

# ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE : JASON GATHORNE-HARDY

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### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I have drawn seagulls in flight for almost thirty years. I had been aware of them overhead since childhood, noticing them on the coast and also perhaps more memorably flocking around tractors as they ploughed arable land miles from the sea. They were part of rural and coastal life : a feature in the sky, much as planes are now.

I became more conscious of them when working in London in the 1990s. I had a studio in Battersea and I used to spend a lot of time drawing in the London parks and along the foreshore of the Thames. Other birds seemed determinedly terrestrial by comparison, almost leaden : flight was hard work and the default position for most birds was to remain earth-bound, sitting on the ground or perched on a tree or building. A stretched wing for a pigeon or rook took on the quality of a mammalian yawn : it brought very little risk of being swept up aloft into the sky.

By contrast, this seemed to be a very real risk or opportunity for seagulls. Watching them on the foreshore of the Thames at low tide or perched on boats and railings, it was clear that with one flick of their wing tips, they were up and away. For seagulls, staying on the ground seemed to hard work. Flight was their default action. Their natural habitat was air. Once this revelation had sunk in, I became fascinated by their movement : taking off and landing; towering up and then angle-diving against headwinds; spurring themselves up into sudden updrafts and eddies; coasting the surfaces of invisible air-currents; catching side winds, to flick up and over or away; punching forward, hunch-winged, in heavy rain; and riding miraculously high and disappearing into dark air-caverns during immense, sky-filling storms.

All of these things could be seen in London, but the density of buildings made the sky seem small; and the seagulls' cries were often drowned out by traffic noise and the roar of overhead planes. The true grace and elegance of their flight and occasional mystery is only really apparent when you watch them when standing beneath a full arc of sky. It is then that you can see their true freedom. They are like fish, flitting about in water: skipping, twisting, darting and skimming through a medium that for us is so thin that all we can do with is inhale it, whilst seagulls swim in it, coasting along.

One of my favourite places to watch and sketch gulls in flight is Slaughden, just south of Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. Another is a field called The Walks at White House Farm, where gulls often pass overhead, both singly and in larger flocks. With the skies so empty of planes recently, I have noticed that I look up when I hear the gulls now much as I used to if I heard a plane overhead. The gull's cry is now audible as the cloud-thundering roar of jet planes has subsided. And the attraction of drawing them ? I think it is to somehow be with them in flight : to try and capture the line of their wings and the eddies of air as they slice and drift and bank and dive and soar through the sky to be with them in flight through drawing.

For all sales and more news about Jason's work : [enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk)

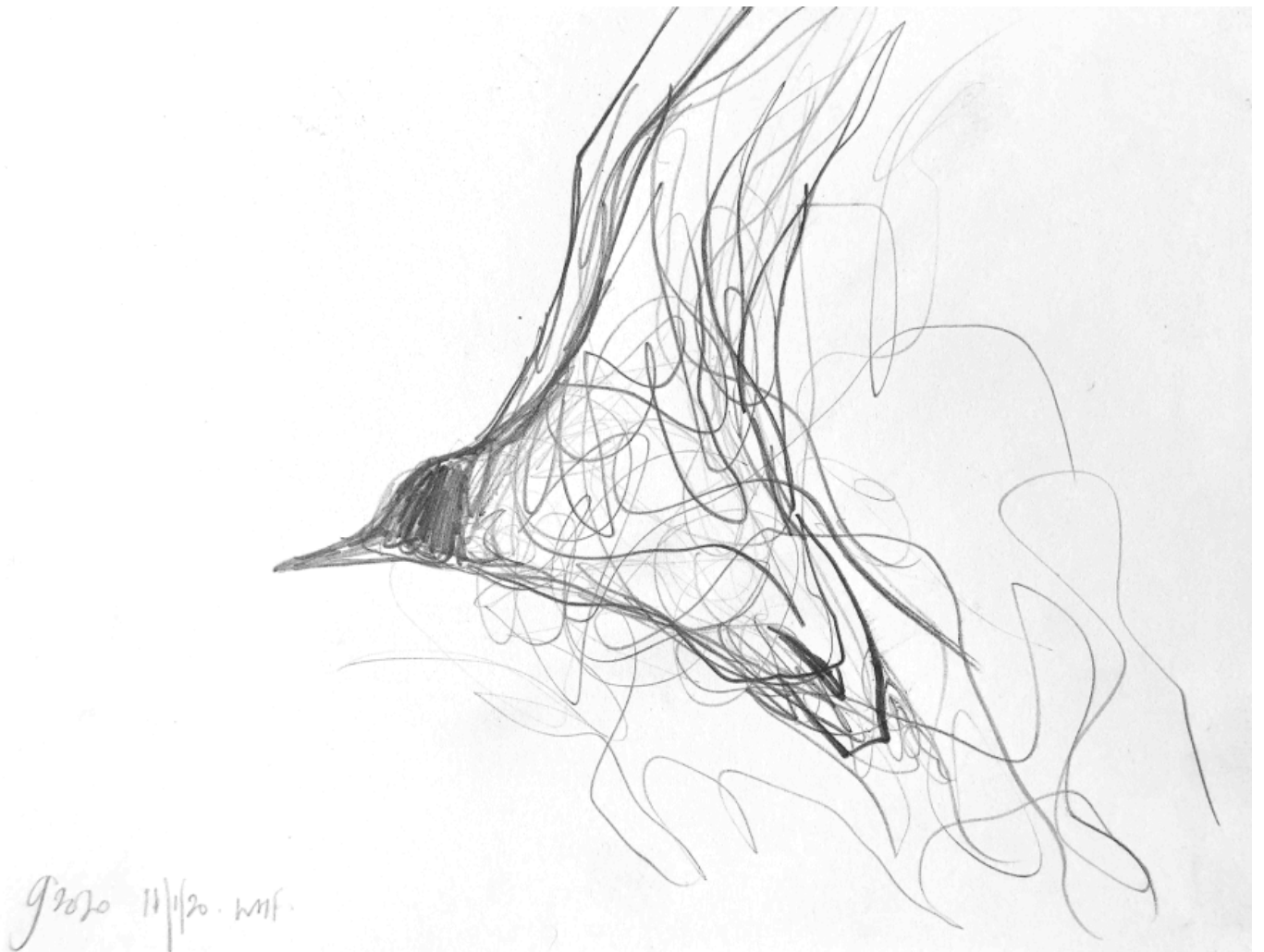


1. **SOLD** *Forward Flight*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H230mm W310mm  
£425 (framed)



mb mtf H/11/20

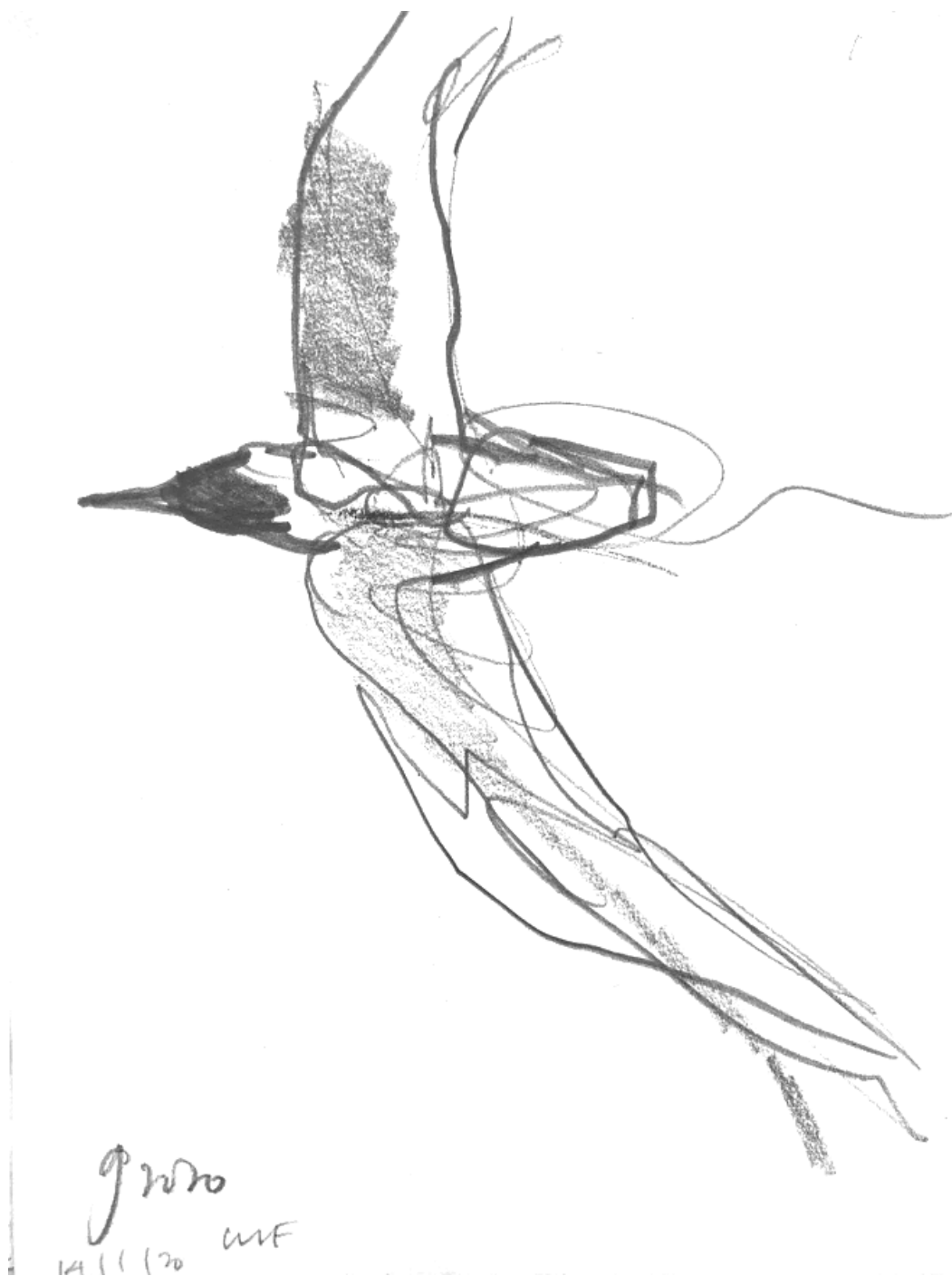
2. *Angle Dive I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H300mm W460mm  
£595 (framed)



3. *Airborne*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H230mm W310mm  
£425 (framed)



4. *Upshore*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H230mm W310mm  
£425 (framed)



5. *Tern*, 2020.

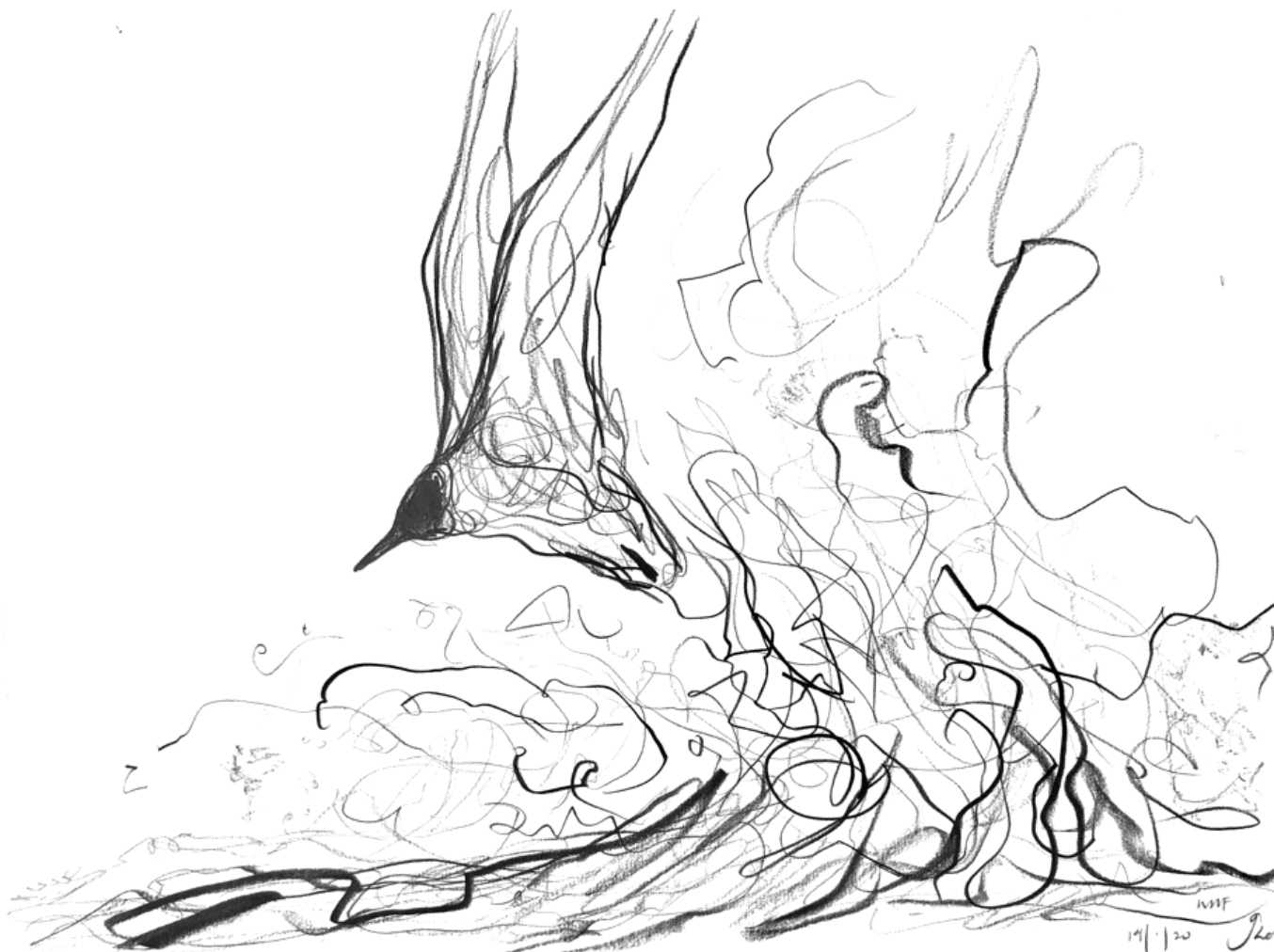
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper

H310mm W230mm

£425 (framed)



6. *Angle Dive II*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H230mm W310mm  
£425 (framed)



7. *Out of the Waves I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gsm Arche hot pressed paper  
H455mm W610mm  
£795 (framed)

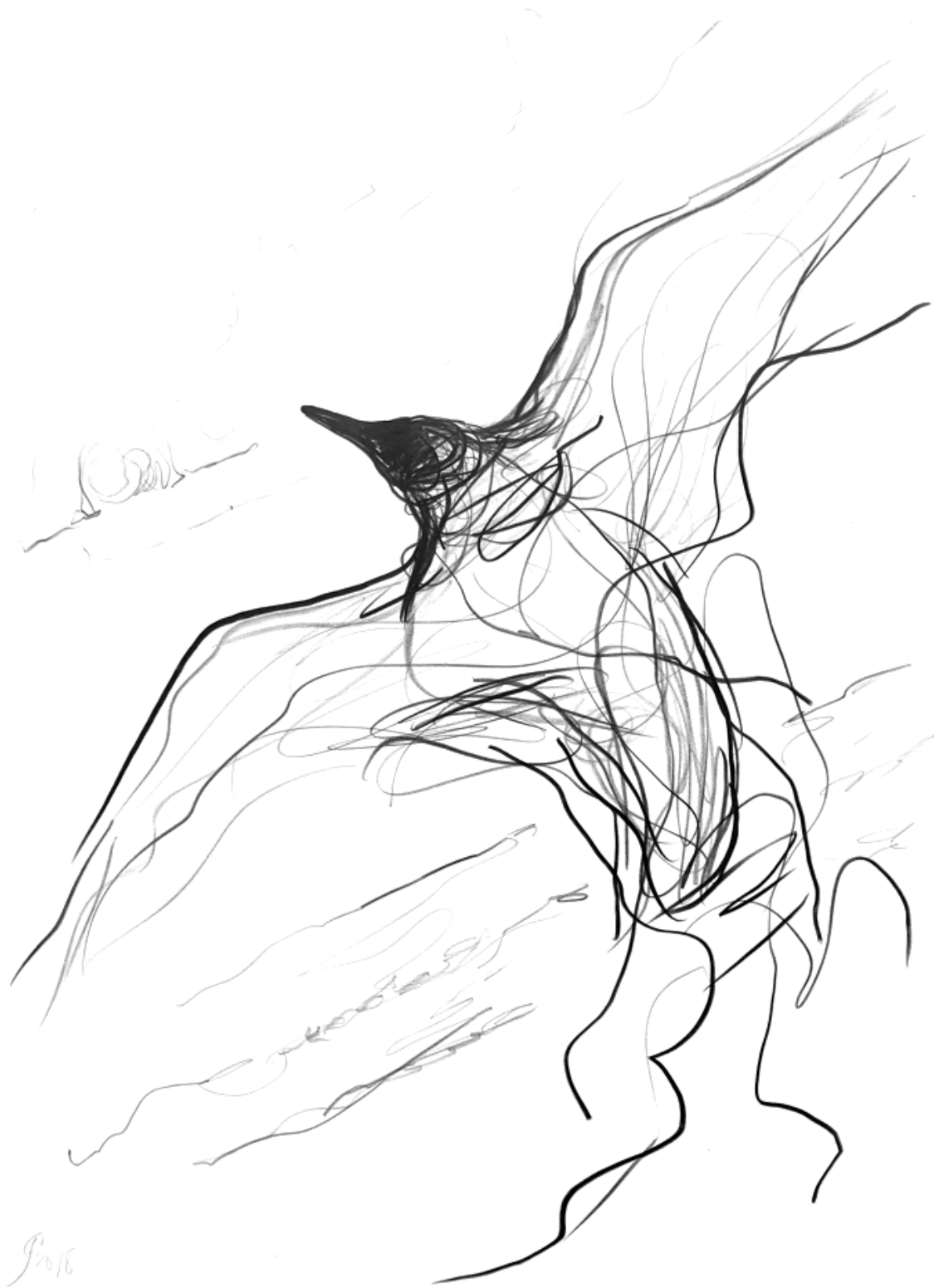




8. *Wave Breaker*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H230mm W310mm  
£595 (framed)



9. *Sea Scanner I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H310mm W230mm  
£425 (framed)



10. *High above Slaughden, 2020.*  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£995 (framed)



- II. *Wind Rider I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£995 (framed)



12. **SOLD** *Turbulence I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£995 (framed)



13. *Out of the Waves I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£1,115 (framed)



14. *Sea Scanner II*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gsm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£995 (framed)



15. *Slaughden Gull*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gsm Arche hot pressed paper  
H765mm W560mm  
£995 (framed)

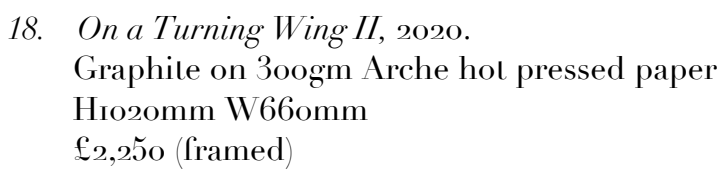




16. *On a Turning Wing I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
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£995 (framed)

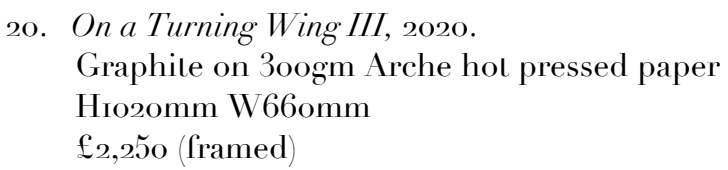


17. *Down Beat I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H610mm W455mm  
£795 (framed)



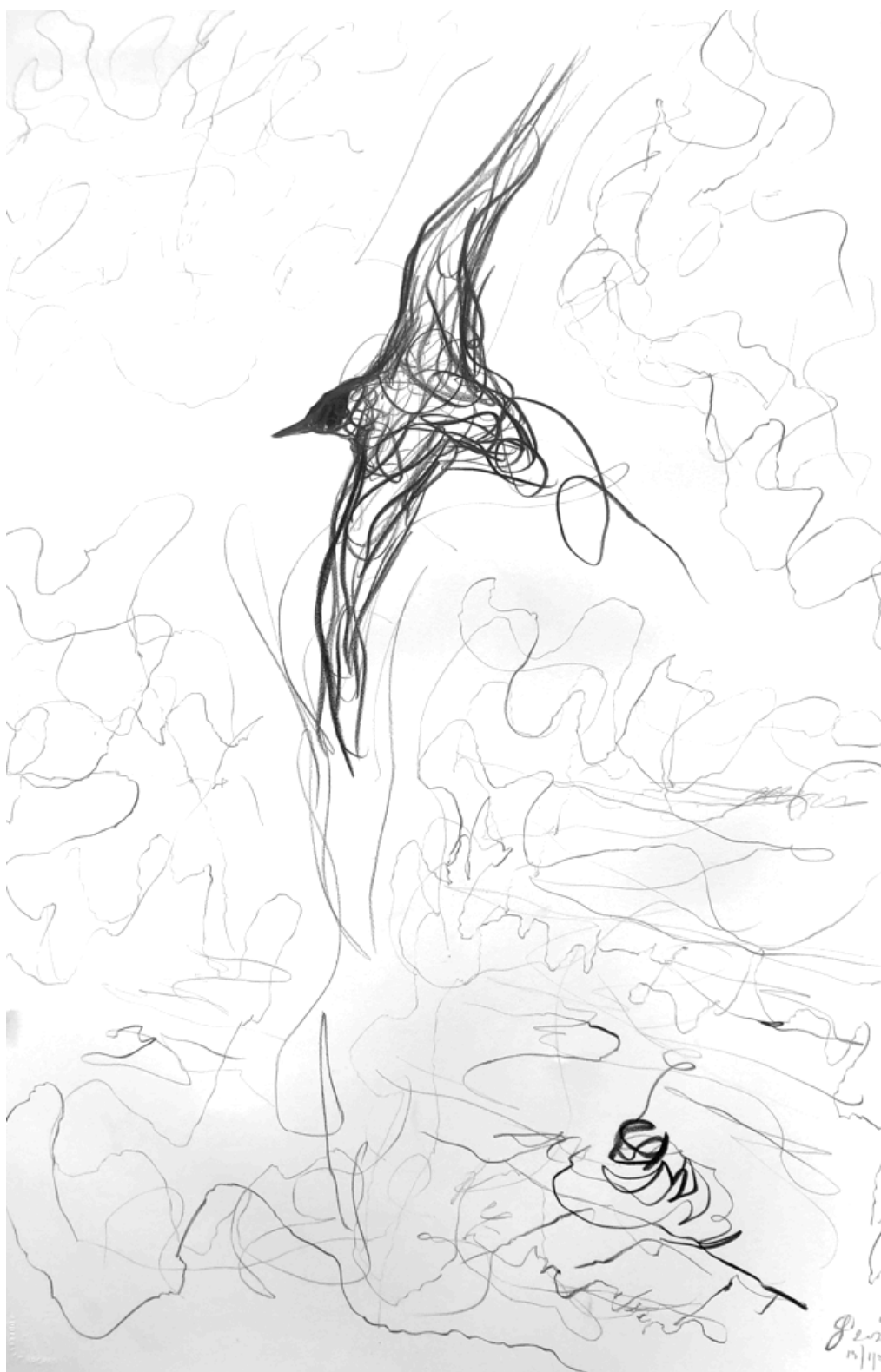


19. *Storm Gull I*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gsm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)





21. *Storm Gull II*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gsm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)

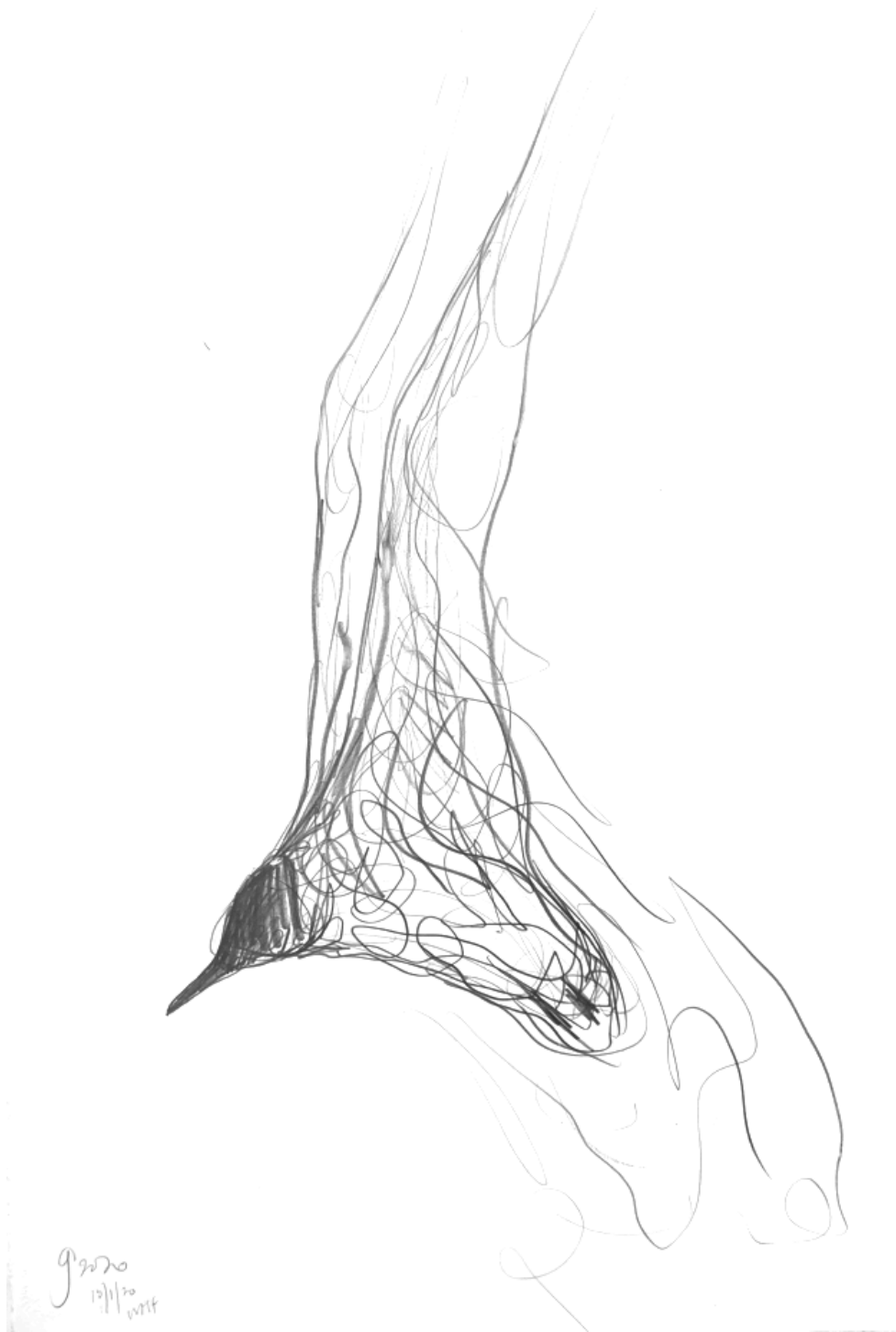


22. *On a Turning Wing III*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)



23. *Down Beat II*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)





24. *Wind Rider II*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)



25. *Herring Gull*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)



26. *Airborne*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)



27. *Storm Gull III: New Horizons*, 2020.  
Graphite on 300gm Arche hot pressed paper  
H1020mm W660mm  
£2,250 (framed)

**End of Catalogue**

**For all sales or for more information about any works**

**Please contact : [enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk)**

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