

## Spring Newsletter 2017



### **It's Spring!**

Where has the year whizzed by to, no sooner do I sit at my desk and write my New Year Newsletter to you all, Spring is here, and I'm battling with the rodents happily munching on my pea seedlings (yes, they have devoured 160 seedlings so far...sniff) and Easter is around the corner. Thankfully my mousey nemesis has been caught, humanely (I know, sappy aren't I?) and dispatched to a hedgerow far, far away...

Don't forget I have lots of Spring themed greeting cards for that special loved one this Easter, which are available at Shoreham Art Gallery and online.

<http://claireharrisonart.tictail.com/products/cards>

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### **May Exhibitions Including Brighton Open Houses**

I am excited to be exhibiting at [The Ming Gallery](#), 27 Montefiore Road, Hove as part of Brighton Open Houses during May. I will also be apart of the Flower Festival at [Shoreham Art Gallery](#), Brunswick Road (13-27 May).

As part of these exhibitions I will be launching my new series of work called "Fading Blooms" looking at the beautiful forms dying flowers create.

Left: Fading Blooms #1, Oil on Board

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### **Brighton Courses**

I am returning to Evolution Arts for 6 workshops this June and July. Each workshop will be 3 hours long on a Tuesday morning and look at a specific skill. If you are interested please book directly with Evolution Arts by clicking the link below,

<http://www.evolutionarts.org.uk/art-techniques-brighton>

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### **Guildford Courses**

The spring catalogue came out a few weeks ago and courses and summer workshops are booking fast! If you are interested, please book soon to avoid disappointment, you can book directly with the Guildford Institute by clicking the links below,

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/life-drawing-tone-and-structure/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/life-drawing/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/painting-with-a-palette-knife/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/ink-and-the-dipping-pen/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/floral-painting/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/exploring-chalk-pastels/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/drawing-loosening-up/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/core-skills/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/colour-mixing-and-theory/>

<http://www.guildford-institute.org.uk/product/chinese-painting/>



### **Story Behind the Work – Migration #1**

I am fascinated by the ecology around us, what eats what, how many creatures are there that we cannot see? I often pick flowers and in late summer and early autumn find dead insects that I like to study under a microscope. The shapes and forms that we cannot easily see with the naked eye I draw and study.

It was on one of these very first investigations, I picked a forget-me-not and with a USB microscope I was considering the small cavity in the centre of the flower, with a very bright LED light. My attention was on the shape of the stamens at the time, when suddenly a leg folded itself over the opening of the hole, to which I leapt from my desk in shock and horror. I'm not a squeamish person, but this enormous leg appeared on my screen at 400x zoom... Slowly the head appeared and I was staring at a little mite who had obviously made this pretty chalk blue flower its home, and who could blame it? I assume, and this is where my biological knowledge fails me, that it was eating the pollen. I could just about see it with my naked eye, now I knew it was there.

When, in the past I have studied dead dragonflies and damselflies they are often covered in mites too, but I have assumed that they are part of the decaying process. I have discovered the geometric structure to their wings and very spiny and hairy appendages, however this appears to be a theme with all insects! It was this research that

inspired this painting; the wings are created by tiny insects, mostly of my own design. It also hints at the true nature of this creature, we admire their beauty but they are truly dragons. The larvae of dragonflies live in ponds and are voracious predators eating anything and everything in their path. The adults are for mating, and don't hint at their past.

I have promised myself that I will never study the plants from my vegetable patch, as I suspect we are eating these tiny creatures all the time...

<http://claireharrisonart.tictail.com/product/migration-1>

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