

## REUNION

"We cannot aim at anything less than the Union of Europe as a whole, and we look forward with confidence to the day when that Union will be achieved." With these words in 1948, at the opening session of the Congress of Europe, Winston Churchill expressed the need for a United Europe—a safe Europe. It was no secret that the best way to maintain peace would be through strong relationships and aligned economic growth.

In 1951, post-war efforts at European reconciliation led to the establishment of the European Steel and Coal Community, a precursor to the EU, though Britain was not initially a member. Since the formation of the European Economic Community (Common Market) in 1958, Britain applied for membership in 1963 and 1967 before finally being accepted in 1973. After 43 years, in 2016, Britain chose to leave the EU in a close-run referendum.

'Reunion' aims to research the topic of unity and the 'fragility' of relationships considering this decision. My intention is not to take a side on whether I agree or disagree with this choice; it is, after all, totally irrelevant, as the result emerged from a fundamentally democratic process—a referendum. The focus is to initiate a conversation through the symbolism of this work.

I must admit that this choice made me realize how fragile relationships are and how one party's decision to break a bond can affect others in both positive and negative ways. It raised more questions than answers. It made me reflect on the effort we invest in our relationships and how easily they can be broken. It made me think of broken countries, broken families, broken people...

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