

Sightings

Sightings is about that moment of joy and recognition when you and another more-than-human being connect. Hearing a high call and looking up to see an oystercatcher skim past you; turning a leaf and finding a caterpillar underneath; gazing down into the water and catching the fluid movement of a fish.

One moment you are just standing, looking at the sea; the next you feel connected in every fibre of your being to this wild and beautiful world.

Harriet Impey

Harriet grew up in Oxford, studied at Cambridge University, and has lived in Leiden since 2001. She has held exhibitions in the Netherlands, the UK and France, and has two published books.

Harriet's childhood ambition was to be a naturalist on a voyage of discovery, and in a way she is exactly that. She is passionate about using her art to share her enthusiasm for nature with a wider audience. She is constantly learning, both about nature and new techniques, and uses a very wide range of media to express and share her abundance of ideas.



'My work... is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished.'

Mary Oliver

Sightings

*The wind whips my hair into crests, nests
like the waves over which
you soar,
slipping
between sea, and sky, and sight.*

*I sink to my knees on the
shingle; flowers, shells,
salt beneath my skin,
under the wide, beautiful sky,
Watching you
lightwards.*

Harriet Impey

Sightings (Collage, handmade papers,
50x70cm) €300



Namings

'Knowing their names is the first step in regaining our connection... it is sign of respect.'

Robin Wall Kimmerer

When we venture out to watch nature, we like to find out what we are seeing – to identify, to name, to recognise, and in so doing we connect. Yet, once home, we often forget what we have learned. What if our art could maintain the connection of identification? What if next time the recognition could be instant?

This series of reductive collages (layers of paper cut back to reveal the colour underneath) combine the didactic with the decorative.



House martin



Swift



Swallow

Birds (Reductive collages 19x25cm) €100 each



Puffin



Guillemot



Herring gull



Oystercatcher



Arctic tern



Black guillemot



Puffin



Black guillemot



Black-headed gull



Shearwater

Seabirds (Reductive collages, 25x31cm) €120 each

Meetings

*We met long ago, old friend,
In some shallow sea before time.*

*This is your world, the water kingdoms
yours, not mine.*

*And yet, you flash
A semaphore of silver
greeting; pass on by.*

Harriet Impey



Herrings (30x15) €250



Red mullet (30x15cm) €250



Herring shoal (53x30cm) €450



Anchovies (Fused glass and sycamore, 53x30cm) €400

Mackerel (Fused glass and sycamore, 65x35cm) €450



Magnifications

*'Just beyond the limits of ordinary perception
lies another level in the hierarchy of beauty'*

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Moving closer, using microscopes to study ponds, puddles, canals, we find community on a different scale. A world of not only animals, plants and algae but of *protists*: protozoa and other 'sort-of-animals' that belong to a different kingdom altogether, which contains a glorious diversity of infinitesimal forms of being.



Heliozoa



Ostracods



Vorticella



Peritrichia



Chilomonas



Tube-dwelling diatoms

Microscopic life (Fused glass 23x23cm) €300 each

Microscopic life – a few details



Heliozoa – Freshwater protozoa that use their radiating *pseudopodia* to catch prey.



Ostracods – Crustaceans within bivalves, found for the last 570 million years in all aquatic environments. Their bioluminescence led Japanese fishermen to call them ‘sea fireflies’.



Vorticella convallaria – Ciliate protozoa that connect to a substrate with a long stalk.



Tube-dwelling diatoms – Colonies of algae that grow attached to solid substrates. Eutrophication has increased their numbers in our waterways.



Peritrichia – Ciliated vase-shaped protozoa that attach to underwater substrate. Useful as pollution indicators.



Chilomonas – Free-swimming freshwater protozoa that live in stagnant water, with two flagellae for excellent locomotion.

Deflections

Sometimes the appearance of a more-than-human being is a message in itself. Many caterpillars are deliberately recognisable, communicating their toxicity, their painful spines, or engaging in biomimicry to resemble venomous beings. For them, successful connection involves recognition followed by deflection.

Those of us with childhood memories of caterpillar spines in our fingers after unwisely enthusiastic connection will keep a respectful distance, but still not deflected, we will appreciate their beauty.



Alder moth



Magpie moth



Great ash sphinx



Privet hawk moth



Peacock butterfly



Swallowtail butterfly

Caterpillars (Fused glass 15x20cm) €200 each

*'Let me keep company always with those who say
'Look'! and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.'*

Mary Oliver