

Pete Carthy VISUAL ARTIST



Hi, my name is Pete Carthy. I have had a passion for nature my entire life, from walking in the Lake District with my family when I was a child, to running Forest School and Eco-therapy programmes through my social enterprise, Instinctively Wild CIC, as an adult.

My creative practice is nature inspired; photography, reduction linocut, eco-print and watercolour nature journaling.

I just love being out in nature, it's been my friend and teacher – it's where I find peace and joy. As John Muir puts it:

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” John Muir.

SKILLS/PRACTICE

- Watercolour Nature Journaling
- Landscape photography

EDUCATION

- 1987- 1988: BTEC OND Photography - Wigan College of Technology.
(left the course early to work in London).
- 1992 - 1996: BSc (Hon's) Environmental Geology University of Sheffield.
- 1999 - 2000: PGCE General Primary Bradford College.
- 2006 - 2007: L3 Forest School - NCfE
- 2009 - 2010. L3 Bushcraft - NCfE
- 2024 - 2027. 2 Day Outdoor First Aid.

CONTACT

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COURSES

- August 2018 **Eco-Print** - Lena Archibold Artist- Newcastle.
- Sept - October 2018: **Reduction Linocut** - Edinburgh Print Studio.
- Sept 2023 - May 2024 **Watercolour** City of Edinburgh Council.
- Oct 2023 & April 2024: **Beginners/Intermediate - Botanical Illustration** Society of Scottish Botanical Artists.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1988 - 1989: Assistant Photographer (London) Fashion, Commercial, advertising.
- 1989 - 1992: Civil Service.
- 1996 - 1997: Countryside Council for Wales.
- 1997 - 2000: Yorkshire Electricity.
- 2000 to date: Primary School Teacher (Scottish Borders, East & Midlothian, Edinburgh). GTCS No. 009610
- 2008 - to date: Founding Director of Instinctively Wild CIC.

VOLUNTARY EXPERIENCE

- 1992 -2017 BTCV - Working conservation leader
- 2016 -2019 SWT - Isle of Handa weekly volunteer

VISUAL ARTIST

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

- April 2024. BBC Scotland interviewed me about my daily nature journaling practice - [BBC Scotland interview](#).
- January 2024. Article published both in print and online Peebleshire News and Border Telegraph - regards my year of nature journaling - [Border Telegraph article](#).
- May 2023: Wrote a blog post for [International Nature Journaling Week website](#).

WORKSHOPS RUN

- June 2023/4/5 - [SOLAS Festival](#) - Errol Estate, Dundee.
- Aug - October 2024 - [Nature Journaling in Watercolour](#) Multiply Fund - Scottish Borders Council.
- 30th March 2025 - [Borders Art Collective](#) - Nature Journaling.
- 26th April - 16th June 2025 - Nature Journaling - Tweedsmuir - through Instinctively Wild CIC, Destination Tweed funding.

EXHIBITIONS OF WORK

- June - Sept 2024 - [Creative Well being Studio](#) - Peebles - Healing through Art.
- March 2025 - Day 811 - [Solo Art show](#) - Edinburgh (Newington Trinity Church).

BURSARIES

- June - July 2025 - [Luminate Scotland](#) - learning how to paint landscapes in oil.

INFLUENCES, INSPIRATION & CREATIVE PROCESS.

I am inspired by people who have been inspired by nature to create art, photography and words that capture nature's emotions.

From an early age, I sought landscapes by Ansel Adams and Rob Talbot. Since then, I have been inspired by Joe Cornish, Rowland Hilder, Turner, John Muir Laws, Thomas Bewick, Rev Gilbert White, Eric Ravilious, Angela Harding, Christopher Wormell, Rosebery Thief, Alex Boon and John Muir.

These have all been hugely inspirational. These artists and writers have shaped my vision, my feelings and my thoughts about what I am trying to capture when I look upon nature.

Nature Journaling for me is an emotional creative journey. I cannot paint anything from more than two days ago. I am using my photography skills, looking for a photo that shows nature's mood on that day.

Later I will paint from the photograph, adding my memories and connections of the sensory experience to the painting, making it unique and distinctive.

Nature is a massive part of my life, through my teaching - Forest Schools, through my social enterprise - bushcraft & eco-therapy, through my faith - Forest Church, through my art - nature journaling.

