

News

Farewell to the 'Brioney Victoria' – hello to a new coral reef

ADAM SHERWIN

The sight of a boat, engulfed in smoke and slowly sinking to the ocean floor, might normally be expected to attract the authorities.

But the *Brioney Victoria's* final voyage yesterday was cheered on from the Dorset coast by a leading artist, who created the conflagration in

order to produce a unique underwater installation, *Reef*.

After winning the approval of arts groups, conservationists, divers and technicians, Simon Faithfull, whose work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, was granted permission to sink his boat off the Isle of Portland. The small fishing vessel was towed out to sea and set alight. As smoke enveloped her, the boat slowly



The 'Brioney Victoria' being sunk off Dorset by the artist Simon Faithfull **GAVIN WEBER**

sank to the seabed, where she will gradually transform into an artificial reef.

Getting permission for the sinking was "extremely difficult", said Mr Faithfull, half-brother of the singer Marianne Faithfull. On-board cameras streamed the sinking through a dedicated mobile app, and will continue to relay images of the defunct vessel's slow metamorphosis. The cameras will transmit for a year, with the images relayed to exhibitions in Brighton, Calais and Caen.

Commissioned by the Brighton Photo Biennial exhibition, the work will be staged in October at Fabrica, a former chapel in Brighton whose architecture is reminiscent of a huge upturned boat.

Suspended beneath its rafters, two large projection screens will show excerpts of the boat smoking and sinking beneath the waves. At ground

level, a series of monitors will show the mysterious images coming from the drowned *Brioney Victoria*.

The artist said he derived excitement from investigating "the mystery of the world beneath the waves and what happens when an everyday object crosses into that realm". "Rather poignantly, it took longer for the boat to sink than we thought," said Mr Faithfull, a lecturer at the Slade School of Fine Art in London who has exhibited around the world. "Now it is beginning the slow journey of becoming a reef."

"A whole ecosystem will grow around the vessel soon. We will see plants starting to grow and fish swimming through the apertures. Something which was part of our world until today has now entered a different realm and is starting a new life. The whole process will take years."



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP



The FREE Independent digital app provides you with constantly updating news coverage; plus a 30 day free trial to download the PDF version of the printed newspaper daily and access to all of the weekend supplements such as The New Review, Radar, Traveller and The Independent Magazine.

The INDEPENDENT
Download it now at: independent.co.uk/apps

Print subscriptions also available. See independent.co.uk/subscriptions for more information.

Something which was part of our world has entered a different realm

OFFERS



Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Seven nights from £799pp

Fully escorted



Step into one of Europe's best kept secrets – Croatia.

Experience delightful Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic, where the medieval architecture blends seamlessly with the clear blue waters of its countless sandy beaches. We will also visit Montenegro, with its stunning coastline, fishing villages and market squares truly making it the undiscovered jewel of the Mediterranean.

Selected departures up to October 2014 and April to October 2015, the price includes return flights from seven airports, taxes and transfers.

- Seven nights' three and four-star half-board accommodation
- Visits to the Krka National Park, Trogir and Mostar
- Guided tours of Montenegro and Dubrovnik
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace, the greatest Roman structure in eastern Europe
- Escorted by an experienced tour manager

Brochure Line: 01283 742 376
or visit independent.co.uk/traveloffers

Terms and Conditions: Prices are per person, based on two sharing and subject to availability. Additional entrance costs may apply. Operated by and subject to booking conditions of Riviera Travel, Abta V4744 Atol 3430, a company independent of Independent Print Ltd. Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Rd, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1SP. Fax 01283 742301. Image used in conjunction with Riviera travel.