



urchin
worn by people. made by sea

Worn by People: Made by Sea

We are inseparable from nature: we are part of nature. In the cycles, which make time tangible, we can extend form, never life. Forever the sea urchin has been at the whim of the ocean: allowed to live, yet merely a vessel adrift in the breeze of the tide: the tip of Africa's current, the guiding hand. Undone by its provider, dislodged from the habitat it clung to, and stripped of its spines by the very element that nurtured life, the urchin's inevitable final voyage is the shore. Void of life yet full of beauty in form, these delicate empty shells ride the tide over seemingly unnavigable rocks to eventually lie cluttered in sand at the tip of a continent. Here, in their present form, decaying into the sand, their story would cease.

All that we are measures the world: everything that surrounds us, including ourselves, is a clock. The form in which we continue is unknown, the continuation being immortality. Yet in this forever cycle we are custodians of beauty, of visible longevity. We create to endure and in enduring we create. The clock extends the time. Within each African Urchin resides the delicate shell of a sea urchin, collected by hand, and so prolonging their form in the name of art. Each urchin is plated to encase and delay the passage of time: what you now wear is the mark of beauty formed by nature and prolonged by mankind.

*Each piece is sculpted by nature.
Like humans, no two can ever be the same.
Countless more urchins than can be collected*

are destined to become fragments in the sand. Each African Urchin is individual: texture both binds and defines each one, yet life forms the marks of their distinction from each other. Only mankind thinks in the skewed terms of flawlessness: nature is a collection of beautiful flaws. Your African Urchin is how it was always meant to be... like no other.

We are all breakable. We will all disintegrate into the world. As robust as we are, we are fragile. Your urchin is no different: the shell is, by design, strong and durable. Yet, again by design, it is perishable, its lifespan simply a cycle. African Urchin has extended that cycle by using a negligible and finite number of shells. Your urchin's endurance requires your delicate care: as with all things precious preservation is a consciousness. Let your urchin slumber next to you, let it see you bathe, let it listen to you play from the safety of its quarters. Care is no secret – it is respect, negligence is the expedient inevitable cycle of decay. By creating this jewel we mark time for the sake of beauty; the lifespan is up to you. African Urchin may stem from the southern tip of Africa, but for us it is the beginning of the world.