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World

An artist has made 650 mud figures by the Thames to highlight social injustice

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Artist and activist Liz Crow has been crafting mud figures on the banks of the Thames.

IMAGE: WEAREFIGURES.CO.UK

[BY TIM CHESTER](#) / [UK](#)
[4 DAYS AGO](#)

LONDON — A woman has been sitting on the shore of the Thames sculpting small figurines out of mud.

Her name is Liz Crow, and she's an artist and activist with disabilities. She's been crafting 650 of the tiny people at low tide for the last ten days, building a small mud army that forms the central part of an art project entitled [Figures](#).

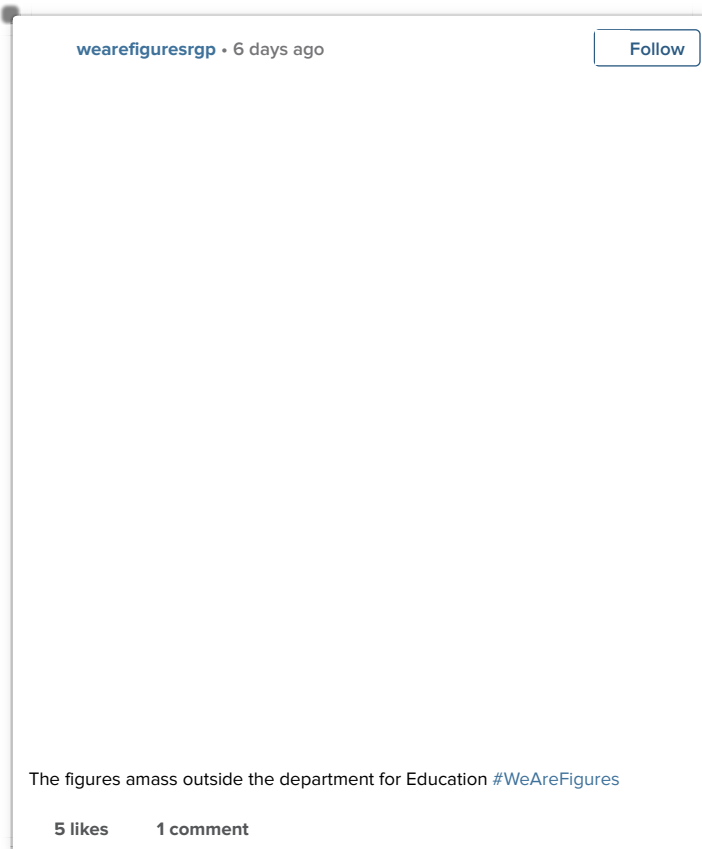
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Her somewhat eccentric industriousness aims to highlight the human cost of austerity ahead of the forthcoming general election, with each of the figures representing the UK's 650 constituencies and the range of effects austerity has on its inhabitants.

Working in tandem with the river's ebb and flow she's been carried down to the shore in a specially made sling, where she has quietly worked on new additions to the group.

The project has also amassed 650 stories of people affected by austerity, covering a range of topics including "benefit reform, local authority spending, homelessness, malnutrition and NHS rationing", which are archived on the site's [Narratives page](#).

Some of the figures have been displayed across the city, outside the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education.



Once the mud people have all fully dried they're set to [embark on a five-day tour](#) of the country, including Reading, Swindon and Bristol, from May 1 to 5.

In Bristol, they'll be fired in a cairn on a river bank while their corresponding stories of austerity are read aloud until the tide returns to put the fire out. Finally, the figures will be "reclaimed, gathered and ground to dust."

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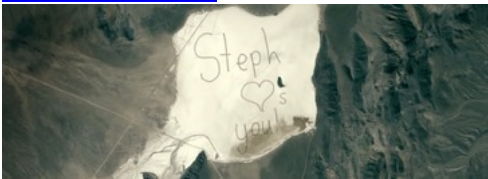
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Good luck sleeping tonight.

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