

‘Climb up to the Moor’ at The Folly, Settle

26 March – 7 July 2013

The unique beauty of the Yorkshire Dales Moorland is captured in an exhibition being staged at The Folly, Settle.

Featuring original paintings by Judith Bromley and Robert Nicholls, the exhibition explores moorland life through the seasons, highlighting the fragility of the landscape and raising awareness of the importance of moorland conservation.

The paintings that make up this exhibition are the originals that were used as illustrations in the book ‘Climb up to the Moor’ published in October 2011. The majority of Judith’s paintings are oil on block canvas: land- and sky-scapes, portraits of the moorland floor, details of the geology and plant life. Painted especially for this project, Robert’s are watercolour studies of animals and birds seen on the moor.

We hope that people will not only enjoy seeing this inspiring work but will also become more aware of the role that moorland can play in the fight against climate change.

About the experience of being on the moors and working on the paintings, Judith says *‘The more time I spent up on the moorland with the calls of curlew and lapwing, the more I rediscovered my true relationship with the changing of the seasons, the turning of the earth, and the more passionate I became about caring for our precious jewel of a planet.’*

The climate change debate is high on the agenda now and by bringing the moorland into towns and cities in the form of this exhibition our intention is:

- to highlight that our peat bogs are as important for capturing and holding carbon as the earth’s rainforests
- to raise awareness of the diversity of the upland environment
- through the experience of the exhibition, invite wider audiences to deepen their own individual encounters with nature

The husband and wife team recruited pupils from Richmond School to go up onto the moor to record birdsong, wind and water for a sound installation to accompany the exhibition. There will also be a film presentation of one piece of bog as it changes through the seasons.

Local people from school children to artists, craftspeople and makers have been invited to make a small piece, in their own medium and style and inspired by the moorland floor, to be included in a group installation called ‘Ground Cover’.

There will be a family workshop day with Judith to invite you to help to add to ‘Ground Cover’ on 30 May 11.00am - 4.00pm. “Our hope is that, as the exhibition travels from one venue to another, ‘Ground Cover’ will grow as more groups, children and families add their own contributions.”

Judith will be giving an illustrated talk ‘Climbing up to the Moor: the Story of an Exhibition’ on Saturday 18 May at 7pm (tickets £6)

During the exhibition activities will be available designed to encourage anyone wanting to become involved with the challenge to explore their own local wild spaces and respond with creative expression and interpretation.

As this is a touring exhibition the paintings will not be for sale but signed copies of the book and prints of the originals will be available for purchase. If you do wish to purchase one of the paintings you are

invited to offer a sealed bid, the bids will be opened at the end of the exhibition tour at the beginning of 2015.

Judith worked with Fiona Rosher at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, to put together this touring exhibition, through the Extending Practice and Celebrating Place project run by Gargrave-based Chrysalis Arts. This project comprised a series of activities including mentoring, marketing support and artist commissions to benefit artists across York and North Yorkshire. It was funded by the Dales LEADER programme, the Business Link Legacy Fund, Arts Council England and North Yorkshire County Council.

The exhibition will be at the Peak District National Park Centre in Castleton in September 2013, and then Clitheroe Castle, Brockhole Lake District, and Kirkleatham Cleveland in 2014

Robert & Judith have lived and worked in Wensleydale since 1973. Their work has been shown widely in many one-man and joint exhibitions nationally, including the prestigious 'Painters of the Dales' exhibition; and also features in the book produced by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust – 'The Yorkshire Dales, a view from the Millennium'; and in 'The Yorkshire Dales, a 50th anniversary celebration of the National Park'. They were founder members of the Askrigg Group Exhibition, which was held for 25 years during August, first in Askrigg and later in the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

Robert Nicholls worked in illustration and design before specialising for many years in commissioned paintings with a variety of landscapes, often including wild or domestic animals and birds. His work is held in many private collections around the world, and he has won several national competitions. As a country artist with detailed knowledge of his subject, he is renowned for the drawing and finish of his work, which reflects a richness of light and detail.

Judith Bromley's work varies from large landscapes to small flower studies, and from traditional to a more exploratory approach. Inspired by the contrasts of wild empty moorland and flower filled meadows, high rushing waterfalls and slow reflective rivers, walls encrusted with mosses and lichens, and quiet secretive woods. She uses a variety of media - oils, pastels, gouache and watercolour, to express her deep love of the countryside and all its seasonal moods. Her studies of wild flowers have been particularly well known.

Judith has been a visiting tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham. She developed workshops and courses which explore the spiritual aspects of creativity - 'Contemplation & Creation', and during 2001-2 was awarded a Joseph Rowntree Quaker Fellowship, which enabled her to introduce her workshops to groups throughout Britain.

Note to Newsdesk

Judith Bromley and Robert Nicholls can be contacted for images/interviews on 01969 650266 or by emailing askrigg@askrigg-studios.co.uk. Their website is at <http://www.askrigg-studios.co.uk>



'Curlew' watercolour Robert Nicholls



'Sun & Shadow' oil on canvas Judith Bromley



'Bog' oil on block canvas Judith Bromley