# Beach of Dreams transforms UK coastlines into a canvas for climate action and community stories



Beaches across the UK have recently transformed into open-air galleries, celebrating the country’s coastal beauty while simultaneously addressing the urgent issue of climate change. The Beach of Dreams project, presented by Kinetika and supported by Historic England and the Arts Council England, ran from May to early June and featured a series of compelling artistic installations that highlighted the fragility of coastal ecosystems.

The festival kicked off in Tilbury, creatively dubbed the ‘beach of broken dreams’, a shoreline strewn with debris that tells stories of centuries past, and culminated in Great Yarmouth. Throughout the month, the festival showcased over 90 artworks, events, and activities that captured the diverse narratives surrounding the British coastline. Noteworthy installations included a 100-metre tidal sculpture created by artist Julie Brooks, which engaged local communities in Fife, and immersive soundscapes composed by Jason Singh, designed to deepen visitors’ connections with the environment through captivating auditory experiences of coastal sounds.

From the artistic to the communal, the Beach of Dreams silks project served as a touching national artwork consisting of 838 naturally dyed silk pennants. Each pennant reflected personal stories and commitments to the coast, woven together by community members during workshops throughout Scotland. Participants expressed poignant sentiments about the ocean’s transformative presence, with one noting, “The ocean reminds me that everything is always in change... I breathe in. I breathe out.” This shared engagement not only illustrated the profound connections communities have with their coastal environments but also underscored how climate change impacts these vital landscapes.

Although the main festival events have concluded, the project’s journey isn't over. In September, an immersive visual arts performance will conclude the celebrations in Dorset, as part of the Inside Out Dorset festival. Kinetika’s artistic director, Ali Pretty, emphasized the aim of the initiative, stating that it seeks to journey from the Beach of Broken Dreams to shine a light on the coastal gems and the many organisations and individuals actively working to foster hope and positive change across the UK.

Additionally, Beach of Dreams represents more than just a series of artistic endeavours; it serves as a collaborative platform bringing together diverse voices from various regions. The integration of community-led projects reflects deep engagements with local climate issues, translating these concerns into powerful art that speaks to both the current environmental crisis and the potential for a sustainable future.

Upcoming plans for the festival indicate a long-term vision. Following the recent month-long event, Kinetika is preparing for a broader programme that not only combines art and activism but also establishes ongoing dialogues about climate resilience along the UK’s coasts. Anticipation is building for future installations and performances that will extend this conversation and actively involve more communities in reimagining their relationship with the sea.

As the Beach of Dreams project evolves, it continues to invite individuals and organisations to contemplate the beauty and vulnerability of coastal regions, ensuring that art and community action remain at the forefront of climate change discourse.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/waves-of-creativity-bring-the-uk-coastline-to-life-in-beach-of-dreams-project/), [[4]](https://activateperformingarts.org.uk/about-us/projects/beach-of-dreams/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/waves-of-creativity-bring-the-uk-coastline-to-life-in-beach-of-dreams-project/), [[2]](https://www.coastmagazine.co.uk/things-to-do/beach-of-dreams-festival/), [[5]](https://kinetika.co.uk/portfolio/beach-of-dreams-new)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://outtherearts.org.uk/events/beach-of-dreams-village/), [[6]](https://artdaily.com/news/181261/Reimagining-our-coastlines--Final-programme-revealed-for-Beach-of-Dreams-)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/waves-of-creativity-bring-the-uk-coastline-to-life-in-beach-of-dreams-project/), [[4]](https://activateperformingarts.org.uk/about-us/projects/beach-of-dreams/), [[7]](https://beachofdreams.org/about/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://artdaily.com/news/181261/Reimagining-our-coastlines--Final-programme-revealed-for-Beach-of-Dreams-)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.positive.news/lifestyle/waves-of-creativity-bring-the-uk-coastline-to-life-in-beach-of-dreams-project/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.coastmagazine.co.uk/things-to-do/beach-of-dreams-festival/> - Sound artist Jason Singh, along with other creatives, plans to take us on a coastal journey through our senses. His project, Cyd-Wrando (Listen Together): A Dialogue Between Land and Sea, is part of the Beach of Dreams festival. It transforms the landscape into a living, breathing soundscape, bringing to life the delicate and often unnoticed voices of nature. The installation guides visitors along the three-mile coastline of Colwyn Bay, deepening their connection with the sea through sound. Jason captures the essence of the landscape – the whispers of the wind, the rhythm of the waves, the rustling of coastal plants – and transforms them into a compelling, immersive experience.
3. <https://outtherearts.org.uk/events/beach-of-dreams-village/> - Out There Arts and Ali Pretty of Kinetika collaborate with Joseph Williams of Bamboology to create The Beach of Dreams Village on Great Yarmouth beach. This striking installation combines sustainable design with community stories, integrating The Beach of Dreams Silks – crafted with local groups – into its innovative structure. The project culminates in a celebratory choreographed performance, led by Charlene Low, bringing the installation to life. Reflecting on themes of sustainability, protest, and shared identity, this commission demonstrates how temporary structures can foster collective learning, creativity, and connection while highlighting the potential of sustainable construction.
4. <https://activateperformingarts.org.uk/about-us/projects/beach-of-dreams/> - Beach of Dreams invites you to embark on a transformative journey along the UK’s coastline, where creativity, community, and the environment converge. The programme unites a diverse network of organisations, artists, and communities in a shared mission to explore and respond to the pressing climate challenges facing the UK’s coastal regions. This national project is led by Kinetika, who will be working with commissioned artists and regional partners, whose works will emerge from deep engagement with local communities, translating coastal climate concerns into powerful artworks. These collaborations are at the heart of the programme, bringing together local voices and artistic vision to create lasting impact. Activate will be presenting the finale event of Beach of Dreams in September 2025, as part of our Inside Out Dorset festival. It will be a commission from Jayachandran Palazhy, Artistic Director of the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts in Bengaluru, India.
5. <https://kinetika.co.uk/portfolio/beach-of-dreams-new> - Beach of Dreams is a UK-wide coastal arts festival, presented by Kinetika, 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.
6. <https://artdaily.com/news/181261/Reimagining-our-coastlines--Final-programme-revealed-for-Beach-of-Dreams-> - Beach of Dreams today unveils the full programme for its ambitious month-long festival exploring the unique heritage, cultures, and futures of our coastlines in the face of the climate emergency. Running from Thursday 1st May through to Sunday 1st June 2025, the festival will animate coastlines across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland with a programme of artist commissions, creative walks and journeys, community-led events, activations, and a national touring artwork. As climate change accelerates and coastal landscapes face unprecedented threats, Beach of Dreams harnesses the power of art and community to reimagine our relationship with the coast – celebrating its beauty, confronting its fragility, and inspiring action for a more sustainable future. This festival will serve as a dynamic platform, gathering insights from organisations, communities, and participants, uniting their voices to help shape the future of our coastlines.
7. <https://beachofdreams.org/about/> - Beach of Dreams is a UK-wide coastal arts festival, presented by Kinetika, 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.