

ella noonan —
and i let the fish go



This series is inspired by the beauty of fish, both as individual creatures with their intricately detailed and shimmering scales, and en masse, colourful and patterned, swimming together through the water.

During the process of making these works, I have been thinking a lot about what is happening to the earth's oceans. Overfishing, climate change, and plastic pollution are deeply upsetting and cause me anxiety. It is a truly awful thought that one day fish might not exist in this world.

My drawings and ceramic representations of fish are expressions of my love and respect for our oceans and all the incredible creatures that live in them.

Elizabeth Bishop's poem 'Fish' (1946) tells the story of her catching a fish and choosing to release it back into the water. She feels a connection and sense of awe for the creature in her hand and she lets it go.

It is a significant moment of awareness for her. The title of this exhibition is a line from that poem.

It is easy to remain oblivious to the extent of life in the sea. It is hidden from our daily view. Maybe my art can be a small contribution to keeping us conscious of its existence and alert to what threatens it.

new
works

13.09.21 —
30.09.21