

EIGHTH WONDER

This Somerset lass was determined from a young age
She travelled the land and took to the stage
To demonstrate her skill to all who would pay
Wherever the Fair had set up camp that day

The Eighth Wonder of the World
Visitors read as the banner unfurled
She stitched and wrote finely with her pen
This wonderous female, Miss Sarah Biffin

Still more she knew she could do
And to that end she set up a studio
After honing her skill as a painter
With many coming to sit for her

All marvelled at her skill
When she would reveal
Fine portraits of her clients
The income made her self-reliant

In this last she displays her pride
Although she has chosen to hide
Under a fur lined silk cloak
What was obvious to all the folk

Who saw her every day
And were amazed at the way
She could paint and sew
To let her artistic skill flow

Born without legs or arms
She had abundant charm
and a strong determination
twinned with lifelong dedication

to be seen as other than disabled
and with help and support was able
to use her mouth to sew and write
and eventually after she got that right

Become an accomplished painter
Of feathers and then faces
And recently to let everyone know
Displayed at a one woman show

at a London gallery in December 2022
and now her skill can be admired anew.

<https://philipmould.com/artworks/categories/15/5790-sarah-biffin-self-portrait-1842>