

Press Release

A book exploring David Cass' ongoing environmental art project *Where Once the Waters*

"There is no better distillation of these messages and their aesthetic power than the art of David Cass."

— David Gange

WHERE ONCE THE WATERS

On two walls, two oceans...
Kate Reeve-Edwards

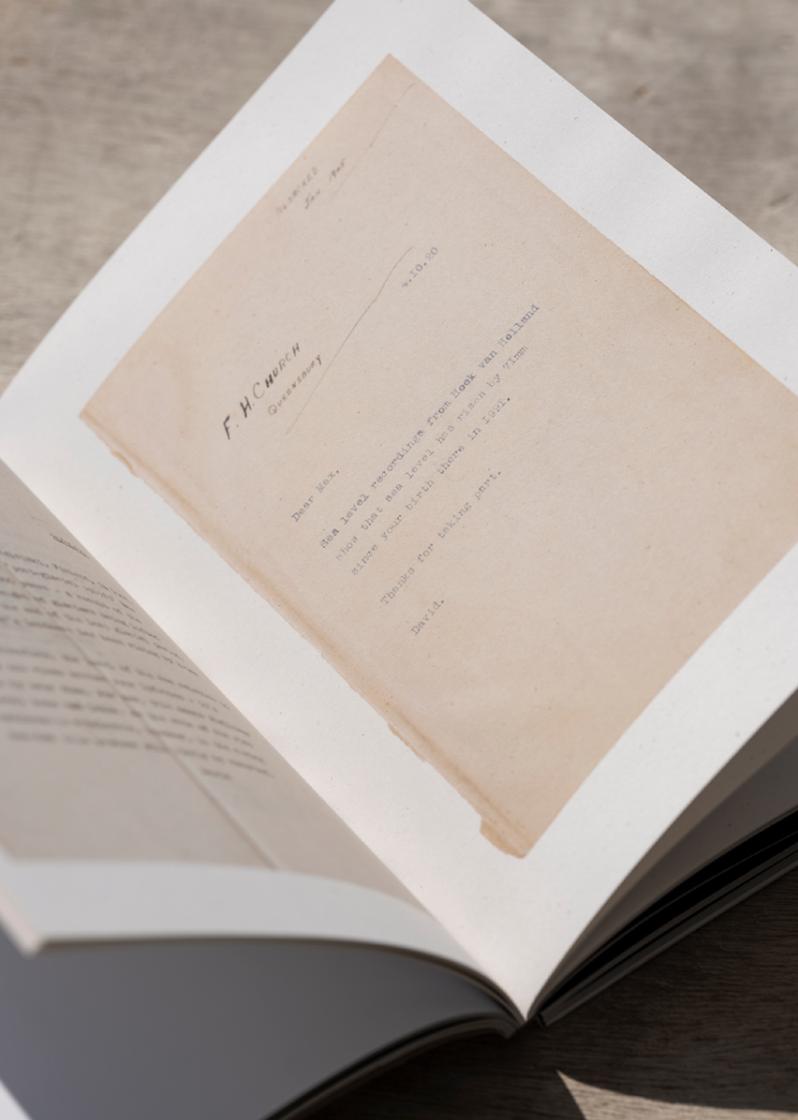
One, a rippling anthology of 600 letters, cresting on the breeze from an open door. The other, a swell of 365 different seas, winds, gulfs, bays and channels, painted repurposed vintage tins.

Each hold a shared narrative: a love letter, a plea to respond to

captivated by the flux of water where he travelled on a Royal Academy Scholarship of the anti-clockwork rhythm of the auto.

The 1966 Florence flood marked forevermore with traces of disaster in the form of plaques, deluge is etched into the city's walls above head height. Letters have been left in places of anarchy, in a

contemporary



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If we understand the effects of climate change on locations we are connected to, might we more easily engage with this urgent topic?

In 2018 artist David Cass started work on the multi-media art project [Where Once the Waters](#), aiming to *bring home* the globally significant issue of rising sea levels by producing many hundreds of small-scale, intimate artworks.

This ongoing project champions collaboration and the reuse of resources, with materials sourced at flea markets and antique fairs. Collaboration and audience participation has driven the work, resulting in a series of typed letters explaining localised changes in the level of the sea at coastlines around the world.

In spring 2022, Cass presented *Where Once the Waters* at the 59th Venice Biennale, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback, described as “...one of the best shows we had seen” by Giuseppina Panza (Director of the Panza Collection).

As well as documenting the exhibition in Venice and the period leading up to it, the book stands as an artwork in its own right. Across 222 pages, view a broad selection of artworks from each series, explore research by the artist and read texts by authors David Gange, Patricia Emison and Kate Reeve-Edwards.

More than a simple record of David Cass' exhibition in Venice, the book is also a log of paintings and research, accompanied by texts from three authors: **David Gange, Patricia Emison & Kate Reeve-Edwards.**

“The project is poetic and accessible while addressing an environmental crisis brought on by climate change.”

— Margaret Miller | Professor & Director, University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum

Price

£26 | Available [online](#)

Format

240 x 180mm

Extent

222 pages

Binding | Paper Stock

Perfect bound

150gsm coated & 118gsm uncoated
Recycled covers & uncoated produced
from 100% post-consumer waste
(FSC Certified / Green-e Certified)

Design

David Cass & Paula Del Mas

Contact

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For print / web quality images or the book or exhibition please email

“I was mesmerised by how [Cass] delivered the message of the need to preserve oceans under threat. His art project is poetic, yet powerful and mindful; I loved the idea of producing letters ... the best way to engage and raise awareness.”

— Paola Locati | Consultant (including for Homo Faber / Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity & Craftsmanship)



David Cass

is a Scottish artist, currently working between the UK and Greece. He's best known for his found-object based paintings, which have received numerous awards and are held in collections around the world. His exhibition *Where Once the Waters* was his ninth solo presentation. Smaller offshoots of that project have since been held in London and New York, with more set to be presented in Fife, Edinburgh, Sharm el-Sheikh and Massachusetts in late 2022–2023. The artist is best reached by email: [info@davidcass.art](mailto:info@ davidcass.art)

David Gange

is an author, kayaker and historian. His work explores the histories of coastlines, oceans and the communities that rely on them. His research sees him *doing* as much as reading, taking small boats out to sea to study the culture and heritage of shorelines, encouraging his students (at Birmingham University, where he is Senior Lecturer in History) to use built and natural environments to understand how past people lived.

Patricia Emison

is best known for her writing on the Italian Renaissance. Titles include *The Italian Renaissance & Cultural Memory* (Cambridge University Press) and a book on the discipline of art history, *The Shaping of Art History* (Penn State). Emison is a Professor of Art & Art History at the University of New Hampshire and has contributed several texts to Cass' projects – notably [Journey of an Artwork](#).

Kate Reeve-Edwards

is an art writer and author. Coming from a family of fine artists, she has acquired a distinctive insight. Her writing style is an amalgamation of the academic and the poetic, which has been thoroughly influenced by her BA in English and Creative Writing, and MA in Shakespeare and the Early Modern, both acquired from Goldsmiths University. Reeve-Edwards has written for a range of successful artists, with recent publications including *David Mankin: Remembering in Paint* and *Painting Abstract Landscapes*.

