



What now of the letter 'd'? We earlier established that letters are symbols, but is that still true when your ability to speak has been torn from your body... and the object... the very purpose of your life is being drowned before your eyes? 'D' is now the symbol of unspeakable grief. The object is gone, and all you hear through the storm is a primal scream of raw emotion... that terrible symbol of its ownmost thing... the singularity of your own soul being destroyed.

But what is it exactly that makes the Widows and Bairns of Eyemouth such an emotionally powerful sculpture for us now? It is firstly a representational memorial - an honouring of those people who withstood the catastrophe of their world being destroyed. And that they are standing on a long, very tall and very thin [harbour] wall, emphasises the precariousness of their situation, as the artist puts it, "between life and death". But is our emotional response wholly down to our ability to feel compassion for those people? I don't think so, because these women and children also exist our world - they are humans just as we are. Yes, the sculpture is firstly their memorial, but that they are here in our stormy environment is a coincidence, a symbol that calls to each one of us. As if in the symbols of a dream do we hear their primal scream - their fishing boats - their constructed objects destroyed - the males who built them, drowned by a storm - the females rebuilding the town - all resonate in our time. The many gestures of these women are speaking to us, pleading with us to modify the way we think - with, not about, the things around us. Asking us to speak as the symbols of others. *Which we are*. But what artistic mechanism prompts my interpretation?...