



# Waiting

Colin Corkey



**F**STUARIES have always fascinated me. Over the years I've made numerous hasty sketches in this special place where the flow of the Lower Bann river and the waves of the Atlantic converge.

On a grey mid-September afternoon armed with my trusty 4B pencil and sketchbook, I came across these old wooden stakes. Floating weed from river and sea had been trapped as a result of high tides and left to the mercy of the elements. Like tattered remnants of forgotten fabric they remain caught in the rusting twisted wire that links each stake.

I was well into the drawing before I suddenly became aware that every stake provided a resting place or

lookout post for a little tern, each one facing out towards the open sea. I later discovered that camouflage is one of the principal traits of this species.

During the process of making the painting I wanted to convey, not only something of the delay factor, as the terns didn't immediately catch my eye, but also the fact that these birds seemed to me to epitomise complete, quiet contentment in their 'waiting'.

Painted in acrylics on canvas and measures one metre by one metre.

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