Biography Sheila Tilmouth

Sheila Tilmouth’s art is an interpretive response to the natural world. She uses macro photography to research her subject matter and frequently references the features of tiny creatures such as the wing of a butterfly or leg of a beetle with the help of digital microscopy. Her work is detailed and closely observed. The mediums she uses are oil painting, wood engraving, linocut and drawing.

Tilmouth brings together found objects in her paintings such as a dragonfly, shell or feather carefully arranging them into a still life. She works meticulously with thin layers of oil paint on a gesso panel capturing the fall of light, texture or form of her subject matter.

The plate used for wood engraving is hard endgrain of box or lemon which is cut with sharp precision tools. The prints are exact and clearly defined in black and white. Linocut is a coarser, bolder printmaking medium which Tilmouth frequently uses to change the scale of her subject enlarging a small invertebrate so that detail in its anatomy can be understood. In other work she enjoys reflecting the relationships between creatures in the natural world with print titles such as ‘Bumblebee the Mighty Pollinator’ and ‘The Foodchain of Small Wetland Creatures’.

Tilmouth has exhibited extensively nationally over the many years she has made her living as an artist. With the support of Arts Council England she has undertaken artist residencies and tours of work. She has featured in TV and radio programs, regional publications and newspapers and has co-authored a book on the critically endangered Fen Raft Spider. She has worked in partnership with Wildlife Trusts, Conservation Groups and specialist Societies such as Buglife.

Tilmouth has given lectures, workshops and demonstrations at conferences, universities, museums and galleries as well as zoos, village halls and agricultural shows.

Examples of her work can be found at [www.sheila-tilmouth.co.uk](http://www.sheila-tilmouth.co.uk/)

12.12.17