

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE : BECKY MUNTING

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Hedgerows are a vital refuge for birds. A good thick hedge full of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, crab apples, ivy, brambles and roses provides food, shelter and nesting sites for song birds and a larder for magpies, jays and sparrowhawks. To highlight the importance of hedges for bird life, the Festival offered the farm's Hedge Hut to Becky Munting for a *Rebirding Residency*. With this was an invitation to represent in oil paintings as many bird species as possible that live on the farm. The residency, which is now ongoing, coincides with a series of *Rebirding Projects* that were launched at the farm in early 2020 - inspired by Benedict Macdonald's book *Rebirding*. It is hoped that these will significantly boost the number of bird species that live on the farm - all captured in Becky Munting's beautiful paintings. You can find out more about the *Rebirding Projects* and Becky's residency on our instagram account @aldevalleyfestival.

For all sales and more news about Becky's work : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk



1. *Hedge Hut Gang*, 2020. Oil on board.
H305mm W230mm £395



2. **SOLD** *Marsh Tit*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165



3. **SOLD** *Green Woodpecker*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H180mm W255mm £225



4. *Pied Wagtail*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165



5. *In Flight II : Green Woodpecker*, 2020. Oil on board.
H230mm W305mm £225



6. *Sparrowhawk*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H355mm W208mm £455



7. **SOLD** *Blackbird*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165



8. **SOLD** *Blue Tit*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



9. **SOLD** *Long Tailed Tit II*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165.



10. **SOLD** *Rook I*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H180mm W130mm £195



11. *Fieldfare*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165



12. *Landing II : Robin*, 2020. Oil on board.
H250mm W180mm £195



13. *Little Wren*, 2020. Oil on board.
H130mm W180mm £165



14. *On a Turning Wing I: Great Tit*, 2020. Oil on board.
H255mm W180mm £225



15. **SOLD** *Bullfinch*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



16. *Treecreeper II*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



17. **SOLD** *In Flight III: Swallow*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H230mm W180mm £245



18. **SOLD** *No-one loves a Pigeon, except another Pigeon, 2020.*
Oil on board. H130mm W180mm £165



19. **SOLD** *Gold Crest*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



20. *Tree Creeper I*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



21. **SOLD** *Dunnock*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



22. **SOLD** *Woodcock*, 2020. Oil on board.
H230mm W305mm £295



23. *On a Turning Wing III : Jay*, 2020.
Oil and gold leaf on board.
H355mm W304mm £425



24. *Landing I: Robin*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W255mm £195



25. *Buzzard*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H455mm W255mm £545



26. **SOLD** *Long Tailed Tit III*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H130mm W180mm £195



27. *On a Turning Wing II Great Tit*, 2020. Oil on board.
H255mm W180mm £225



28. **SOLD** *Wren*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



29. **SOLD** *Song of Winter*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



30. *In Flight I: Greater Spotted Woodpecker*, 2020.

Oil on board. H230mm W305mm £245



31. **SOLD** *Up in the Branches*, 2020.
Oil and gold leaf on board.
H304mm W180mm £345



32. *Heard but Rarely Seen : Nightingale*, 2020.
Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



33. **SOLD** *Nuthatch*, 2020. Oil on board.
H180mm W130mm £165



34. **SOLD** *Quartering Barn Owl*, 2020.
Oil and gold leaf on board.
H455mm W305mm £495



35. *Rook III*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H180mm W130mm £195



36. **SOLD** *Long Tailed Tit I*, 2020.
Oil and gold leaf on board.
H180mm W130mm £195



37. **SOLD** *Swallow*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H130mm W180mm £195



38. *Cawing Crow*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H180mm W130mm £195



39. **SOLD** *Barn Owl Resting*, 2020. Oil and gold leaf on board.
H457mm W260mm £495

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