

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

On a Turning Wing : A Celebration of Birds, Flight & Migration

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE : BORIS ALDRIDGE

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“Sweeter than the Rain”

It has been a great pleasure to be able to work with Boris Aldridge over the past few years through the Spring Festival Workshop Residency programme. Initially, these focused on tile making, Boris’ primary field of work as a fine artist. With his main workshop and studio at nearby *Smoke & Fire* at Darsham, the residencies afforded time to explore new designs and patterns – some inspired by 19th century Arts and Craft tiles found in a yard at the farm. The tile making aspect of Boris’s practice has since expanded significantly in both the range of designs he is now working on and exquisite quality of their lustreware surfaces. The tiles are now collector’s pieces in their own right, with works selling recently at The European Fine Art Fair through Amir Mohtashemi, whose gallery represents Boris’ tiles.

In 2018, Boris started the Ionia Residency at the farm. This explored the history of an old houseboat that once resided on the mudflats at Slaughden just south of Aldeburgh – made famous by Kathleen Hale’s book *Orlando (the Marmalade Cat) : A Seaside Holiday*. Although it had become a local landmark, it was deemed derelict and unsafe in the early 1970s and was burned to the ground. Its keel beam and the stubs of some ribs of the wooden hull remain visible in the mud at low tide.

Over time, the focus of the Ionia Residency has shifted from tiles to songs and watercolours. Initially these focused on an imagined contemporary mythology for the Ionia, as a semi-mystical Suffolk ark. More recently Boris’s song-writing has come further into the foreground, with plans to collaborate with the Alde Valley Festival to create a collection of songs rooted in the coastal landscape of Suffolk – where the land and sea and many narrative threads, some real and others imagined; all intertwined. One outcome that we are planning – emerging out of the Ionia Residency – is to gather together these songs and beautiful paintings to create a book : *Songs from the Blackshore*.

For the Festival Exhibition, we are presenting a body of work from a project called '*Sweeter than the Rain*'. This consists of six watercolour and ink paintings and one pencil sketch featuring birds and other winged creatures based upon the lyrics to a song written by Boris earlier this year - called '*Sweeter than the Rain*'.

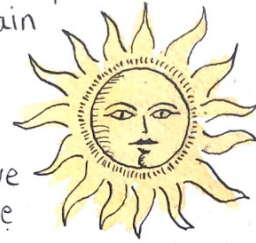
Additional watercolour ink paintings of songs from the *Blackshore* collection are available to view in the Open Studios.

For all sales, larger images and more details : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

Sweeter than the rain

Ain't no music sweeter than the rain
Oh there ain't no music sweeter than the rain
Drumming on my doorstep, running down the panes
There ain't no music sweeter than the rain

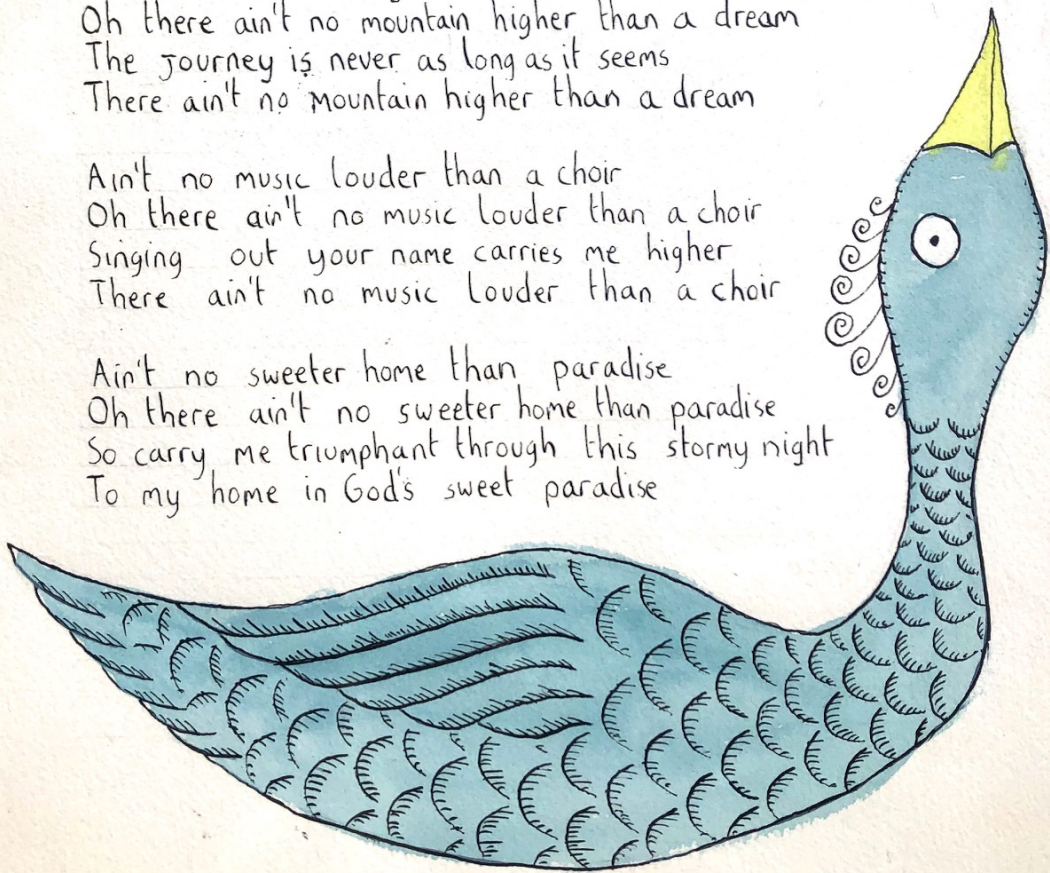
Ain't no valley deeper than my love
There ain't no valley deeper than my love
Stretching out before me to the stars above
Oh there ain't no valley deeper than my love



Ain't no mountain higher than a dream
Oh there ain't no mountain higher than a dream
The journey is never as long as it seems
There ain't no mountain higher than a dream

Ain't no music louder than a choir
Oh there ain't no music louder than a choir
Singing out your name carries me higher
There ain't no music louder than a choir

Ain't no sweeter home than paradise
Oh there ain't no sweeter home than paradise
So carry me triumphant through this stormy night
To my home in God's sweet paradise

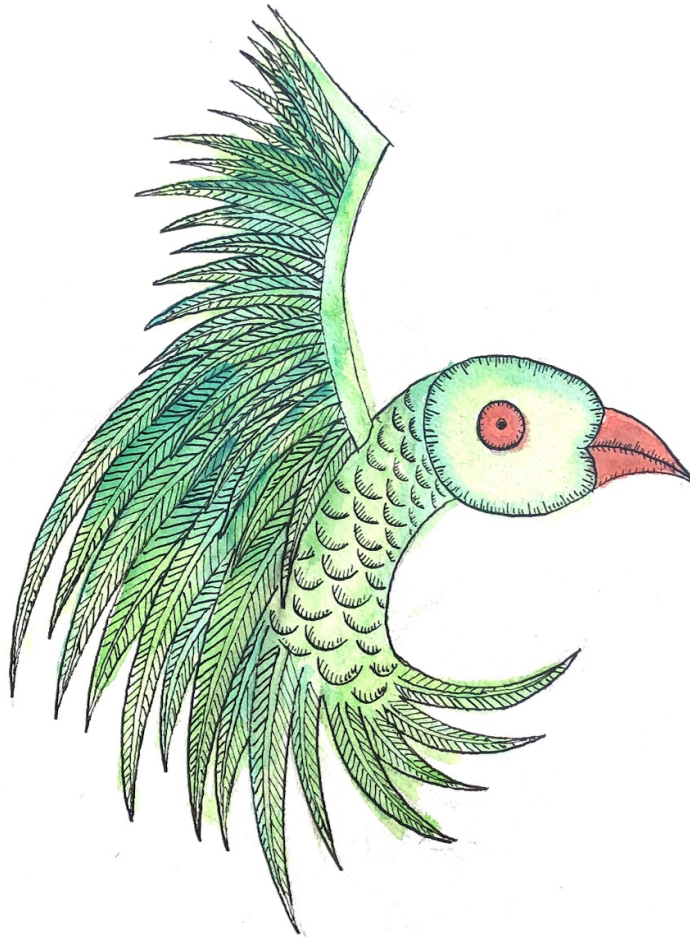


1. *Sweeter than the Rain*, 2020.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£585 (framed)



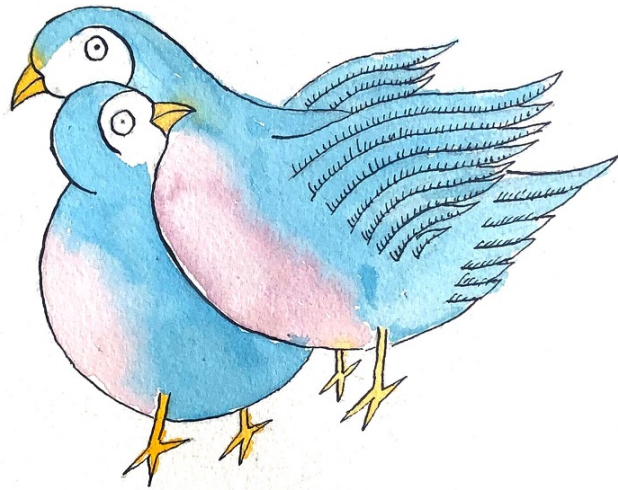
Ain't no music sweeter than the rain

2. **SOLD** *Ain't no Music Sweeter than the Rain*, 2020.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£395 (framed)



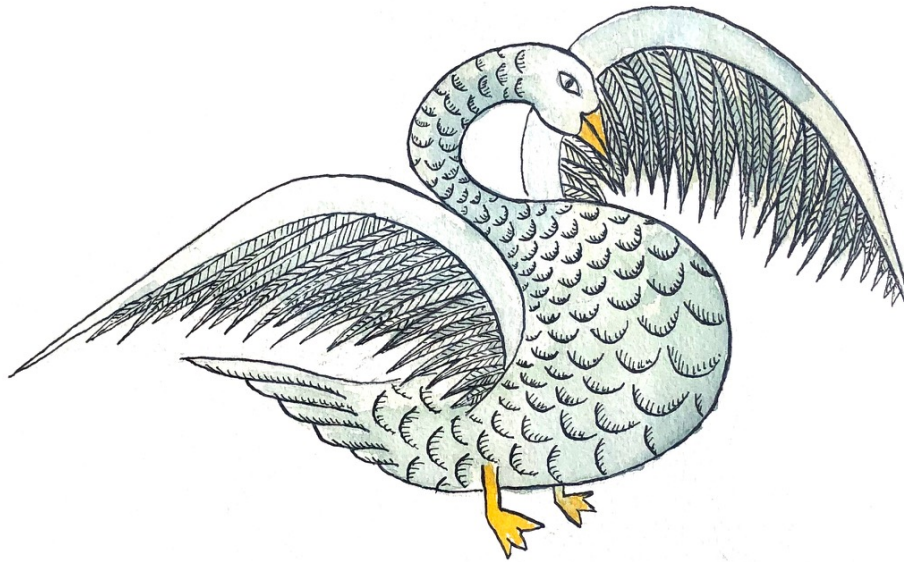
Ain't no valley deeper than my Love

3. *Ain't no Valley Deeper than My Love*, 2020.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£395 (framed)



Ain't no mountain higher than a dream

4. *Ain't no Mountain higher than a Dream*, 2020.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£395 (framed)



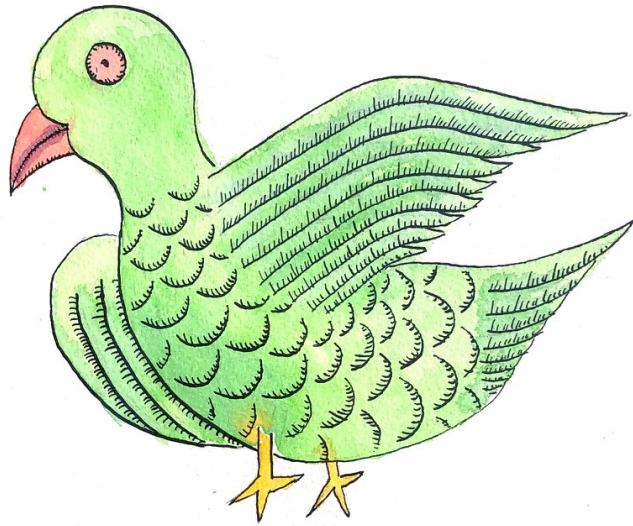
Ain't no music Louder than a choir

5. **SOLD** *Ain't no Music Louder than a Choir, 2020.*

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£395 (framed)



Ain't no sweeter home than paradise

6. *Ain't no Sweeter Home than Paradise*, 2020.

Ink and watercolour on paper.

H450mm W305mm.

£395 (framed)



7. *Ain't no Music Sweeter than Rain - Drawing, 2020.*

Graphite on paper.
H450mm W305mm.
£525 (framed)

End of Catalogue

For all sales or for more information about any works

Please contact : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

Website : www.aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk **Instagram :** [@aldevalleyfestival](https://www.instagram.com/aldevalleyfestival)