

Afloat

Hamish Black 1998



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Groyne on seafront, near the Palace Pier

Bronze, 250cm diameter

'Afloat' is a huge circular 'donut' shaped globe, cast in bronze and patinated blue/green. Sited at the seaward end of the groyne, its centre at eye level allows a view of our world through our world.

The 'donut' or torus (a shape that has a continuous surface with a hole in it) has been posed as a speculative model by scientists of how our universe may look. The sculpture was generated by taking a world globe and pressing the south and north poles together to form a torus; now up ended the lines of longitude radiate from the central hole, linking the sea and sky. Across its surface and proportionately smaller are the excavated shapes of the major continents, adrift as dark shadows.

While the sculpture is often a photographic backdrop it's now often the place for assignations, even proposals of marriage.