

**For The Journey & Return: The Orkney Boat**  
**Beatrice Searle**

*Artist and stone make a 1,300 mile journey together, by sea and on foot*  
*Orkney- Bergen- Oslo- Trondheim- Orkney*  
*2017*

*For the Journey and Return* is a project inspired by the Pictish Orcadian stone known as The Ladykirk Stone, or St Magnus' Boat. Throughout history, footprint stones such as this had the potential to provide the strength and security needed to lead, to vote or to undertake a journey. All who stood in them understood that they were empowered by the act, harnessing wisdom, strength and resilience through their direct contact with the rock.

*For the Journey and Return* takes the historic precedents, utilities and mythologies surrounding these stones and, through a new interactive art work, gives its participants opportunities to find anchorage and strength in a new stone- The Orkney Boat.

The Orkney Boat is a ripple-marked Devonian siltstone (390 million years old) from Marwick Bay, Orkney, into which the artist has carved two footprints.

**All are invited to stand in The Orkney Boat.** Standings should be made barefoot, in order to have direct contact with this powerful, resilient, slow-moving, wise, and ancient material. Spend as long as you like in the stone. If it moves you to speak, please feel free to do so. We are living in a time when to "take a stand" or to speak up are vitally important acts.

***THE ORKNEY BOAT VITAL***

*Walk with The Orkney Boat*  
*Stand barefoot in the stone*  
*Let it be your anchor*  
*Let it give you voice*  
*Add to its story*

*Trø ombord i Orknøybåten*  
*Stå berrføtt i steinen*  
*La den vera ditt anker*  
*La den gje deg ei stemme*  
*Bli ein del av steinen si sogje*

There is a conflict inherent in human nature; the desire for anchorage, strength and security opposes the desire to move, to progress to be free. Beatrice will explore what it might mean to be able to raise what grounds you and move with it. Just as boats are able to raise their anchors and move with them, The Orkney Boat will be a portable anchor. She will raise The Orkney Boat and carry it with her on a journey of 1,300 miles through Norway and back to Orkney.

The Orkney Boat will be received by The Bryggen Foundation on June 4th. It will be available for standings all day on Bryggestredet.

**From its journey and its encounters, the stone will accumulate a rich narrative of its own. There are many ways to be part of The Orkney Boat story. Find out more at [www.beatricesearle.com](http://www.beatricesearle.com)**

