

## By Sound Near Seawall

Susan Philipsz

2021,  
Two channel sound installation

By Sound Near Seawall takes its title from an old English Riddle to describe a conch shell. Philipsz recorded the sound of two conch shells from the Bahamas and the Caribbean which she used to create her artwork, and which are played from two horn speakers installed on the North and West lighthouses. The history of Whitehaven Harbour is closely linked to the tobacco fields in Virginia and the trade routes to and from the Caribbean, which were all developed on the back of the slave trade. Austin Steward wrote in his 1857 memoir *Twenty-Two Years a Slave*: "It was the rule for the slaves to rise and be ready for their task by sun-rise, on the blowing of a horn or conch-shell". The artwork evokes the wind and the sea, Whitehaven's rich history of shipbuilding, but also its darker history of the trade routes with the new world.

deep time

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