

Alberto Martinez
Black Tor



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Black Tor has been created by Alberto to celebrate the current and historic characters and features of this beautiful part of North Cornwall and also includes some occasional references to his Cuban roots ! The scene is set around the well known ferry between Padstow and Rock across the River Camel which is named Blaketorre to recall the old place name of Rock in 1337.

Some of the passengers on this journey include a chef (representing the many famous ones who now live in the area) ; Saint Piran (the patron saint of Cornwall) ; the Obby Oss (from Padstow's May Day) ; The Mermaid of Padstow (who according to folklore gave the Doom Bar across the estuary its name) as well as a cricketer, diver, swimmer and Camel with wheels to represent popular activities in the area.

There is also plenty of wildlife to acknowledge including a deer (for Prideaux Place) ; a seagull (the tourist's friend) ; a dolphin, seal and puffin (all frequently seen in the area) ; a Cornish chough (from Cornwall's coat of arms) ; an elephant (from when the circus came to Padstow) ; an oyster (for Porthilly on the Camel Estuary) as well as a frog, butterflies and hummingbird from Cuba.

More links to Cornwall include a dragonfly delivering a Cornish scone (jam first !) and a Cornish pasty ; while in the background across the estuary there is the RNLI lifeboat station and a lobster in a bottle (for a well known beer brand) which also shows it being nurtured before release by the National Lobster Hatchery. Alternatively this could also represent the increase in debris we now find in the sea of plastics, bottles etc and the detrimental effect on our wildlife ?

Industry has also long been associated with Padstow and Alberto shows historical references in respect of a train (for the railways), a wooden fishing boat and lego ship (for ship building) but also exaggerated development on one side of the estuary to represent the current activity ; along with a toy digger and tractor for the present day sand extraction. In this instance however, reference is made to the disappearing sand from the beaches and dunes, as its marbles that are the material being extracted.

The crazy paving in the foreground with the water just overlapping it on the left shows replacing the sandbanks with tiling. This is a further reference to humans paving over nearly everything (gardens, pavement etc) which disrupt the natural water flow. It is also a link to the historical slate quarry along the Camel trail.

Finally, there is a boat and figure dedicated to Queen Elizabeth to acknowledge her reign, the royal link to the Duchy of Cornwall and to establish the year of this painting's creation on her passing.



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