



Mirrored Cities by Emily Allchurch

ROYAL ACADEMY SUMMER EXHIBITION 2024; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Among the 1,710 works — beating last year's 1,614 — there are, of course, some pleasures to compensate for the pain in the small of your back. Norman Ackroyd RA is, at 86, on fine fighting form in Atlantic etchings where spray becomes gull and gull becomes spray. I looked and looked again at Emily Allchurch's *Mirrored City* photographs in which Venice morphs into Shanghai and vice versa until you can't be sure what is gondola and what is junk, what palazzo and what temple. David Moore and Kate Davis's seascape of Bass Rock, an island in the Firth of Forth, woven from the musical scores of Scottish folk songs is beautiful and ingenious.