

## WHERE THE SEABIRDS GO - Overwintering Project 2021

Estuary Art Centre, Dec 2021/Jan 2022

**Artist: Ursula Christel**

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### **Artist Statement:**

*Interconnectedness, environmental concerns, social cohesion and inclusion are topics that strongly influence my concepts and creative output. I work mostly as a social practice artist - addressing these topics through research, networking and collaborations; using art to help foster an understanding of each other and of our environment.*

### **Artworks**

**Title: Fallen Angel I, 2021:** Vertical – H39cm x W31cm x D3cm

**Fallen Angel II, 2021:** Horizontal – H31cm x W39cm x D3cm

**Media:** photograph, shadow box frame, plastic wrapping

The term 'fallen angel' usually refers to ancient texts describing angels that have 'fallen' by choosing evil over good – bringing to earth, the knowledge of alchemy and destruction in order to corrupt mankind.

Human greed has caused catastrophic interferences in nature. The 'alchemy' of plastic production plays a toxic role in the climate change narrative. Not only in the production and distribution processes, but also the fact that at least 8 million tonnes of discarded plastic enter our oceans each year. Plastic pollution at sea is on course to double by 2030.

Seabirds and shorebirds now face major survival challenges. In these artworks, the 'fallen angel' with its wings outstretched has literally fallen from the skies to the stony beach below. It is an innocent victim of destructive forces - not the cause of it.

This Fallen Angel lies framed on a bed of single-use plastic waste that was used to package the shop-purchased frame. Until we make drastic changes to human consumerism, we are all complicit in this cycle of destruction.