

Until the End of the World
(MIMA / Middlesbrough Collection)

by

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Based on notes from workshops with students from the School of Arts and Creative Industries, MIMA Elders and professionals from the cultural and environmental sectors in the Tees Valley held in October and November 2023 at Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

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Preface: Arrival

INT. MIMA - CERAMICS GALLERY - DAY

The Middlesbrough Collection at MIMA, a sanctuary of art, is bathed in the soft glow of gallery lights. The ceramics, each with a unique story, rest silently on pedestals. Unbeknownst to the visitors, these art objects harbour dreams of their own.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP on a delicate ceramic vase from the MIMA collection named "River Tees Tranquillity." As the gallery empties, the surroundings blur, and dream-like music begins.

INT. "RIVER TEES TRANQUILITY" DREAM - TEESDALE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

The vase finds itself in the serene Teesdale countryside. Birds chirp, and the River Tees gently flows, embodying the tranquillity captured in its painted scenes.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE — VARIOUS

- A) The vase jumps into the river and water begins to flow through the vase until the vase dissolves into the water
- B) A hand made of marble waves at objects in the MIMA collection
- C) Water runs through the marble hand until it dissolves
- D) A boat on the sea crashes through waves
- E) A boat on still waters with the sunset cascading over it
- F) A mobius ring of ceramic spins round and round and never ends.

1: I used to be somebody

A vibrant contemporary ceramic sculpture named "Urban Harmony" by local artist JESSICA WILSON.

INT. "URBAN HARMONY" DREAM - MIDDLESBROUGH SKYLINE - NIGHT

The sculpture transforms into a living representation of Middlesbrough's skyline. It's surrounded by vibrant lights and the hum of city life, capturing the dynamic essence of the urban landscape.

CUT TO:

A whimsical ceramic plate named "Steel Spirit," inspired by Middlesbrough's industrial heritage.

INT. "STEEL SPIRIT" DREAM - INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION - DAY

The plate finds itself in the heart of the Industrial Revolution, witnessing the birth of steel and the transformation of Middlesbrough into an industrial powerhouse.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BLACK PATH BY THE RIVER TEES IN MIDDLESBROUGH - DAY

A man is walking along the path and talking to camera.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG DRONE SHOT OF MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL - DAY

The Town Hall is in sunshine, the weather turns darker and overcast. The wind picks up and Centre Square is in a storm. Trees become twisted and terrifying. The image starts to glitch and binary code is revealed. The scene stops as if the drone has been shut down.

2: With my delicate spoon

A contemporary teapot by artist AMY JOE AIKEN, named "Tea Fusion."

INT. "TEA FUSION" DREAM - MIMA CAFE - AFTERNOON

The teapot hosts a lively tea party in MIMA's own cafe, surrounded by visitors and other artworks, celebrating the vibrant art community that calls Middlesbrough home.

CUT TO:

INT. A TYPICAL TERRACE HOUSE KITCHEN

CLOSE UP on egg cup from the MIMA collection

Young Billy sits at the breakfast table pondering over his eggs and soldiers. Perhaps about why his mother's lip looks funny and swollen, or why his father's knuckles are bruised and broken. No, he is only concerned that his egg is not quite runny.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DOWNSTAIRS WINDOW OF A TERRACE HOUSE

It is raining heavily; it strikes the windowpane loudly. Grandma is moving around inside and visible through the window. Grandma has prepared a hot drink with a teapot she owns. She stares out of the window onto the street, she is hoping that the doorbell will ring.

CUT TO:

INT. DIFFERENT TERRACE HOUSE SMALL KITCHEN WITH A LARGE FAMILY IN IT

The family have come together for curry night, they sit around to share but the brother steals all the meat. The meal slows down and the camera lingers on a delicate spoon. The family take the time to spend evenings together, beneath the stars.

3: Tied up

MONTAGE — VARIOUS

This sets a tone of isolation and introduces the concept of tiny people living within the urn.

- A) A phone rings constantly for 60 seconds
- B) A tongue is licking a large ring-like ceramic object
- C) Hornets fly out of a ceramic vase
- D) A person is licking a strawberry lollipop
- E) An image of a miniature shiny city made of ceramic
- F) A bright red sun disappears over the horizon

G) Someone answers the phone with a "Helloo?"

CUT TO:

INT. THE BUSINESSMAN'S DREAM - MIMA - NIGHT

The earthly toned urn is sat alone in the open access store, inside a cupboard with glass doors [CAMERA PANS CLOSELY AROUND THE URN] the urn has irregular patterns on it and has an uneven surface. There is a contrast in the light and dark patterns that reveal themselves to be tiny people moving about their daily business. A businessman walks across the urn and then on to the shelf, he throws his suitcase and hat away, and starts dancing. He picks up the urn, jumps on to an Aladdin flying carpet and flies out of MIMA and away from Middlesbrough.

4: Which memories are true?

INT. LARGE ELABORATE DINING TABLE IN MIDDLESBROUGH TOWN HALL

The table, set for dinner, for people who have the power to change the world. None are in human form but can catch the thoughts and feelings of those who pass. The table is above head height, suspended in the air with the tablecloth draped over the side. The bed sheet used to make the tablecloth is from a local hospital and those images project onto the floor below of birth, death, pain, suffering, and calm.

On top of the table sits a ceramic pineapple.

He caresses a pearl necklace through his grubby fingers. Each pearl is a reminder of a life taken to soon at the sea.

6: At the edge of useful

EXT. A FIELD OF RED FLOWERS - DAY

The field of flowers move gently in the wind, over time eyes appear in the red petals and look both beautiful and sorrowful. [CLOSE UP] one red petal hides a piercing eye that searches the field. The eye in the petal looks down at all other petals, presenting as superior but hiding a deep dark past. The petals and eyes change into a peacock.

The petals are revealed as made of ceramic and they begin to fall and smash from each plant. As they fall, new petals and eyes reappear, and the sun keeps shining brightly. This cycle repeats itself over and over again.

7: Setting the scene

EXT. THE RIVERSIDE STADIUM, ON THE PITCH

MONTAGE to introduce various visual elements that might represent different aspects of Middlesbrough.

Kicking, ball, talk, noise, joyful sounds, criticism, questioning, laugh, exclamation words, bouncy ball, air, follow, slop, play, go, goal! Uniform, team, play, finish, hugs, friendship, all agree, boys, girls.

INT. A TINY DRAGON'S DREAM IN A BRIGHT LARGE KITCHEN

Tiny egg cup for little eggs and soldiers. A nice breakfast. Maybe a spot for a tiny dragon egg where a tiny dragon will hatch, and it will be their home. Where a wizard will take care of them. Study the dragon in the tiny dragon egg cup. For all tiny dragon kind.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RIVER TEES - DAY

The River Tees is flowing with money.

Epilogue: What it might be like to be real

CUT BACK TO:

REALITY - MIMA - CURATOR'S OFFICE - DAY

DR. HELEN ANDERSON, the passionate curator, enters the gallery and notices a subtle change in the ceramics' positions. She smiles, sensing a connection with the dreams of these MIMA treasures.

DR. HELEN (whispering) They dream of Middlesbrough, its history, and the rich tapestry of stories woven into our collection.

End with Dr. Helen Anderson in the Curator's Office, reflecting on the connection with the dreams of the ceramics. This brings the narrative full circle and emphasizes the continuity of the artworks' dreams.

FADE OUT:

As the lights dim in MIMA's Ceramics Gallery, the artworks continue to dream, eagerly awaiting the next day to transport visitors into the vivid and imagined histories of Middlesbrough.

THE END

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