

# ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL 2020

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

## OPEN STUDIOS : BORIS ALDRIDGE

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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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 his virtual / online Open Studio, Boris is continuing with his song-writing and painting – slowly building up a beautiful collection of illustrated song sheets that will one day become the pages of the book *Songs from the Blackshore*. Four pages are presented here as part of the online Open Studios.

**Enquiries welcome :**

**For all sales & more info :** [enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk)

BORIS ALDRIDGE

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SONGS FROM THE BLACKSHORE

## MAKER'S STATEMENT

The Ionia residency is part of an ongoing collaborative project that I have been developing over the last year inspired by local stories, myth, music and of course, the Ionia houseboat.

The project is trans-disciplinary in nature incorporating ceramics, art, poetry, books and music. During my residency I will be focusing on the music and the literary side, developing both the artwork and scores for my upcoming songsbook "Songs from the Blackshore" featuring scores, poetry, art and stories from myself along with other songwriters from The Blackshore Collective.

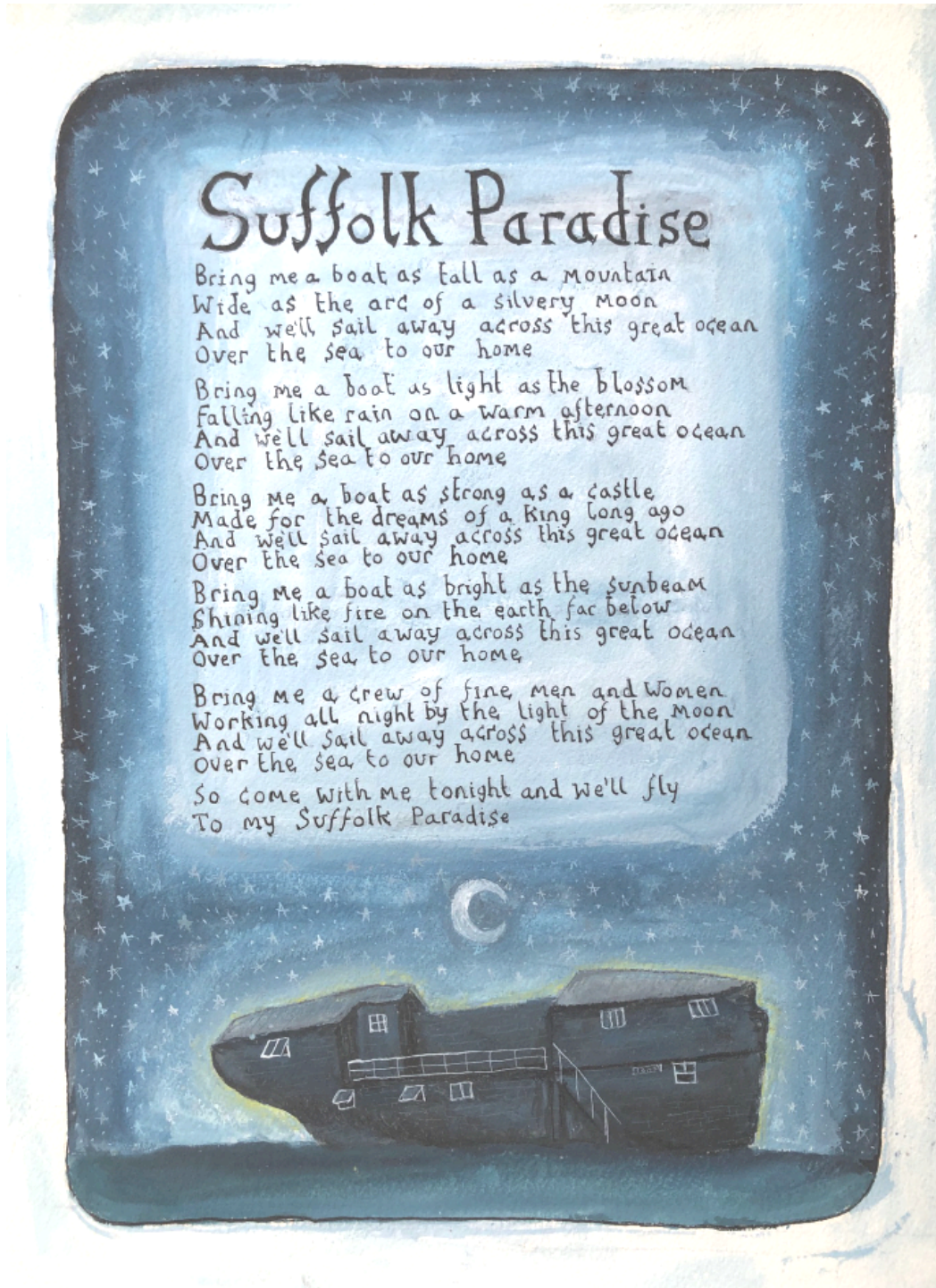
Boris Aldridge. April 2020.

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# BORIS ALDRIDGE

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## SONGS FROM THE BLACKSHORE



1. *Suffolk Paradise*, 2020.

Watercolour and ink on paper.

H410mm W310mm

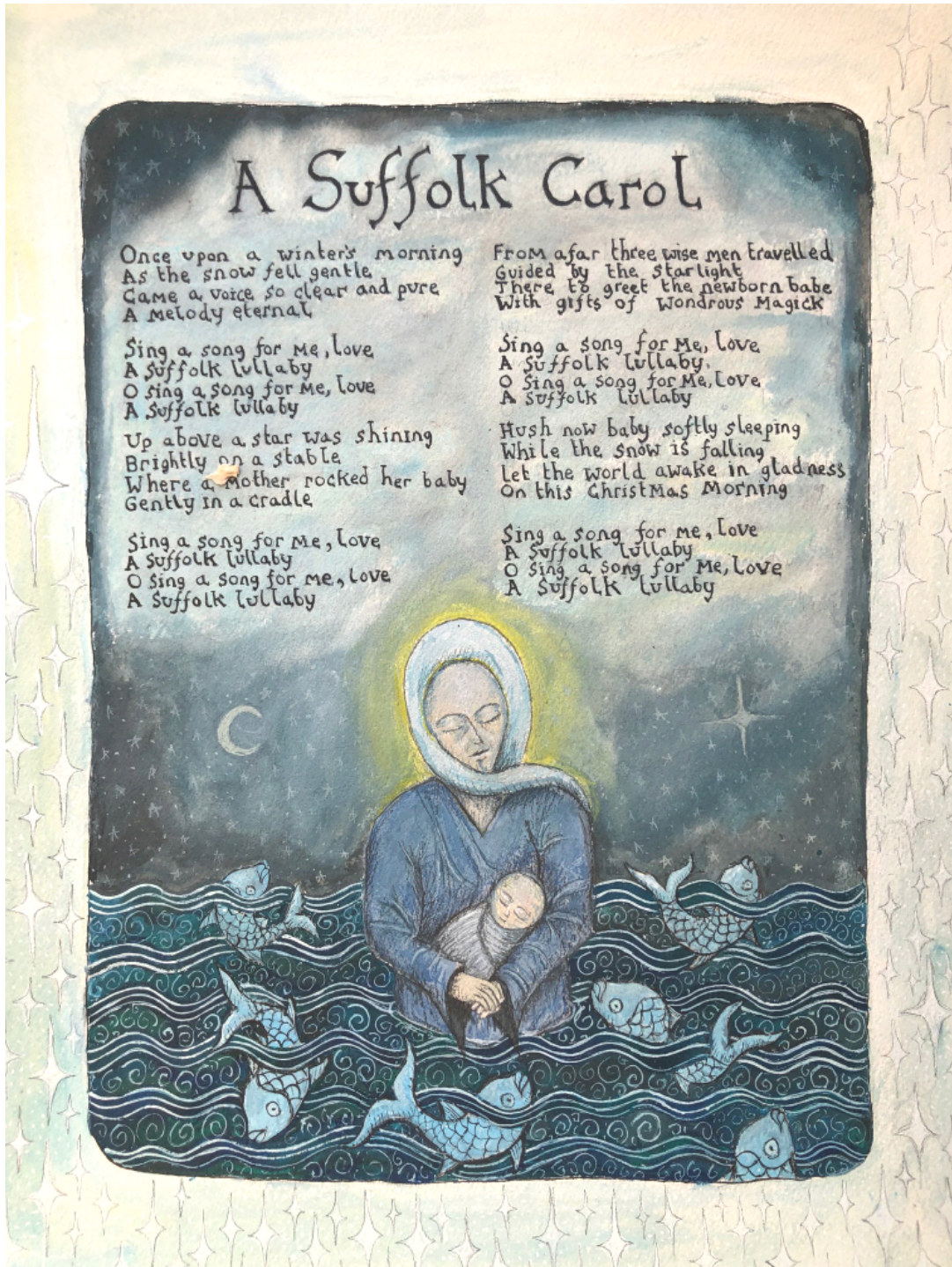
£995 [framed]



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## SONGS FROM THE BLACKSHORE



2. *A Suffolk Carol*, 2020.

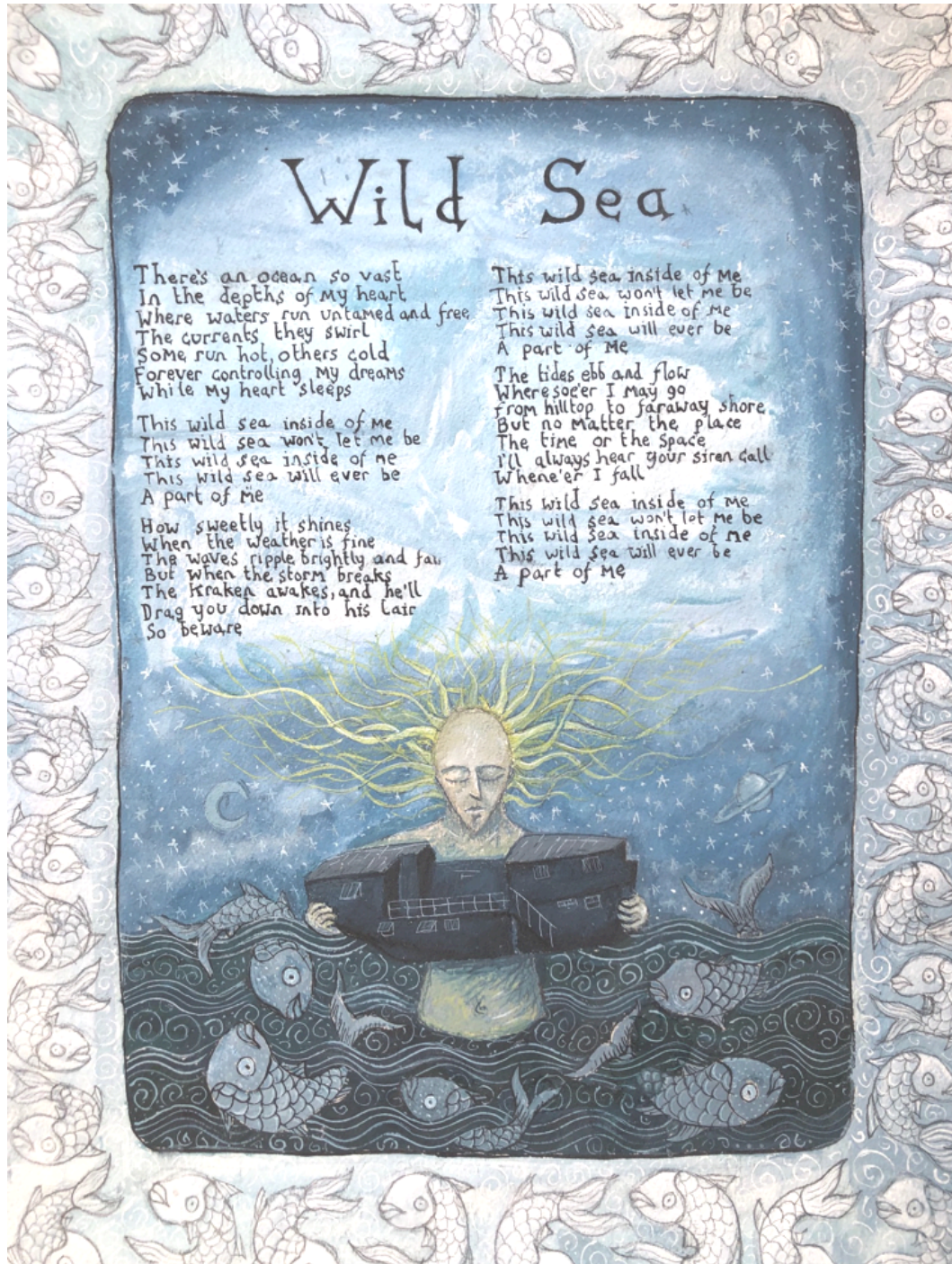
Watercolour and ink on paper.  
H410mm W310mm  
£995 [framed]



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## SONGS FROM THE BLACKSHORE



3. *Wild Sea*, 2020.

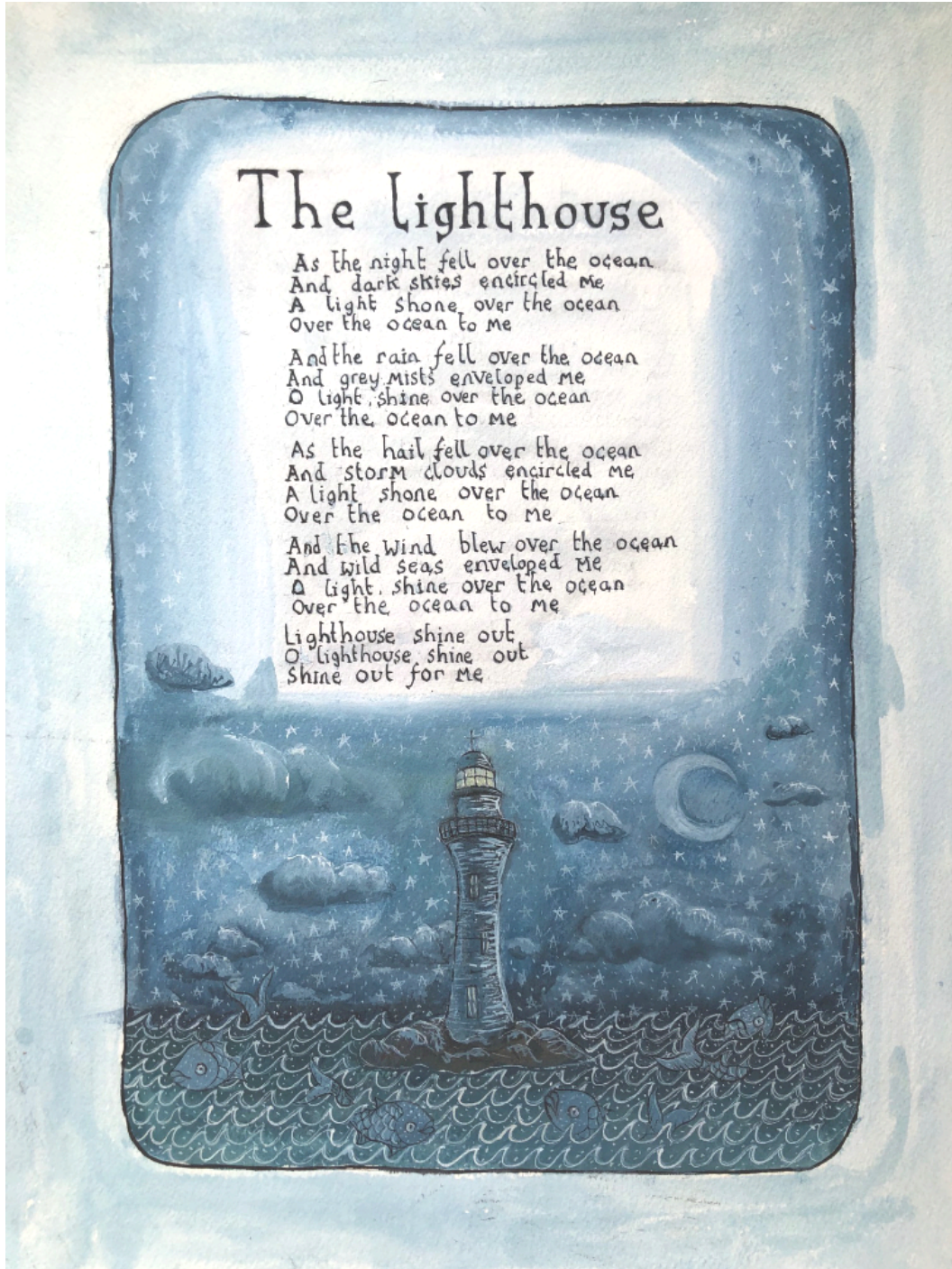
Watercolour and ink on paper.  
H410mm W310mm  
£995 [framed]



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## SONGS FROM THE BLACKSHORE



4. *The Lighthosue*, 2020.

Watercolour and ink on paper.

H410mm W310mm

£995 [framed]

## **End of Catalogue & Price List**

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

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

**Website :** [www.aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk](http://www.aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk)

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