

ALDE VALLEY SPRING FESTIVAL EXHIBITION 2020

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

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE : TOBIAS FORD

~

It is a delight to be able to welcome Tobias Ford'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 flight.

For the 2020 Spring Festival Exhibition we invited Tobias to create for the Spring Festival *The Suffolk Raptor Collection* – a collection of all the raptor species found in Suffolk, wrought in metal. Those included in this Catalogue represent the start of the project, interrupted by the Covid epidemic. We hope to add to the Collection over the summer and coming autumn.

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 largest sculpture – a magnificent representation of a White Tailed Eagle in flight - is aspirational. At present, it remains absent from Suffolk skies – but with rebirding projects and the recent launch of the Wild East campaign, it is possible that these raptors will one day return to our broad Suffolk skies.

All the sculptures illustrated in the Catalogue are available for sale and can be viewed in the landscape at White House Farm, the home of the Alde Valley Spring Festival. Bespoke sculptures and commissions for raptors are also undertaken. If you would like to commission a Suffolk Raptor for your house or garden, please contact the Festival Office :

enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk

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



1. *White Tailed Eagle*. £8,000

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



2. **SOLD** *Barn Owl*. £1,900

Welded steel with a rust patina on oak branch base.



3. *Marsh Harrier*. £1,700

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



4. *Pair of Merlins.* £1,500

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



5. *Buzzard.* £1,850

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

For all sales enquiries / sculpture commissions please contact :
enquiries@aldevalleyspringfestival.co.uk