

The Passboat.

This sculpture artwork, created from newspaper headlines and handwritten on a wall, represents and describes the thoughts of living society, reflecting on our political and social discourse over the years. The piece relates to daily life and reveals the truth about refugees and asylum seekers. While some political leaders view these boats as mere numbers and crimes against humanity, this artwork aims to capture the motivations, stories, and individuality of the people involved. It seeks to change the narrative, fostering empathy and understanding.

Boat sized.

L: 180m H:45m W: 55-10m

Coffin sized.

L:100m H: 40m W: 30 m

Together hight; 89 m

On space that has good wide to **spin the boat** which is 345m².

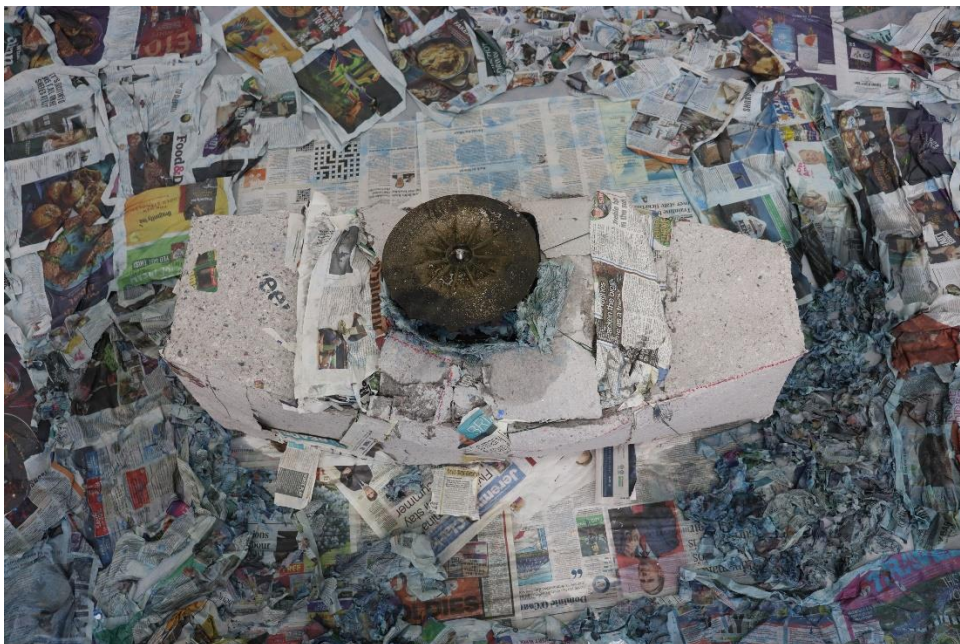
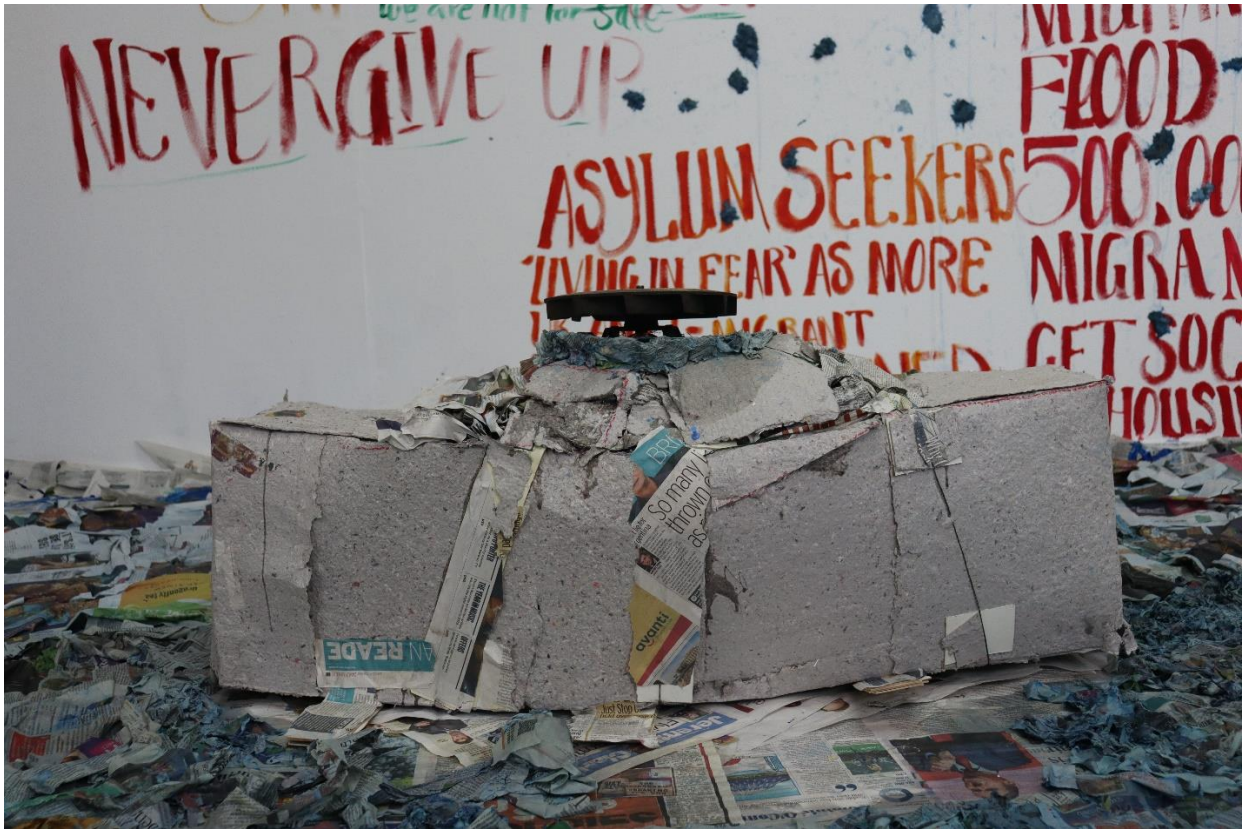


MVI_8919.MP4

Me and my friend were spinning the boat.



Seen this work able to Spin was the most important achievements I have seen on this artwork because I was so able to make the boat move not way to one direction but spins to all the 360 degrees.



Coffin cotton stuffing

This coffin is represented the people who can't make the journey of the boat and dead-on sea as we have man family member lost their lives try to cross the border. I used cotton stuffing to fall the coffin to put the boat on the top of this to supported.





We cannot “**STOP THE BAOT**” the boat “**SPIN**” until it finds a safe placed.

Artists Statement: Grmalem Kasa

Title: Passboat

'Passboat' is the name of my body of work inspired by the passport, a document that permits travel across borders. In this work, the name 'Passboat' symbolized the dangerous journey of refugees who travel by boat to escape uncertain conditions and seek asylum in foreign land. The name expresses the essence of both the physical and emotional journey undertaken by those fleeing their homes.

Personal Experience and Broader Context:

My own journey across the Mediterranean Sea from Libya to the UK Channel was fraught with trauma, extremely shared by many young refugees. This body of work serves as an acknowledgement to all who have died while attempting these crossings. For instance, on the day the Rwanda bill was passed in the House of Lords, a tragic event unfolded where a young girl and seven others lost their lives trying to cross the Channel from Calais.

The numbers of lives lost in these treacherous journeys are staggering and heartbreaking. In October 2013, a disaster near Lampedusa resulted in 630 reported deaths, including children and adults. More recently, on December 27, 2023, another tragedy claimed the lives of many, including pregnant women and newborns one a good friend. These incidents highlight the ongoing crisis and the dire situations that compel individuals to embark on such dangerous journeys.

The term 'illegal' is often used by government media to describe asylum seekers making boat crossings, framing migration as a criminal act. This dehumanizing language overlooks the desperate need for safety and a better life that drives these individuals. My work challenges this narrative by humanizing the refugees and highlighting the urgent need for compassion and understanding.

I create sculptures of boats using papier mâché, crafted from pulped newspapers. This choice of material is deliberate, as it incorporates and highlights key words from media headlines, thereby commenting on the widespread narratives surrounding migration. The use of newspapers serves as a poignant reminder of the often shockingly and dehumanized represent of refugees in the media.

In Folkestone, I collaborate with my community to facilitate art workshops that raise awareness about the refugee experience. These workshops aim to foster empathy and understanding, encouraging participants to engage with the complex realities faced by migrants seeking asylum in the UK.

'Passboat' is more than a collection of art, it is a call to recognize the humanity and courage of those who embark on perilous journeys in search of safety and a better life. Through my sculptures and community work, I aim to shed light on their stories and advocate for a more compassionate approach to migration.