

HOW TO SAVE THIS PLACE IN MY HEAD

What happens to the memories of Rhyl beach once it is taken by the sea.





SYNOPSIS

How to save this place in my head, 2025 describes the seascape of Rhyl, North Wales. Submerged in the dreamscape of nostalgia the coast is interrupted with the brutality of the now ever-persistent coastal erosion schemes. The construction site inhabits this landscape playing with the sand like a child holding a spade. The town of Rhyl sits in a precarious location, partially below sea level, to protect this town, towering concrete sea walls have barricaded Rhyl beach away. As the ocean pushes the coastline to relocate, by submerging the town, only the confidence of memories has the power to rebuild this landscape again. In this film we weave through the voices of present and past, to understand the future of Rhyl beach. This cinematic essay begins to question the impermanence of the environment of Rhyl beach and the permanence of the memories that stay on this coast.



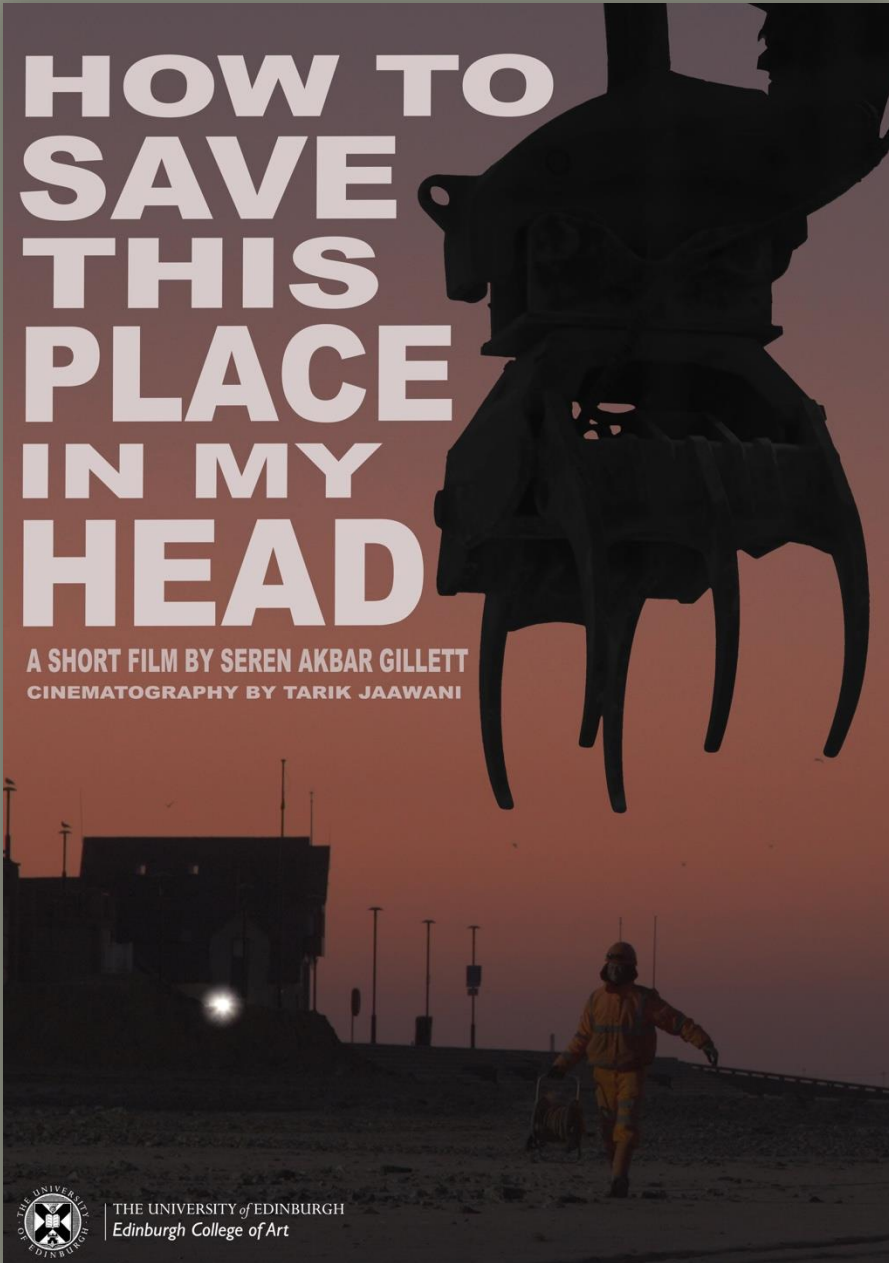
Directors Statement

Rhyl's beachside promise protected its tourism in the 1950's, profiting off its natural assets. Now, Rhyl continues to hold the seaside utopia label by gripping onto its booming history. Despite the continual lack of investment alongside the penetrating harshness of the landscape of North Wales, the memories of this town have cemented its value in the minds of people who adored this coast. Interrupting the order of the tide, it is seen here as an agent of giving and taking, forging memories whilst also removing all traces of people.

The continual effort of Rhyl's coastal erosion schemes, have marked the coast with fractured barriers of construction sites that inhabit the landscape. They move and fix in hopes of saving this place from the sea. Currently the seawalls stand over three meters tall blocking all sight of the beach. Battling the environment that makes Rhyl so special relies on the community who stand by this beach, Gillett raises the question, what will happen to this seaside town once there is no one left with the memory of Rhyl?



DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHY



Fine Artist and Filmmaker, Seren Akbar Gillett, presents a practice that explores an enquiry into the connections between changing landscapes and nostalgia. Questioning the power of permanence within memories.

Focusing on her new media artistic practice she presents a film which experiments in building textural landscapes where the viewer is immersed into surreal dreamscapes. *How to save this place in my head*, 2025, connects the collective memories of Rhyl beach, whilst simultaneously returning to a place once also familiar to her. Incorporating both archive and footage from the now, she has developed a distortion in time interrupting the linear experience of documentary film.