

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

REBIRDING RESIDENCY WITH BECKY MUNTING

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ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE



11. Whitethroat, 2020. Oil on Board. H180mm W130mm

This catalogue presents new works arising from the *Rebirding Residency* at White House Farm - the home of the Alde Valley Spring Festival. In the lead up to the 2020 Festival Exhibition *On a Turning Wing*, Becky Munting was invited to use the Hedge Hut as a studio to paint as many as possible of the different birds species that live on the farm or which visit it seasonally. The residency has been extended to run through the rest of 2020. For the time being, we are sending Becky photographs and recordings of birds seen or heard in the woods, fields and hedgerows at the farm to support a remote residency with the aim of returning to the Hedge Hut studio later in the year. You can find out more about the extensive *Rebirding Projects* at the farm and Becky's beautiful paintings on our instagram account @aldevalleyfestival.

For all sales and more news about Becky's work :

enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk



1. Dreaming of Last Summer
Oil and Gold Leaf on Board
H610mm W255mm
£695



2. Chaffinch
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



3. Watching Barn Owl
Oil and Gold Leaf on Board
H455mm W255mm
£475



4. Pheasant
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



5. Long Tailed Tit IV
Oil on Board
H180mm x W130mm
£165



6. Little Robin
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



7. Sky Lark
Oil on Board
H180mm W255mm
£195



8. Pair of Long Tailed Tits
Oil and gold Leaf on Board
H255mm W180mm
£295



9. Yellow Hammer
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



10. Swallow in Flight
Oil and Gold Leaf on Board
H255mm W180mm
£225



11. Whitethroat
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



12. Gold Crest II
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm
£165



13. Blackbird II
Oil on Board
H180mm W130mm



14. Tawny Owl
Oil and Gold Leaf on Board
H305mm W230mm
£325

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Over the past few years, my painting has focused on the wildlife that I have found in the immediate vicinity of my studio. I am lucky enough to have a wildflower garden, and to be surrounded by fields and hedges. However, it was very noticeable that a lot of the wildlife was gathered directly around houses and gardens, where there are shrubs and bushes for cover and nesting, and quite often food sources too. The large arable fields and bushwhacked hedges appear to provide very little habitat for insects and birds. They often appear barren of bird life, other than species introduced for "sport", such as pheasants and partridges. Dead bees are a common sight on the edges of tracks and roads.

Being offered the *Hedge Hut Residency*, and the freedom to wander through the woods and meadows at White House Farm was a wonderful opportunity. The re-wilding projects undertaken by Jason at the farm are creating additional habitats and food sources for many different species. The lack of use of pesticides on the grassland and farm gardens will allow more insect and bugs to thrive and these, in turn, will provide food for birds.

February was somewhat blighted by strong winds and the necessary ground and tree work to create new woodland spaces for birds. However, even with this disruption, the birds have enough space and cover to thrive. I could reliably go to one particular area of the wood opposite the cottage and know I would see tree creepers, gold crests and woodcocks. Having the time to sit and study the birds to better understand what places these species are likely to favour was - and is - fantastic.

Due to the circumstances beyond our control, my time in the *Hedge Hut* was cut short, but Jason has agreed that I can continue the Residency throughout the rest of this year. The migratory birds will be arriving, and the new habitats will begin to bed into the landscape. It will be an exciting time to see what and who appears.

Becky Munting. 5th April, 2020.

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