

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE : TOBIAS FORD

~

NOTE : we are currently awaiting images

It is a delight to be able to welcome Tobias's bird sculptures back to the farm. Wrought from steel and sometimes even 'drawn' in 3D by applying extreme heat to the tips of metal rods, his work combines the innate strength of metal with an almost magical or alchemical sense of lightness and life.

For the 2020 Spring Festival Exhibition we invited Tobias to create a collection of raptors found in Suffolk. Those included in the exhibition represent the start of this project, interrupted by the current health emergency.

As if in anticipation of Tobias' work, the skies and woods at the farm have been filling up with owls, kestrels, buzzards and even two kites – the first time we have seen them here. The White Tailed Sea Eagle is aspirational – with rebirding projects on the march, maybe these raptors will also return to our skies.

1. **SOLD** *Barn owl* £1,900

Welded steel with a rust patina on oak branch base.

2. *Buzzard* £1,850

Welded steel with a rust patina on an oak branch base.

3. *Pair of Merlins* £1,500

Welded steel with a rust patina on an oak branch base.

4. *Marsh harrier* £1,700

Welded steel with a rust patina on an oak branch base.

5. *White Tailed Eagle* £8,000

Welded steel with a rust patina on an oak branch base.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I made these works based on a long standing fascination with birds of prey. I can remember falconry displays and bird sanctuaries as a child filling me with joy. Just the sheer pleasure of watching the aerial acrobatics of these majestic creatures inspired me even back then to draw and paint. I think it was due to a longing for 360 degrees of freedom and then when I grew older the realisation and enjoyment of evolution manifesting itself in such a magical trait.

Now my work is mainly based around balance and gait in both human and animal, the communication of great emotions conveyed in a slight twist of the head or a tilt of the hips. I think with the birds comes the added challenge of making my medium of steel seem light, and that's all in the balance.

Tobias Ford. April 2020.

For all sales enquiries / sculpture commissions please contact :

enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk