FAD magazine

A DAY IN FOLKESTONE

By Paul Carey-Kent • 5 August 2025

You can spend an enjoyable day roaming around the Folkestone Triennial (to 19th Oct), with 25 new works from 18 artists plus 80-odd retained as permanent from the previous five iterations. It helps to be reasonably fit as there are plenty of hills! The official theme this year is 'How Lies the Land?' with an emphasis on the histories embedded in it. Fair enough, but a little less seriously I found myself drawn to several works featuring birds and animals and decided to go with that in my selection.



Katie Paterson: 'Afterlife', 2025 (detail at top)

You can argue that the smallest works in the Triennial make the biggest collective impact. Katie Paterson, the artist who deals most effectively with deep time, has ranged 200 amulets around a ring-shaped wooden table large enough to fill a Martello Tower – as, indeed, it does. They are her versions of archaeological finds from museums around the world, cast in a wide range of materials from some of the world's most fragile and endangered landscapes – such as glaciers losing their ice, coral reefs suffering damage, and islands at risk from rising seas. Tributes, warnings and wishes come together through objects originally made for their protective powers, as – says Paterson – 'future memories of places under threat'. For example, the Ancient Egyptian amulet shown at the top is made from fish attractants, marking the rapid decline of North Pacific salmon.