

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

HORSEBOX RESIDENCY CATALOGUE

Paintings by

TESSA NEWCOMB

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I hung my first bird feeders outside the horsebox one January afternoon.

My fear was that I would not see any birds.

A little later the hedge started popping with little birds.

I was delighted and have continued to be so.

Now from home I can visualise the birds having a field day.

My mother (the painter Mary Newcomb) first came to Minsmere when the avocets arrived.

She met my father who was working on the land at Walberswick.

They settled here.

It has taken me years to become a 'bird watcher'.

Thank you Jason for suggesting it.

Tessa Newcomb. 2nd April 2020. Wenhaston.

FESTIVAL NOTES

It is a joy to see a very familiar place through the eyes and impressions of another. Tessa's work has remained at the heart of the Spring Festival Exhibitions since the first small show at Church Cottages in Great Glemham in 2003. It is endlessly fascinating to see how she perceives the world. Her paintings are teeming with narratives, some hidden and others obvious; but all of which emerge from close observation and her own deeply original perception of what's going on – be it people, farm animals or wildlife.

This collection of paintings has grown out of the *Horsebox Residency* at White House Farm. The horsebox itself has provenance, having featured in the book *One Man and a Mule* by Hugh Thomson. It now resides at the farm and is used seasonally as a painting studio. For spring 2020 we parked it beside a restored hedge and offered it to Tessa as a studio from which to paint songbirds, farmyard fowl and wild birds from the Alde Valley and Suffolk Coast.

The residency is ongoing and after a pause of two months, new works have started to arrive at the farm. We have decided to present these in a new Horsebox Residency Catalogue. Two of the paintings – *Boy Hens* and *The Developers* – were made during the first part of the Horsebox Residency in 2019. The remaining seven works have all been painted in the past two months and relate to the farm and other scenes glimpsed in rural Suffolk in Spring 2020.

For all sales, larger images and more details : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

The dimensions given are for the paintings; all prices include frames (not measured).



1. *January Conversation*, 2020.

Oil on board.

H200mm W200mm

£425



2. *Boy Hens*, 2019.

Oil on board.
H280mm W425mm
£950



3. *Common Cat*, 2020.

Oil on board.
H150mm W245mm
£400



4. *No People to Put Us Off, 2020.*

Oil on board.

H150mm W150mm

£350



5. *Developers*, 2019.

Oil on board.

H290mm W500mm

£1,850



6. *Two Cockerels*, 2020.

Oil on board.

H140mm W290mm

£445



7. *Silent Spring*, 2020.

Oil on board.

H320mm W150mm

£445



8. *Low Sun, 2020.*

Oil on board.

H200mm W200mm

£455



9. *The Other Cockerel*, 2020.

Oil on paper.

H200mm W240mm

£525



10. *The Lakes, 2020.*

Oil on board
H450mm W610mm
£1,800

*"I first saw the lakes in February when David was still making them with his digger.
The water was higher than the Alde.*

I returned in May.

They had grown and the water level had gone down.

I had expected to see otter and exotic ducks landing .

It was still and hot.

Waterboatmen skimmed, beetles beetled like dodgem cars;

A damselfly landed , the neighbour did his garden;

The sheep came out of the poplars and the strong orange roots of the mint were growing.

It was a space being filled."

Tessa Newcomb, 16th May 2020

For all sales or for more information about any works

Please contact : enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

Website : www.aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk **Instagram :** @aldevalleyfestival