

1 MY DONALD paint on wood £175
A whaling ballad from yesteryear, told from the wives point of view, left behind, waiting.

2.CHICO HAMILTON’S BLUE SANDS painted record cover £35
The Chico Hamilton quintet had a way of capturing moods, partly through the inclusion of a flute in their ensemble. This track is magical.

3 FRANKIE FORD’S SEA CRUISE paint on wood £75
‘Got to boogie woogie like a knife in the back’ sang Frankie Ford a long , long time ago, and this rip-roaring slice of 50’s rockabilly is the business.

4 HOLY THE SEA paint on wood £225
From ‘Footnote to Howl’ by Allen Ginsberg. Howl is about everything on earth, the sea included.

5 MAN THE LIFE BOATS screenprint & letterpress £35 unframed £225 framed
There was titanic mania last year in my adopted home town of Southampton. After watching THE disaster film, ‘A night to remember’ I felt compelled to do this.

6 THAT RAIN UPON THE SEA screenprint & letterpress £35 unframed £190 framed
Whilst in paris three years ago, I was delighted to find a book of poetry by Jacques Prevert. So he’s been an influence ever since.

7 AHAB’S WHALE STEAK SAUCE paint on wood £45
I like to think Ahab survived his ordeal with the white whale, and so as revenge, set up a table sauce company.

8 ERROLL GARNERS CONCERT BY THE SEA paint on board £175
I recently illustrated an article about Mr. Garner by Neil Crowley for St. Jude’s Random Spectacular Two, and instantly bought this album. After the initial cleverly dischordant notes, it slides into 45 minutes of subtle soulful swing.

9 MY BONNY LAD paint on wood £650
I have a couple of version of this lament, including the anne briggs version. Painting pictures in a studio sometimes seems like hard work, but the thought of going to sea, with a high risk you may never return is that wee bit harder.

10 THE JOLLY SCRIMSHANDER TAVERN paint on wood £525
When the whalers caught the sperm whale, then chopped it into bits, they would save the teeth to scratch into, making ‘scrimshaw’. So a jolly tar has retired & opened up his own pub, in the equally jolly Darktown, just off it’s main street.

11 THERE WAS AN OLD MAN OF FIFE screenprint £120 unframed £275 framed
I was asked to take part in an exhibition last year celebrating 200 years of the wonderful Edward Lear. I chose this limerick to illustrate, which became a sort of self portrait, complete with Skids badge.

12 MERMAID FLAKES paint on wood £145
A mermaid must of course bathe her fins, & a relaxing sea salt is essential, at least according to Baby Gramps. More about him later.

13 SALTWATER BALLADS painted book £45
‘I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea & sky...’ the then poet laureate, John Masefield wrote. And indeed we must.

14 SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS ON THE SEA SHORE painted book £45
I like to think this jolly tongue twister has a slightly darker, sadder side to it. A lonely figure eking out a living on a windswept seafront somewhere, probably Darktown.

15 FIRST WATCH paint on wood £160
This track by King Creosote begins with background noises from a visit to a pub, so that instantly got me excited. It’s from his album with John Hopkins, “Diamond Mine” , a recording of multi-layers and wonderful depths.

16 LA MER paint & screenprint on wood £225
Is it humanly possible to dislike Charles Trenet’s masterpiece? I think not. Try listening to it in france, just before you cycle to the beach. Only then, dear reader is life complete.

17 BOOK OF KNOTS painted book £45
I can’t tie a knot to save my life. So I’d better read this from cover to cover.

18 BARNACLE BILL THE SAILOR linocut £70 unframed £180 Framed
There are various versions of this old song, from the slightly rude to the out & out obscene. I prefer Eddie Lang & Joe Venutti’s rendition. What tall tales Bill would have.

19 WHAT DID THE SEEP SEA SAY? Paint on wood £750
Woody Guthrie set out with only a guitar to kill fascists, which I think he did. And en route, he wrote many a wonderful tale, this song included. ‘never a word from my sailor have I heard...’

20 BARNACLE BILL’S WORST QUALITY GROG paint on wood £125
As I type this list I am enjoying my own grog on the train back to Southampton. And I’m sure I’d enjoy Bill’s fish-head rocket fuel too.

21 QUEEQUEG’S TATTOO PARLOUR paint on wood £750
I don’t have any tattoos, & it’s too late now. But I love the idea. A good friend in Edinburgh, Paul Slifer, is covered in them, I think, as that’s his job. I’m jealous. So now and again I fantasise I’ll do a swap with him; prints for tats. Then the grog wears off, thank god.

22 MR. MELVILLE paint on wood £85
One day I will finish Moby Dick. One day...

23 THE SEA OF POSSIBILITIES paint on wood £120
Should aliens ever arrive, & they want to know what rock n roll is, you’d simply need to play them Patti Smith’s ‘Land’. Then they’d start smashing their heads against a locker.

24 MY LADY OF THE ISLAND linocut £45 unframed £160 framed
Before the fleet foxes there was a band call Crosby, Stills & Nash. This song is from their first album. I met & married a mermaid some years ago. Our island is between the coast of Darktown & Shirley high street.

25 LES VACANCES DE MONSIUER HULOT painted album cover £45
After you’ve cycled to the beach in France, you should cycle back to your chateau whistling the title track from Jacques Tati’s film (possibly the second best in movie history), and consider, just how is the weather in paris?

26 FYRET paint on wood £625
I recently went to Norway, & was treated to some akvavit in a lovely bar call Fyret. Norway has loads of Fyret’s, as it’s coast is so long. On my next visit, I must see one first hand.

27 FIFIES SCAFFIES & ZULUS paint on wood £75
Peter Chasseaud, from Lewes, told me about these three types of fishing boats, popular off the east coast of Scotland for much the 19th & some of the 20th centuries.

28 WEE BOOK OF TIDES painted book £35
I was in a small newsagent just after new year in New Abbey, near Dumfries. The man behind me asked for the local book of tides. We should all have a book of tides on us at all times, just in case.

29 JEAN VIGO’S L’ATALANTE screenprint on wood £95 unframed £230 framed
Strictly speaking not a salt water ballad, but involving water nonetheless, Vigo’s masterpiece, set on board a French canal barge is possibly the best film ever made. It features a tattooed tar, played by Michel Simon who does a neat trick with a cigarette.

30 YOU LEAD ME DOWN TO THE OCEAN... paint on wood £65
Every holiday needs a soundtrack, & our last one in france had Richard Hawley as a prominent presence. An entrancing piece of music, everytime I hear ‘The Ocean’, I’m back near La Rochelle, eating mussels & drinking wine.

31 SAILOR SONG paint on wood £155
Of the many new ‘folk’ bands to appear, First Aid Kit are wonderful. They draw from the past but are so clearly in the present. I saw them in a small bar in Southampton. The best £5 I ever spent.

32 ST KILDA SEA SALTS paint on wood £125
I planned to visit the islands known as St. Kilda for my 40th birthday, but my wife refused to accompany me. Why wouldn’t you want to spend time on a really remote Scottish island, with not a jot there other than where the sea meets the the sky? When I’m 50 for sure. Once populated, then evacuated in 1930, St. Kilda’s story has a wonderfully romantic ghost like presence in my heart. Only it may rain a lot there.

33 BY THE SEA screenprint £75 unframed £265 framed
Spike jones’s band hail from a time when music was all about fun an entertainment. A mix of vaudeville, minstrelsy, jazz & all round buffoonery, their versions of various songs can’t fail to excite. This is inspired by one of them.

34 TIL THE TIDE COMES IN paint on wood £170
Another of the new bands to take a new twist on the folk theme are The Unthanks, two sisters from the north west of England. In my rendition of one of their songs, it’s about to start raining.

35 THE OWEN COFFIN CHANDLERY screenprint £150 unframed £395 framed
A whaling ship called the essex left Nantucket in 1819. It never returned. A sperm whale took umbrage to it’s activities & fought back, sinking it. The crew set sail in small boats. Some made it back, some didn’t. One of the latter was Owen Coffin, who drew the short straw, was shot & then eaten by the rest of his shipmates in order for them to survive. But his spirit lives on in this shop.

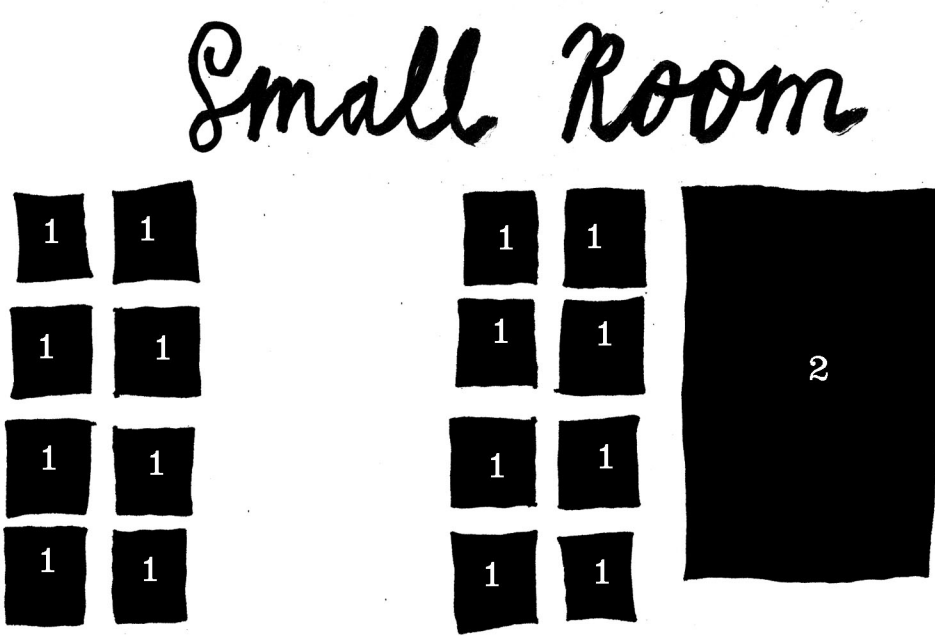
36 NANTUCKET SLEIGHRIDE paint on wood £140
When whalers would first harpoon the mighty leviathan’s, the rope would be attached to the small boats they were in. As a result, they would be dragged along at terrifying speeds until the whale either gave up the ghost, or killed them. This was known as the Nantucket Sleighride. It’s also a song by Mountain, which you’ll recognise if you ever watched Brian Walden’s Weekend World on a dreary Sunday 1970’s/80’s Sunday morning, waiting for something better to come on the telly.

37 JOHN TAYLOR’S MONTH AWAY paint on wood £160
Another slice of King Creosote here, looking out from Roome Bay Beach in Fife, thankful at being himself, & not Mr Taylor, about to spend 30 days far from land.

38 ONCE I CAUGHT A FISH ALIVE paint on wood £425
This is the one that didn’t get away. A whopper that john taylor caught on his month away. And partly inspired the childhood remembrances of Fife writer Christopher Rush.

39 BUMPER BOOK OF ROCK painted book £45
I love the fact that you associate certain foods with the seaside, and they’re nearly all bad for you.

40 PHARES EN BRETAGNE woodcut £95 unframed £375 framed
We’ve been going to France for some years now on holiday, especially Brittany, where you’re never far from a lighthouse. Alas, our boys are bored of this, especially the ferry journey from Pompey, which in truth is the closest I get to being ‘at sea’.



I DESIGNS FOR THE CAPTAIN'S PATTERN screenprints £30 unframed £100 framed
these 16 designs were commissioned by St. Judes as a fabric design, in 2009. Available to buy, by the metre from <http://www.stjudesfabrics.co.uk/products/the-captains-pattern>
Friends have joked I should get a suit made from it. Oh, how heads would turn.

2 IF I WERE THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA woodcut £75 unframed £400 framed
The big shape here is a piece of scrimshaw, a whale’s tooth. And the words are from the one & only Baby Gramps. I’ve doing CD swaps with Chris Hamer, from the Rowley Gallery over the last few years. And this gem appeared on one of his. My lasting memory of this song will be listening to it as I crossed the Forth Rail Bridge last year to return to my old home town of Dunfermline. After years at sea, of course...



many thanks
to Chris, Paul, & Mike
all artwork can be
bought from the Rowley
Gallery, 115 Kensington
Church St.
www.kensingtongallery.com



main wall

