

The Cornishman

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WHEN CREATIVITY HITS YOU LIKE A WAVE



An artist who claims to be at his most creative while floating around in the ocean took to the water at Sennen Cove on Saturday to work on his latest masterpiece. For the full story, turn to page 3. Picture by Greg Martin

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Peter's artistic wave was an 'illuminating experience'



Artist Peter Matthews drawing in the ocean at Sennen Cove.
Picture by Greg Martin

By Hazel Murray
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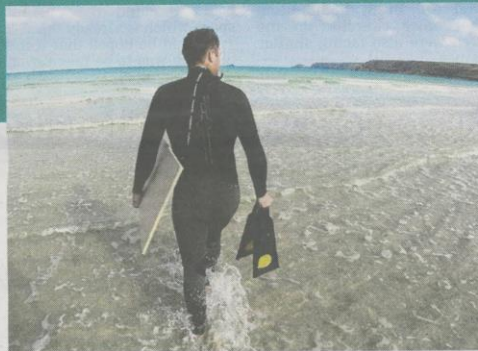
AN ARTIST who draws while floating in the water – in what he says is his way of reconnecting with nature in a social media-obsessed world – returned to Sennen Cove last weekend to create his latest masterpiece.

Peter Matthews, draws while floating with the waves, a method that he began eight years ago after an "illuminating" experience in the sea.

"I was surfing when I had this really unique experience of almost dying and losing myself in the waves," he said.

"It was an illuminating experience. It wasn't really about surfing the waves rather than waiting for the waves."

Mr Matthews described it as an epiphany, the moment he realised he could be drawing in the water while waiting for the next wave.



Peter Matthews entering the sea with his canvas at Sennen Cove.

He said: "We live in a world so embedded and trapped in social media.

"It attaches us to the world in a way – no time barriers or geographical barriers.

"But when I'm out there it's just me, the ocean and a pen – it's like a personal dialogue with the ocean as a subject

which is just constantly changing. It's like learning to see again.

"At times I feel really disorientated, seeing nature as it is. It's not just copying it – it's being with it."

Mr Matthews, who currently lives in Leicester and studied art at the University of Nottingham, said he allowed his drawings to create themselves by moving with the waves.

"I'm not really aware of my body while I'm doing it," he said. "It's quite a primal, raw experience when you first get in, almost like you have transcended into a parallel world – like your body dissolves into the ocean."

Using a thick piece of paper that absorbs water, he nails it to a board and spends up to ten or 11 hours in the water when he is abroad. However, he said that Cornwall always calls to him, no matter where he is.

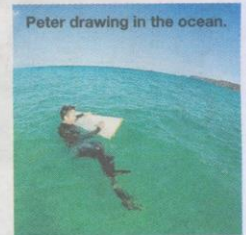
Wild camping along the Cornish coast, his prime places including Sennen Cove and Coverack, he spends time watching the water before heading out to sea for his next piece of art.

"I think there is something in Cornwall which is just so profound," he said. "It's so difficult to explain."

"There's something calling me. It's the drive back to places away from Cornwall that you realise through absence what it is that draws you there.

"It's like a magic – something in the light, in the water."

He added: "Last week, I was on the Pacific coast – it was unbelievably wild – but even there I can still hear Cornwall."



Peter drawing in the ocean.