

#Street
Art
Heroes

Roker Beach

Roker Beach

An atmospheric place in winter, a popular spot in summer, Roker Beach was an automatic choice for our artworks.

As on the 'painters estate' Whiteleas in South Shields, LS Lowry has a street named after him in nearby Seaburn, marking his many trips up here from Manchester. When visiting from Oxford, Lewis Carroll walked the beaches from Whitburn to Roker, gaining inspiration for the mythical seaside characters that Alice met in his books. In the mischevious spirit of Carroll there is a gum artwork hidden in the Roker Hotel car park.

The Artists

Alex Senna

from São Paolo, Brazil updates the legend of Neptune's mermaid daughter, who sacrificed her immortality for the love of a man. The burning candles are a hope for the safe return of Brazilian fishermen, lit by their mothers - here referencing Oscar Wilde's anti-hero Dorian Gray.

Chewing Gum Man

AKA Ben Wilson from North London creates enamel miniatures using discarded chewing gum. His two works at the top of the steps overlooking Marine Walk reference L S Lowry's regular visits, producing paintings such as *The Sea at Sunderland*.

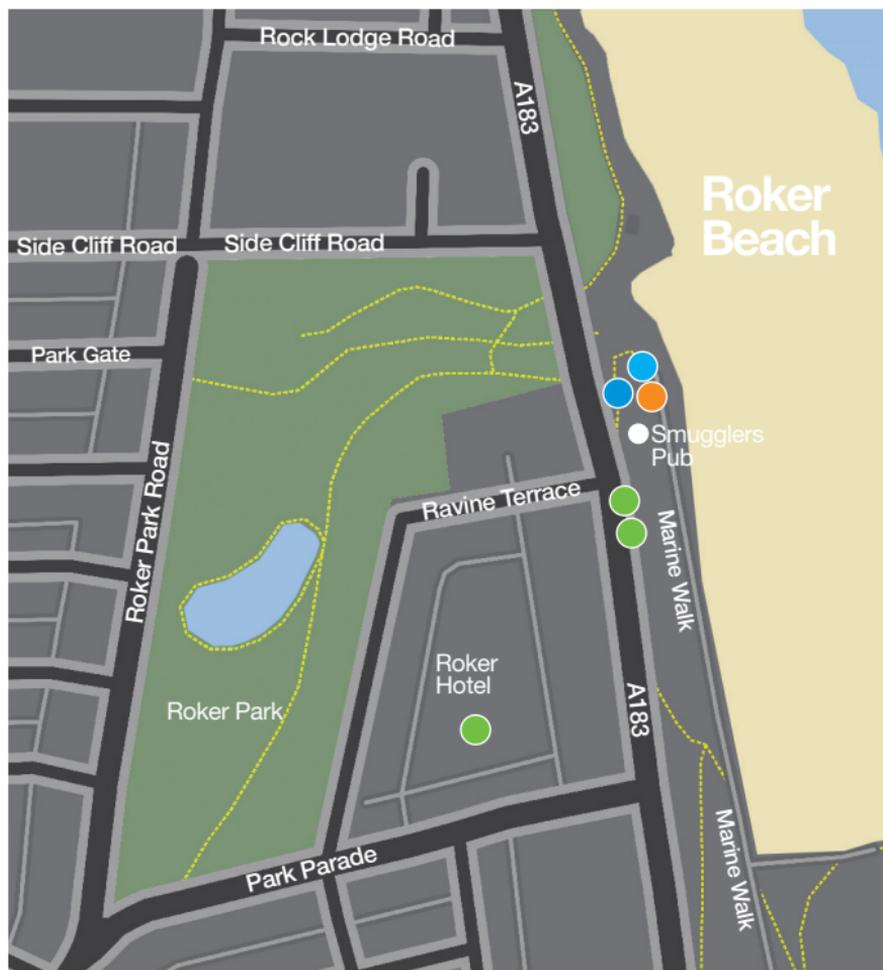
L7M

from São Paolo, Brazil was so taken by local cormorants that he painted two inside Roker Beach's shelter, assisted by Juliana de Souza, a philosophy of art specialist from The University of Montpellier. These birds were so badly tagged that a new piece had to be installed.

Irony

Sunderland City Council commissioned an ultra-violet responsive mural to connect with Irony's Alice piece on Biddick Hall via a matching portal set in a re-imagined Wonderland frieze. This extends the reach of the annual Illuminations event.





- L7M
- Irony
- Alex Senna
- Ben Wilson

L7M ●

Date October 2014

Where inside wall of beach shelter next to Smuggler's Pub facing The North Sea.

Irony ●

Date September 2015

Where inside wall of beach shelter next to Smuggler's Pub facing The North Sea.

Alex Senna ●

Date September 2014

Where outside wall of beach shelter next to Smuggler's pub facing pathway up.

Ben Wilson ●

Date September 2014

Where pavement above Roker Beach Promenade, by path down to the beach.

For #StreetArtHeroes, Biddick Hall-born curator Garry Hunter has pulled together an impressive collection of world-class artists to bring a touch of colour and creativity to our streets.

The seed of this project is rooted in exploring the etymology of street names on postwar housing estates that celebrate noted artists and writers, many of whom have local links.

Over eighty days, a dozen urban artists from around the world embedded themselves at Hillhead Farm in Whitburn, to each disseminate their unique vision from north of the Wear to south of the Tyne. Industrial conduits that once sent coal, glass and steel across the globe, these rivers encapsulate an area that has now rediscovered its natural beauty. The artists responded to these themes through collaborative research with Fitzrovia Noir Community Interest Company, leaving permanent artworks for everyone to be able to access and enjoy.

Use this wayfinding booklet to help navigate and locate the street art in and around the Roker Beach area of Sunderland.



<http://theculturalspring.org.uk/event/street-art-heroes/trailmap>
Twitter: @Cultural_Spring

