

Shezad Dawood

Leviathan Cycle, Episode 1: Ben

HD video, running time 12 minutes 52 seconds

Edition 2/5

Accession number: US 2017-09

Episode 1: Ben is the first installation of a ten-part ambitious film cycle and wider body of work conceived and directed by Shezad Dawood.

Commissioned by University of Salford Art Collection and Leviathan - Human and Marine Ecology with support from the Contemporary Art Society, *Episode 1: Ben* premiered at the Venice Biennale between May - September 2017.

Each of the ten episodes will have a different and distinct character, whilst exploring significant issues of today: marine welfare, human migration and mental health. By working with a wide range of experts from across the world, including marine biologists, oceanographers, political scientists, neurologists and trauma experts, Dawood aims to produce a major narrative that blurs the lines between fact and fiction and foretells, or forewarns, of our future.

Episode 1: Ben sets the context. Ben, the protagonist, reminisces about his childhood when his father was a marine biologist at the Natural History Museum. The narrative is intertwined with his current predicament of simply surviving in a post apocalyptic world. As is Dawood's practice, the film was supported by a wider body of work including paintings, sculpture and neon installations. Trailers for *Episode 2: Yasmine* and *Episode 3: Arturo*, along with a wealth of additional material are available on the project website: www.leviathan-cycle.com

Shezad Dawood, b. 1974, UK, lives and works in London.

Dawood has exhibited widely in the UK and internationally including at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and major museums and biennials in Taiwan, Morocco, Spain, Holland, South Korea and China.

The artist will visit University of Salford to present his work in 2018. Date to be confirmed.