

Spirit of Shields – Mark-One87 (Audio Transcript)



Introduction

You are standing at North Shields Football Club on Silkey's Lane. The entire gable end of the building is covered by a dramatic mural created by Mark_One87, a North Shields-based artist known for blending bold graphic imagery with raw graffiti textures.

Visual Overview

The mural is inspired by the club's motto: "Harvest from the Deep." It spans the full wall, painted in dynamic shades of blue, grey, and white, with accents of deep black for contrast.

The composition captures the raw power of the sea and the resilience of those who work upon it.

Main Scene

At the centre of the mural, a modern fishing boat struggles against towering, violent waves. The vessel tilts at a sharp, precarious angle, as though moments from being overwhelmed by the storm-lashed sea. Dynamic spray-paint techniques heighten the sense of chaos, the waves twist and crash, their jagged, white crests cutting through the air.

Streaks of violet, storm-blue, and soft lavender, sweep across the scene, evoking racing currents and howling winds.

Above, the sun breaks through the storm clouds, illuminating the far side of the river, where the water glows with rich orange and molten copper reflections.

Historical Element

On the right-hand side, the mural transitions into a view of North Shields Fish Quay as it would have looked in the past.

This section is rendered in muted tones, contrasting with the vivid energy of the modern boat. It shows traditional fishing buildings and moored vessels, evoking the heritage and continuity of the fishing industry.

Textures and Technique

The mural combines bold graphic shapes with layered graffiti textures. The waves look sharp and jagged, while the boat feels solid and angular.

Sensory Imagination

Picture the roar of the sea, the crash of waves against the hull, and the distant cry of gulls. Imagine the salty spray hitting your face and the rhythmic thud of the boat against the tide.

The mural conveys both danger and determination, the harsh reality of life at sea.

Atmosphere and Meaning

This artwork invites reflection on the risks fishermen take every day to put food on our tables. It honours courage, resilience, and the strength of a community shaped by the sea.

The contrast between past and present emphasizes the enduring importance of the fishing industry to North Shields.

Artist Information

Mark_One87 is a mural and graffiti artist from North Shields.

His work blends graffiti, design, and illustration, and he is passionate about community arts.

In 2024, he founded Elements: Street Art Festival, Newcastle's first street art-focused festival.

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