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Cars are turned into floating art

An artwork featuring cars floating up the River Tyne has been reinstalled after strong tides hampered the artist's first attempt.

Called Come Hell Or High Water the project sees a fleet of luminescent cars make their way up the river.

Artist Michael Pinsky said the work was a comment on congested roads and questioned future transportation needs.

The project was scrapped last week when conditions in the river dragged the vehicles underwater.

The work is part of a wider project by Tyneside-based Helix Arts, which asked artists to comment on climate change.

The organisation was forced to re-calibrate the cars to survive the extraordinary force of the Tyne, which has currents reaching five knots dependent on the tidal flow.

'Unstable condition'

Come Hell or High Water has been constructed in collaboration with the artist Andy Dermott and the School of Marine Science and Technology at Newcastle University. Project advisor Prof Martin Downie, from the School of Marine Science and Technology, said: "Working with unorthodox vessels can be problematic, no matter how you plan for it."

Artist Michael Pinsky added: "The precarious nature of the work reflects the increasingly unstable condition of the planet as the climate changes.

"Against the savage flow of the water a fleet of luminescent cars struggle their way up the Tyne almost completely submerged.

"Only the tops of the cars remain visible to the passers-by.

"The 19th Century hailed the invention of the combustion engine freeing humankind from the tedium of river transportation. Now as the roads fill to capacity are these daring travellers re-appropriating our water based networks?

"Are new amphibious modes of transport needed as roads flood and rivers expose their beds, cracked and dry?"



The artwork is a comment on road congestion

BBC



BBC Tyne

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