

Net Worth – Prefab 77 (Audio Transcript)



Introduction

You are standing on Union Quay at North Shields Fish Quay, by the picnic tables, facing the gable end of the fish factories.

The entire wall is covered by a dramatic monochrome mural titled “Net Worth” by Prefab77; an internationally acclaimed artist raised in North Shields.

Visual Overview

The mural is painted in bold black and white tones using Prefab77’s signature style of cut stencils and spray paint.

At the centre is a striking portrait of a fisherman wearing a traditional knitted gansey, a garment historically worn by North East fishing communities. His face is strong and weathered, evoking resilience and heritage.

Surrounding Details

Flanking the fisherman are two small fishing vessels, the kind used by independent crews that still moor in The Gut, just behind this building. These boats are rendered in sharp, graphic lines, adding depth and context to the scene.

Symbolic Elements

Hidden in the fisherman's gansey are badges pinned to it with messages that celebrate community spirit. One reads "Power to the People", and another says, "I Love North Shields".

These details hint at pride, solidarity, and the enduring strength of local identity.

Style and Texture

The mural feels bold and contemporary yet deeply rooted in tradition. The black spray paint creates a matte, velvety surface, while the crisp white highlights give sharp contrast.

Sensory Imagination

Picture the salty tang of sea air, the distant cry of gulls, and the rhythmic clink of rigging against metal masts. Imagine the coarse texture of a knitted gansey under your fingers and the solid weight of a fishing boat rocking gently in the tide.

Atmosphere

This mural is more than an image; it's a tribute to the fishing heritage of North Shields and the strength of its community. It feels powerful, proud, and deeply connected to the river and the sea.

Artist Information

Prefab77's work blends influences from England, California, and New York, combining spray paint, stencils, and screen printing with hand-finished details. His art often explores portraiture and cultural identity, creating pieces that resonate with both local and global audiences.

Instagram: [@prefab77_](https://www.instagram.com/prefab77_)

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