

HELEN WARD

PAPER ENTOMOLOGY

Helen Ward is a Bristol based artist and designer. Having graduated from UWE Bristol in 2001 with a graphic design degree, she started working as a paper engineer making pop-up books whilst training as a traditional bookbinder. Nowadays, Helen works from her little studio, armed with a scalpel and a very large stack of paper that she has been collecting over the years.

The original idea for this Paper Entomology artwork comes from a collection of Victorian hand marbled paper that Helen acquired during her time working at the bindery. "The papers were all just so beautiful, I had to have them and I hoarded them in a box for years before I knew what I was going to do with them all!". Some of the patterns in the papers reminded her of butterfly wings – and so the idea progressed...

Helen has since exhibited her work at a number of venues across the UK, as well as taking part in several international shows in places such as Paris, Amsterdam, New York and Chicago.

Each butterfly or insect has been individually cut using a combination of laser cutting and scalpel work. Helen uses the highest quality framing with acid-free mountings and UV proof glass to preserve the delicate papers.

Helen has recently been commissioned to make the 12 trophies for the Observer Ethical Awards 2011 and showed her work at the prestigious V&A Museum in London for the proceedings.

"I am so happy to give all these beautiful papers a new lease of life, rather than letting them all rot away never to be seen again. I feel so fortunate to have such wonderful examples of traditional craftsmanship and it's brilliant to be able to share them in this way."

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (recent)

- 2012 – Byard Art, Cambridge
- 2012 – The Cube Gallery, Bristol
- 2012 – The Cube Gallery, Marylebone, London
- 2011 – 'Christmas Cracker', Byard Art, Cambridge
- 2011 – The Cube Gallery, Marylebone, London
- 2011 – Edinburgh Arts Fair, Scotland
- 2011 – Art Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 2011 – Affordable Art Fair, Battersea Park, London
- 2011 – Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead Heath, London
- 2011 – Affordable Art Fair, New York
- 2011 – ArtHamptons, The Hamptons, New York
- 2011 – 'Observer Ethical Awards 2011', Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- 2011 – The Cube Gallery, Bristol
- 2011 – 'Wild at Heart', Sarah Wiseman Gallery, Oxford
- 2011 – Affordable Art Fair, Bristol
- 2011 – Art Chicago, Chicago
- 2011 – Chelsea Art Fair, London
- 2011 – Affordable Art Fair, Brussels
- 2011 – 20121 International Art Fair, London
- 2011 – Brownston Gallery, Modbury, Devon

2010 – Edinburgh Arts Fair, Scotland
2010 – Affordable Art Fair, Amsterdam
2010 – Affordable Art Fair, London
2010 – ‘10x10’, Byard Art, Cambridge
2010 – The Cube Gallery, Bristol
2010 – Affordable Art Fair, New York
2010 – ‘Paperworks 3’, Bury Art Museum
2010 – Cambridge Art Fair, Cambridge
2010 – Affordable Art Fair, Paris
2010 – Affordable Art Fair, Bristol
2010 – Chelsea Art Fair, London
2010 – ‘Papercuts’, Rostra Gallery, Bath
2009 – The Cube Gallery, Bristol
2009 – Affordable Art Fair, Amsterdam
2009 – Affordable Art Fair, London
2009 – Brownston Gallery, Modbury, Devon
2009 – ‘Nature’s Way’, The Grant Bradley Gallery, Bristol
2009 – ‘3’, Square, Bristol
2008 – Fireworks Gallery, Bristol

EXPERIENCE

1998-2001 – BA (Hons) Graphic Design, UWE Bristol
1997-1998 – Foundation Diploma (with distinction), Winchester School of Art
Currently studying for an MA in Multi-Disciplinary Printmaking at UWE, Bristol.

AWARDS

2009 – Winner of Graphikea competition, Bristol Design Festival