

UNUSUAL ART EVENT

Lines of Approach by Bettina Furnée

Next Saturday: 1st July 2006 : 2 - 5pm

As a grand finale to the art project ‘If Ever You’re in the Area’ by Bettina Furnée a number of events are taking place at the Naze Tower, The Naze, Walton on the Naze, Essex on the 1st July. So don’t miss out come along to see and decipher some ambitious semaphoring in action, visit Bettina’s thought provoking exhibition in the Naze Tower and participate by seeing your daydreams float away on a helium balloon!

2 – 4pm: Live Semaphore Event

By using just semaphore and a relay of four boats artist Bettina Furnée and crew will attempt to communicate a series of short messages back and forth between the land based Naze Tower and Roughs Tower (now the principality of ‘Sealand’) 8 miles out at sea. The messages will be signalled by Sea Cadets from the Walton, Ipswich and Felixstowe units and with the assistance of the Maritime Voluntary Service. This unusual art event is inspired by the Towers and the local history of communication – wartime signaling and pirate radio. **Eight messages will be sent in total every 15 minutes (sounded by a fog horn) from 2pm onwards.** †Spectators should bring a pair of Binoculars and collect a Semaphore sheet for deciphering the messages from the Naze Tower.

2- 5 pm: Send Up Your Daydream

Coloured biodegradable helium balloons printed with the text ‘Lost on the Beach’ feature in one of Bettina’s artworks at the Naze Tower. On Saturday afternoon send off a balloon from the Naze Tower with a message describing a daydream. The tag has the project website address – www.ifever.org.uk and finders are asked to reply on line where the balloon was found, and post a return message on the website if desired. A display on Pirate Radio will also be on show in the Naze Tower for the day.

2 - 5pm: Steve’s Summer Saturday’ on BBC Essex : 103.5 FM

If you cant make it along, listen in to Steve Scruton’s show live from the Naze Tower. The events will be featured along with clips and interviews relating to the Naze Tower, Sealand, the Naze and Walton, wartime history and pirate radio.

Make a day of it and visit the historic 18th century Naze Tower and enjoy the natural environment of the Naze.

The exhibition 'If Ever You're in the Area' by Bettina Furnée is on show on the top 4 floors of the Naze Tower until 16th July. First shown at the firstsite art gallery, Colchester in 2005, now with new site specific and video work, Bettina explores the memory of war, and issues of migration, identity and fear of invasion in the past - military and today – environmental; by the sea. The Guardian has described the works as “ambiguous text-based artworks that reveal society's deepest paranoia's”.

Two new site-specific works have been created in response to the Naze itself; being lost to the sea through coastal erosion, and to its military buildings; what role they played in history and what they represent.

In the Second World War the Tower became a radar station 'Think Wave' is a rope ladder suspended down the 86ft high Naze Tower that spells out these words. This artwork is based on a wartime story about an emergency escape ladder. It also makes you ponder the environmental issues threatening the future of the Naze Tower and the Naze.

Over 100 years ago the Royal Navy used the Naze Tower for communication using signal flags and a semaphore post. Eight miles out at sea is Roughs Tower built as a sea fort in the Second World War it is now the Principality of Sealand, with its own currency, Royal family, passports and visa requirements (www.sealandgov.com). †'Standing Wave' is a video artwork in which The Naze Tower and Roughs Tower attempt communication using semaphore – asking the question 'What do you stand for?'

In the Naze Tower as well as the Art Gallery there are also Tea Rooms, serving all day where we are showing work by local artists – Photography by Nigel Pepper, Glass by Verena Daniels and Ceramics by Pat Todd. There is also a Museum with a pictorial history of the Tower and fossil and military artefacts found at the Naze. And last but not least on top of the Tower is the roof viewing platform with spectacular views of the surrounding coastal area including a bird's eye view of the Walton Backwaters – a national nature reserve and up the Suffolk coast to Orfordness.

'If Ever You're in the Area' is supported by the Arts Council and Essex County Council. For further information visit the www.ifever.org.uk

Naze Tower The Naze, Old Hall Lane, Walton-on-Naze, Essex

Open 1st April – 31st October everyday 10am – 5pm

Admission

- 1 £2 per person
- 2 £5 Family: 2 adults & up to 4 children under 15 years
- 3 Yearly Friend of the Tower Memberships Available

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For further press information, images or to visit the Naze Tower please contact Michelle Nye-Browne on 07966776417 or email nye-browne@ntlworld.com