

Glory – Marcus Reed (Audio Transcription)



Introduction

You are standing on the Fish Quay in North Shields, beside the Salt Market Social building on Liddell Street.

The front facing wall, made of corrugated iron, is covered by a striking mural titled “Glory”, created by Marcus Reed, an internationally recognised illustrator based in Whitley Bay, with a studio in North Shields.

Unlike the other murals painted directly onto brick or render, this one is created on metal panels and fixed to the building with bolts. The result evokes the look of rivets on a ship, a fitting reference to the site’s riverside location.”

Visual Overview

The mural is bold and graphic, painted in sharp geometric shapes and vivid colours.

At its centre stands a huge figure of a girl wearing a bright yellow raincoat. She faces forward, arms raised high above her head, as if shouting joyfully into the wind. Behind her, the sky glows in a deep, dramatic red, creating a powerful contrast with the yellow of her coat.

Historic Landmarks

Framing the figure are two iconic Northeast landmarks.

To one side is Tynemouth Castle, a structure nearly 1,000 years old and burial place of three kings. On the other side stands the Low Lights Lighthouse, a guiding beacon for ships for over 300 years.

Above the castle flies the red and yellow Northumberland flag, sparking conversation about local identity since North Shields now belongs to North Tyneside.

Typography and Hidden Details

Across the mural, the word “Glory” dominates in bold letters. From a distance, it looks like a single word, but up close, each letter is inscribed with names, tributes to friends and colleagues no longer with us.

This detail adds a deeply personal layer to the artwork.

Colour Palette and Texture

The mural uses strong, contrasting colours, like a giant poster brought to life. Bright yellow for the raincoat, deep red for the sky, and muted tones for the castle and lighthouse.

Sensory Imagination

Picture the sound of wind sweeping across the Fish Quay, the distant cry of gulls, and the hum of voices from the Salt Market Social nearby. Imagine the feel of the raincoat, slick and waterproof and the rough stone of the castle walls behind her.

Atmosphere and Meaning

This mural is a celebration of community, heritage, and pride in place. It blends modern graphic design with deep local history, raising questions about identity and belonging.

It feels joyful, defiant, and full of energy, a tribute to North Shields and its enduring spirit.

Artist Information

Marcus Reed is known for sharp, clear, and energetic illustrations, often seen on posters and record covers.

For the Elevation Mural Project, he scaled up his distinctive style to create this monumental piece.

Instagram: [@marcusreed](https://www.instagram.com/marcusreed)

Website: www.marcusreed.com