

ENTWINED

RURAL · LAND · LIVES · ART

Resource Pack 3: Kate Liston

We would love to see any artwork produced so please share images with us by emailing them to helen@varc.org.uk . Use **#EntwinedRuralLandLivesArt** if you post on social media and the VARC handles: Visual Arts in Rural Communities (Facebook), @varc_arts (Twitter), varc_arts (Instagram).

Part of Kate Liston's research for her work with VARC has been about ticks, as part of a broader exploration of parasitic behaviour – what it means to take without giving back.

You can watch a short film about Kate's work with VARC here:



Here is the link to watch the video above via Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/516723401>

Read more about Kate and her ENTWINED project here:

<https://varc.org.uk/entwined/artists/kate-liston/>

What is a tick?

Ticks are related to spiders. They feed on the blood of mammals, including humans. They are a form of parasite – a living being that lives on or in another living being, using it for food or shelter and often causing it harm.

Most tick bites are harmless to humans and may only cause slight skin irritation, but some ticks transmit bacteria that causes illness, including Lyme disease – although, to transmit Lyme disease a tick needs to be attached to a human for at least 36 hours.

Ticks tend to live in woodlands, along woodland edges, on heathland and in some grassland sites - they are part of everyday life for the Rangers at Kielder Forest, the focus for Artist Kate Liston's work.

Insects

Although ticks are arachnids (part of the spider family) and not insects, they are both invertebrates (animals without backbones) and for many people, they are viewed the same – something nasty to avoid and be scared of and, in some cases, to squash or kill. Insects are, however, incredibly important to our ecosystems.

“Invertebrates make up around 80% of life on earth and there are over 40,000 species in the UK alone. They help pollinate crops, recycle nutrients in the soil, break down decaying matter, and they are an important food source for other wildlife. We need to study and conserve these species, they are critical to the functioning of ecosystems and we can't survive without them.”

(Robin Cox, Environmental Consultant)

Insects and Art

Many artists are fascinated by insects and use them as inspiration for their work. Viewed close-up, insects can appear very beautiful, with intricate patterns and bright, intense colours. You can read more about artists who use insects in their work here:

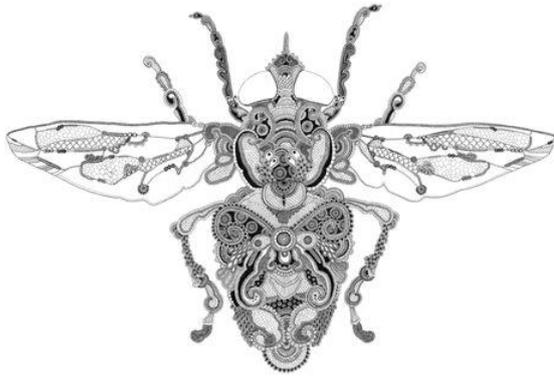
<https://artuk.org/discover/stories/all-creatures-great-and-small-inspecting-insects-in-art>

Activities to try

Invertebrates make great subjects for drawing and illustration. Over **one million species** of insects have been discovered and described but it is estimated that there may be as many as **10 million species** on earth.

Check out the very different ways the two artists – **Rosalind Monks** and **Cornelia Hesse-Honiger** – use insects in their work and see if you can learn to see invertebrates in a new way.

Rosalind Monks' work explores bugs and insects using intricate pattern:



Cornelia Hesse-Honegger describes herself as a 'science artist' working at the interface between art and science, aiming to testify to the beauties of an increasingly endangered nature:



Use film and photography to record insects and bugs in your garden, school grounds or outdoor spaces and explore their appearance and the way they move. Photographs can be taken from a variety of angles and enlarged to create research studies for both 2D and 3D work using a range of media, including: collage to explore texture; drawings and paintings to highlight detail; and sculpture to explore shape and form.

ENTWINED: Rural. Land. Lives. Art. is a multi-partner project led by Visual Arts in Rural Communities (VARC) and comprises 6 mixed length residencies and 2 associated artist projects. Through the artists' practice, different aspects of what makes a 'place' will be explored and the interconnectedness of rural land and rural lives revealed.



Visual Arts in
Rural Communities



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