



Lost Soles at Sea, 2017, found objects, wood, leather, fabric, paper resin, green & gold pigment H200 x W150 x D200cm, image courtesy of the artist.

Lost Soles: Beyond the Sea | 2022

by Claire DAVENHALL

Gallery25

ECU Galleries



I first met Claire Davenhall at an obscenely early time on a wet May morning. We were both clambering around a wind-swept, rain-soaked Rockingham beach: she, installing a sculpture for the Castaways Sculpture Awards; me, allegedly responsible for running the thing. Despite the fact that it was still half-dark, the temperature was in low single-digits, and she was lugging a massive sculpture about while somewhere in the region of thirteen-and-a-half months pregnant, she was laughing. Having the time of her life. In the years since our first meeting, that constant laugh, that overwhelming sense that here is an artist overjoyed at the journey she is undertaking, has never receded.

Claire brings an unending sense of delight to her work. She revels in the overlooked, the unseen, the minutiae around us, and holds it up to a sharp focus. As a sculptor, she has an affinity for the untold story, for shining a light on the voiceless. As a visual artist, her love of nature shines through in works that expose the life under our (often bare) feet—the tiny, ignored facets of a complex ecosystem that suffer our unheeding abuse. Claire’s images enchant and educate; her colours shimmer and change with the light. Her vision is varied, and restless. Claire’s message remains firm, but her work, like her sizeable talent, constantly evolves.

It has been a joy to see Claire experiment and expand her artistic vision through these last years. I have watched her sculpture practice grow and garner her much-deserved acclaim; seen her experiments in photography gather notice and fans; and experienced her work with members of the community through workshops and The Big Draw festival. Claire’s talent, boundless enthusiasm, and sheer sense of happiness has brightened the artistic experiences of countless aspiring artists, students, and audience members. I hope you enjoy your experience of this singular talent.

Lee Battersby
Coordinator Cultural Development & the Arts
City of Rockingham
2011-2018



Lost Soles - Take a walk in my Shoes, 2017, Found Objects, Wood, Leather, Metal, Resin & Green/Gold Pigment, 30 x 30 x 30cm

Claire Davenhall is an international artist who graduated from Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Sculpture, North Karelia Polytechnic in Finland, Athens School of Fine Art and exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in 2000. In 2004, she studied a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Lancaster University and became a Lecturer in Fine Art and was proudly awarded the 'Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching & Learning' at Blackpool & the Fylde College in association with Lancaster University.

Migrating to Western Australia in 2007, she's focused on exhibiting in beautiful locations such as *Sculpture by the Sea* in Cottesloe, *Swell Sculpture Festival* in Queensland, *Castaways* in Rockingham & *Brighton Jetty Sculptures* in South Australia. She represented WA at *Sculpture at Scenic World* in NSW along with 39 'World Class' artists & received a Creative Development Grant from the Department of Culture & The Arts.

She was awarded Winner of the Shinju Matsuri 'A View to Asia' in Broome, Major Prize Winner of the Drift Installation Awards & Winner of the International Guest Panellist's Choice Award, at the prestigious Walker Gallery in the UK, where she was recognised as having innovation and excellence in drawing practice worldwide. She received a Honourable Mention Award, for participation & distinction with her sculpture 'Lost Soles at Sea', in the international CFA Artist of the Year Awards in 2019. Recently, Claire exhibited in the IOTA21 Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, an international festival that connects artists and makers from around the Indian Ocean during 2021.

As an artist, Claire makes use of found objects, or rather these objects find her, from leather boots and textiles to mechanical parts, she intuitively combines them to tell the story of their extraordinary existence. Objects are held together with resin blended with a special kind of colour-changing pigment that gives the work 'a glimmer of hope', as the light hits the surface.

She invites the viewer to take a closer look, bringing together a sense of people and place through her art.

Web: clairedavenhallvisualartist.wordpress.com

Facebook: [clairedavenhallvisualartist](https://www.facebook.com/clairedavenhallvisualartist)

Instagram: @clairedavenhall

Claire's solo exhibition 'LOST SOLES: Beyond the Sea', explores the multicultural migration of people to Australia. She makes social comments from the pressures placed on the early settlers, to the journey of the migrants, refugees and convicts, travelling across the sea, in their search to reach a land of hope & dreams.

It's a collection of over 30 sculptural works, which invites the viewer to take a closer look, as she tells the story of their extraordinary existence. From the 'Lost Soles at Sea' that observes the inhuman amounts of people who have boarded boats in search for a better life, their lost souls, drift in a sea of knowledge bound together in a vessel of hope... To the soulless boot, hooked up like a prize catch, which hangs on a piece of timber from Fremantle's old Jetty 'Hook, Line and Sinker'. If you dare to 'Take a walk in my shoes before you judge me' read the temperature gauge first, as they come from a place reaching boiling point!

A sculptural installation on the floor of Gallery 25 comprises of 108 convict soles taken from the shoes of the convict women of the first fleet on-board the Lady Penrhyn Ship in 1788. Folklore suggested the broad arrow was stamped on the sole of each convict shoe, so if they ran away, they could see which direction they were heading. There was no right or left shoe and you were considered lucky if you had two! Cast in resin they are finished with a green & gold colour-changing pigment to represent the national colours of Australia and their final resting place. Above, float prayer flags from over 200 convict women from the second fleet, on-board the Lady Juliana Ship in 1789. Made from remnants of white cloth & ladies handkerchiefs with embroidered identity markings, they symbolize the tears and fear of their fate, held together and intertwined with a red & black handmade rope, they drift across the room in waves representing the daunting width and depth of the sea.

A sound installation accompanies the work and creates a body rhythm entrapment experience as it synchronizes with the audiences' breath and creates the illusion that with wind and waves the sea can breathe. This work aims to provide historical identity to those lost souls, condemned to transportation, sentenced to a land beyond the seas. These first migrations are the bond that ties our cultural heritage together, bringing a sense of people and place through art. It's a thought provoking, intriguing and creative exhibition that dares to challenge your own lost soul and the story it has yet to tell.



With wind and waves...



the sea can breathe.

With Wind and Waves, The Sea Can Breathe, 2000, Sound Track, 1hour, 12mins and 18sec





Toyoda, 2015, Found objects, mechanical parts & resin, 30 x 30 x 30cm



Forget Me Not, 2022, Photographic Print, 30 x 30cm



Top Left: *When This You See, Remember Me*, 2021, Metal Travel Box, Textiles, Deep Sea Phillips Buoy, Shipping Chain, Replica Convict Love token, 60 x 90 x 60cm

Top Right: *Lost Soles of Betty Steel SOS*, 2018, Found Objects, Mechanical Parts & Resin. 30 x 30 x 30cm

Bottom Left: *Lost Soles of Mary Rose*, 2020, Found Objects, Mechanical Parts, Convict Love Token, Red/Gold Pearl Pigment in Resin, 20 x 30 x 30cm

Bottom Right: *Oceans Apart*, 2019, Found Objects, Sand, Resin, Paper & Text, 54 x 70 x 44cm



WORLD BOOK

WORLD BOOK



Lost Soles – Take a walk in my Shoes 2017


Take a walk in my shoes before you judge
it makes a statement about the rising number
of refugees searching for asylum and
step up in the world. The thermometer
reads 100degrees reflecting on the
point of their situation.

Take a walk in my
shoes before you judge
me ... Read the temperature
change!

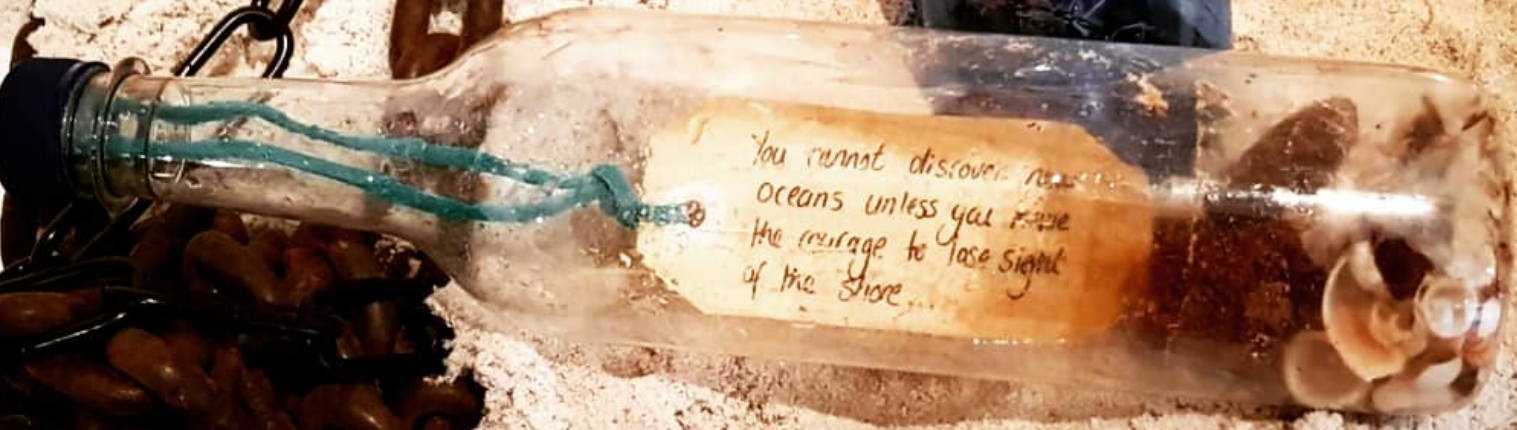


Lost Soles Artist Sculpture Book, 2019, Paper, Leather, Sculpture Photography, Paper Cut, Luggage Tags & Ink 18 x 13 x 13cm

Left: Sea of Knowledge, 2019, World Book Encyclopedias, Wine Barrel, Netting & Resin, 90 x 170 x 280cm



A journey of a thousand
miles must begin
with a single
step...



You cannot discover new
oceans unless you have
the courage to lose sight
of the shore...



Slave Ship, 2022, Projection of Watercolour & Acrylic Ink Painting, 56 x 74cm
Left: *Migration Messages* (detail), 2013, Plastic Wine Bottles, Shipping Chain, Flotsam & Jetsam, luggage tags, 300 x 150 x 120cm

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Lost Soles: Beyond the Sea by **Claire DAVENHALL** explores the multi-cultural migration of people to Australia, making social commentary from the pressures placed on the early settlers, to the journey of the migrants, refugees and convicts, travelling across the sea, in their search to reach a land of hope & dreams. It's a collection of 30 sculptural works, that invite the viewer to take a closer look, as she tells the story of their extraordinary existence.

Gallery25

Opening Event: 9 March 5pm - 7pm

To be officially opened by Dr **Deborah BLACK**

Exhibition dates: 10 March - 7 April 2022

ACDC Floor Talk: 6 April 12.30 - 1.30pm

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am - 4pm

Building 10, 2 Bradford St, Mount Lawley

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