects and youth programmes.

"It's always heart-warming and inspiring to come across projects and communities that invoke public spaces with visual arts telling the stories of one's land and people. Kudos to you guys for putting out something so beautiful and thoughtful for Seaford Beach". Svabhū Kholi, Beacon Show Illustrator, Goa India

Lewes based photographer **Sarah Weal**, worked with SCIP to capture portraits of some of the individuals who have helped contribute to this project. Sarah has recently been recognised for her critically acclaimed collection 'Furloughed Friendship' which



Portrait of Glenda Jones, Seaford resident and dawn runner on Seaford Beach. copyright Sarah Weal

captured residents of Lewes during the lockdown in 2020.

Community is at the heart of this project, and it has been designed to capture a part of our coastline's modern history; featuring people who contribute to the wellbeing, diversity and soul of our town in a variety of ways.

The SCIP team have spoken to a wide range of people about the project and the content of each beacon has been inspired by their

stories and experiences. Collaborations have included **Sussex Wildlife Trust, RNLI, Seaford Museum, Rampion, Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club, Plastic Free Seaford, Cycling Without Age** and many more.

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Environment and Climate Crisis

The Beacon Show cannot tell the story of Seaford beach without exploring the impact that the climate crisis will have on our coastline and the marine life and wildlife. Visitors to the exhibition will learn more about how local residents and organisations are working to reduce CO2 levels, reduce waste in our community and protect marine and wildlife. The trail features the ongoing work by Plastic Free Seaford, the Seaford Environmental Alliance, and Sussex Wildlife Trust to support our environment and coastline.

The Beacon Show will play a part in climate crisis education, by providing calls for action and ensuring residents and visitors can find the resources they need to help protect the Seaford coastline and entire planet.

Sustainable tourism is extremely important to small coastal communities, such as Seaford, we will be asking visitors to The Beacon Show to use public transport, utilising Bishopstone Train Station at the start of the trail, Brighton & Hove Bus services which run from Brighton to Eastbourne via Seaford, and walk or cycle to enjoy the exhibition.

Visitors will also be encouraged to respect Seaford's plastic free pledge by using reusable cups, water bottles, disposing of litter responsibly and refusing unnecessary plastic packaging, *"Our beach is beautiful for a reason, our community is full of passionate beach cleaners, local environmentalists such as Claire Sumners, have led the fight in protecting our beaches for years – we want visitors to understand that they must play a part in keeping our beach clean and marine life safe"* Josie Swan, SCIP Co-Founder

The Beacon Show was provided with a wealth of information by the late Claire Sumners, a Seaford based environmentalist whose passion for the area, and the entire planet will be continued through this exhibition as SCIP dedicate the exhibition to her memory.

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Youth Engagement

Ensuring young people's voices are part of this project is very important to SCIP, and we will be working hard to ensure that they are engaged with the projects themes and get to have creative input too.

"Getting young people involved in the arts is one of our most important goals as an arts charity. Access to creative expression supports social development, and good mental health in young people. Seeing their peer's voice and their artworks forming part of such a large exhibition will help them feel like their generations voice is valued as an important part the community." Alice Carter, SCIP Co-Founder

Children and young people from all over Sussex have been challenged to create illustrations, stories and poems inspired by Seaford beach, SCIP received over 400 entries this February. The illustrative submissions were judged by the **SCIP Youth** members and all the written entries selected by **Libby Hamilton from Rocket Bird Books**. The selected entries will be featured on one of the beacons for the duration of the exhibition.

Free Workshops, lecture nights and guided tours

Throughout the summer the Beacon Show will be accompanied by free art workshops, lecture nights, and guided tours. These activities have been designed to help the community engage and learn from our exhibitions themes, and learn more about how creativity can help them and their community thrive.

SCIP continue to fundraise to make these free children's events and community activities a reality and are asking for the community to support their projects by donating online via their Local Giving Site (links on wearescip.co.uk).

On Saturday 4th June, SCIP will host Beacon Day, as part of Seaford's **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**. Volunteers and members of the SCIP team will be at the beacons from 10-12, speaking to the community about the project, the artworks and

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the stories, with a free guided tour in the afternoon. Local charity, **Cycling Without Age**, will be running free accessible tours of the exhibition for elderly or disabled members of the community. These can be booked online at wearescip.co.uk

In association with **Seaford Environmental Alliance**, **Sussex Wildlife Trust** and paper artist **Helen Musselwhite**, SCIP will work with the community to create an immersive paper installation which will help visitors learn about the local marine life, and how to protect it.



How to find out more

The public can find more information about Sussex Contemporary Illustrators & Printmakers (SCIP) and The Beacon Show at www.wearescip.co.uk or Instagram & Facebook @wearescip

Contact via hello@wearescip.co.uk

SCIP Linktree Link: <https://linktr.ee/wearescip>

Funding and supporting partners

Individuals are invited to support The Beacon Show by making a donation via the charities online donations portal which can be found on www.wearescip.co.uk

The Beacon Show is part funded by

- The European Regional Development Fund as part of The Welcome Back Fund
- The National Lottery Community Fund Together For Our Planet
- The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm
- Sussex Community Foundation
- Brighton & Hove Busses.

Their support has been invaluable in making this project a reality.

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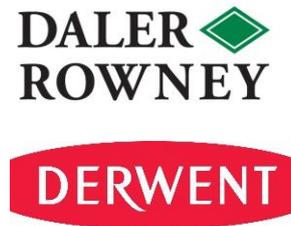
European Union
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And supported by



This project is receiving up to £20,000 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.



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