

# WATCHING THE SEA

## 看海的地方

*An artist who cannot focus on his painting, a man who fishes in the harbor every day, a girl enjoying a stroll... on a quiet summer's day, they all watch the same stretch of sea, and enjoy the everyday pleasures of the fishing harbor.*

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What is a day in the life of a fishing harbor like? An artist watches the swallows outside his window, hoping for heavy rain. An angler dozes at the waterside, until something pulls on his fishing rod. A girl on holiday enjoys a snack and the soft caress of the wind on her face. In the little fishing harbor, everyone has their own way of enjoying themselves, which includes watching the sea.

*Watching the Sea* was inspired by illustrator HOM's experience of staying in a fishing port in northern Taiwan. He takes three characters often seen by the water side – an artist, an angler, and a tourist – and through a combination of spreads and multiple frames he draws readers through the images, so they can experience the unhurried and interesting scenes at the harbor side too.

### HOM 徐至宏

HOM is a freelance illustrator who has contributed work to magazines and books. He is especially adept at crafty portrayals of old urban and suburban Taiwanese living spaces. His works include *Before Sunset*, *The Diary Blues*, and others.



**Publisher:** Pace

**Date:** 8/2020

**Rights contact:**

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**Pages:** 32

**Size:** 19.8 x 28 cm

**Age:** 5+

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Translated by Helen Wang

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## Artist

Sometimes I wish it would rain very hard,  
then I could focus on my painting.  
I wonder if the swallows know which way to go?

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## Angler

I like to sit in my rock and roll place, and listen to the singing sea.  
It may be a rousing galloping song, or a quiet song from the heart.  
It's not about catching fish.  
It's about being by the sea.

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## Girl

On holiday, I can truly be myself.  
I close my eyes, and listen to the waves, and smell the tang of the sea.  
The harbour is so interesting.  
I like to take my time, walking and looking,  
and watching the sea.

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## Broadcast

Good afternoon! And welcome to Ocean FM!  
Have you been for a walk by the sea today?  
Have you seen anything interesting?

We're here at the same time every day,  
and we'd love to hear from you.