

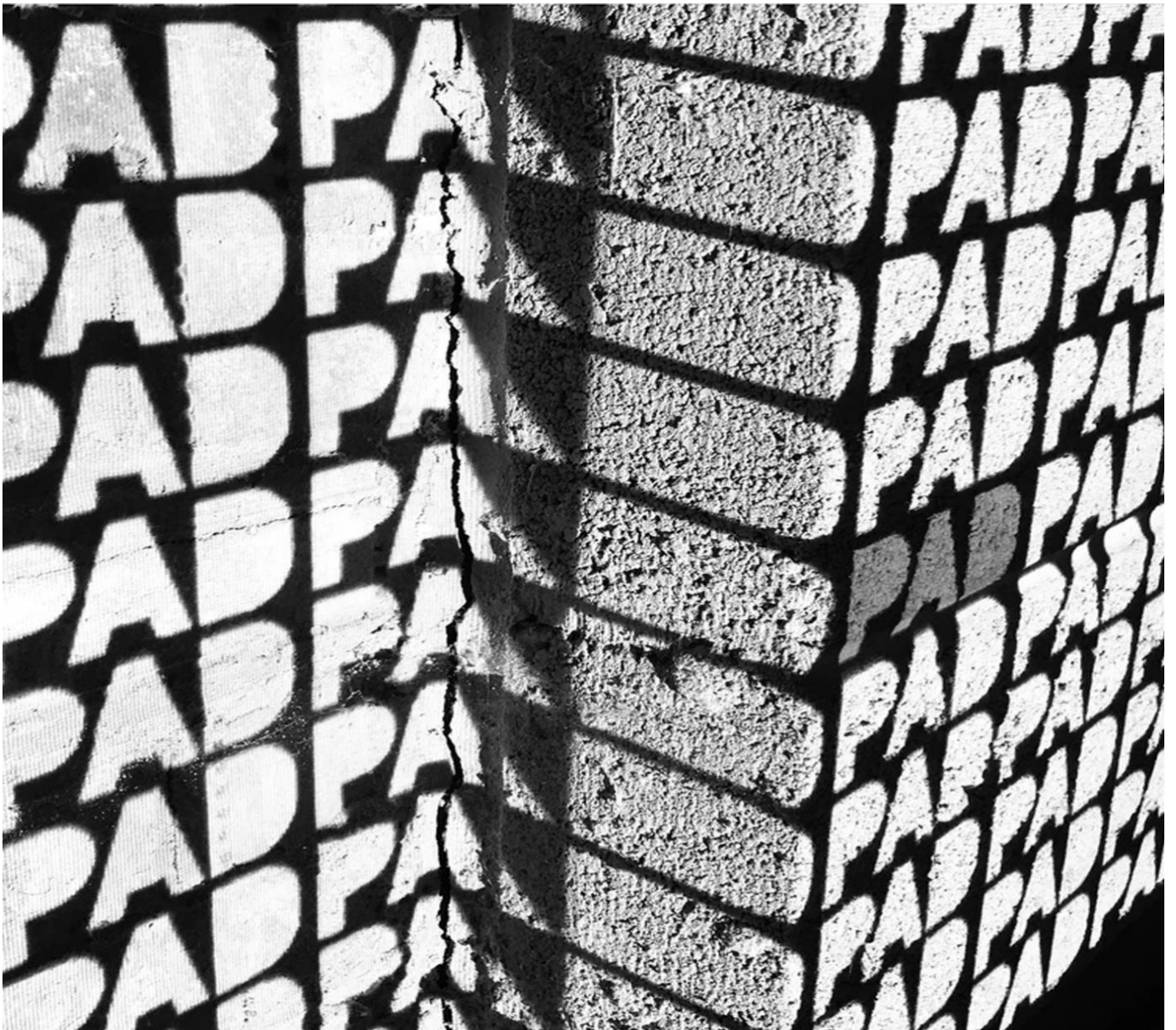
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## ***The Coastal Landscape of Hartlepool: From Inspiration to Abstraction***

*Emma Smith, BA Hons Fine Art, Level 6*



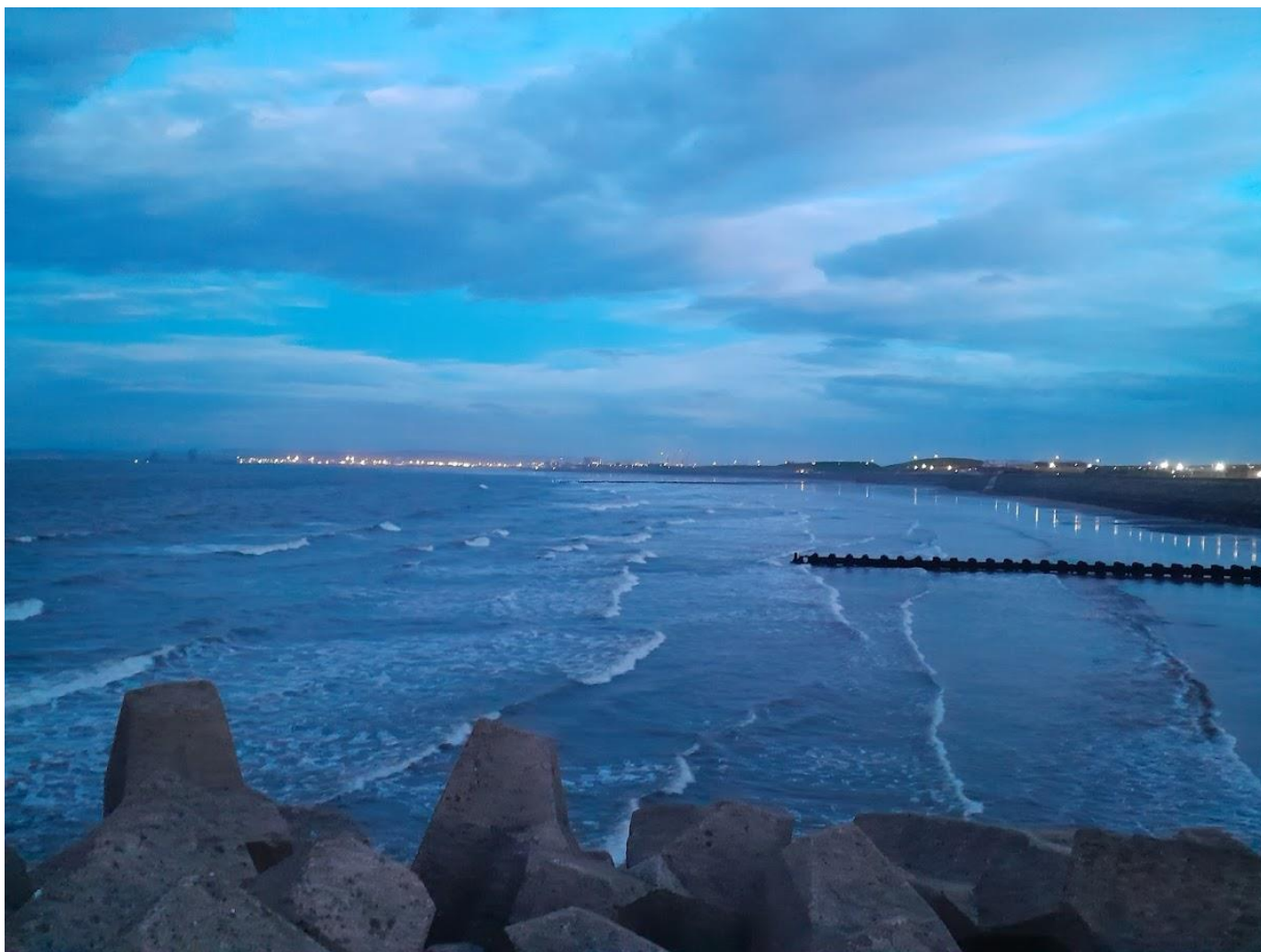
Currently studying BA Hons Fine Art at the Northern School of Art, I have chosen to centre my practice on responding to landscapes. Focusing on coastal landscapes each painting explores my response to these places and the connection I have to them. The result of this investigation into landscapes are large scale abstract paintings that utilize the thought, colours and feelings found when in a landscape. Combining these elements to create these colourful pieces that convey my own experience of landscapes I have come to know through mark making and colour.

Since moving to Hartlepool the difference in landscape has become a new source of inspiration for my practice. The landscapes in and around the area has offered something different stylistically and has affected the way in which I work. From more natural areas of coast to the industrial. This juxtaposition within the landscapes has tested me on conveying the experience of Hartlepool's landscapes.



*The Hartlepool Coast (North Gare)*

The beauty I have found from these landscapes comes from the combination of natural and manmade, offering something that is not often found elsewhere. Long stretches of coastline such as from Hartlepool to Seaton has become a focus for my current work. This stretch of land encapsulates the natural and industrial aspects of the area that have been a heavy influence upon my recent paintings. Alongside coastal landscapes areas of forestry and local parks have left an impression upon my work and have influenced my paintings.



*Hartlepool Coast at Night*

The reason for this chosen subject matter comes from living by the coast, growing up in Scarborough and moving to Hartlepool for university the sea and coastal landscapes have become an important part of my identity and a constant influence for my practice. The change in landscape has encouraged me to look closely at the coastline of the area. Encouraging me to explore uses of marks differently and choices of colour to reflect the area in and around Hartlepool.

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My recently completed mural 'Shore' at the Northern School of Art, presents my view and experience of the landscape in and around Hartlepool. Inspired by the tidal movement along the coastline from Hartlepool and Seaton. Frequently walking along the coastline on the coastline and seawall, allows for different perspectives that were vital for the inspiration that went into this painting. Lines left by the tide on the sand and watching the tidal movement became of interest to me, motivating the creation of this piece. Allowing the viewer to have an impression of standing on the shoreline and seeing waves rolling in.



*'Shore' Mural in The Northern School of Art's Student Union, 2022*

Exploring the experience of landscape within my practice has shown to me that to portray a landscape how I see it requires a connection to the place. Through repeated visits to a place, collecting drawings, photography and writing are vital to the process that goes into composing these abstract paintings, such as choosing colours and particular marks that will reflect the coast. Currently within my paintings, I am composing ways in which to combine the juxtaposing man made and natural aspects of the Hartlepool coastal landscape into my paintings. This could see possible changes into use of mark making and influence of more geometric shapes within my practice.



*Shore' Mural in The Northern School of Art's Student Union and artist Emma Smith, 2022*

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