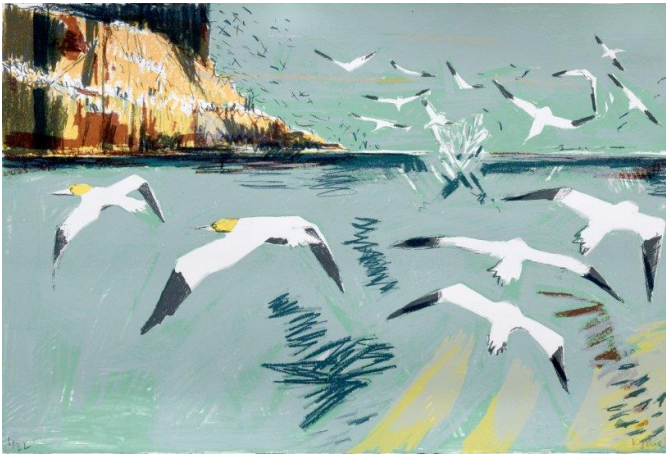


# ARTIST OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2025

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the 'Artist of the Month' basket next to the art gallery display or email it to [enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk) with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

This month's artist is: **Kittie Jones**



***'Gannets around the Bass' (2023)***



***'Goldfinch' screen print (2022)***

Kittie Jones

Kittie Jones is an artist based in Edinburgh who grew up in Cumbria. Kittie's art focuses on drawing and printmaking – she produces mixed media drawings on paper out in the landscape, multi-layered monotypes and small screen prints. Kittie is inspired by the full sensory experience of time spent outdoors, most often along the East coast of Scotland. Much of her work is completed outside and other sketches provide a starting point for prints and studio drawings.



***'Northumbrian Woodpecker' (2017)***

Kittie discovered the difficulties of drawing things that moved, but also began to relish the challenge of recreating the creatures back in her studio. During her time outside observing and drawing birds and other wildlife she has learnt a lot about birds, how they live in the world, amazing stories of their migrations, the rearing of their young and much more.

Kittie describes how privileged she feels to spend time observing the natural world “each day spent out in nature is a different and exhilarating experience. I work with a variety of media out in the field: my favourite material to begin a drawing or painting with is ink and wash, applied with a brush. This allows me to work quickly and build up a drawing over time. For colour information I combine pastels, coloured pencils and gouache.”

My advice for anyone interested in drawing birds from life is to start with places where there are birds in number, and they are close by. Drawing ducks and swans in a local park would be a good place to begin. Birds move all the time, but if you are able to find a flock of the same species you can often find a number of birds in the same position. This means that if the one you start drawing moves there may well be another to reference.

**Find out more about Kittie Jones by following the link below to take you to her artist page.** Or scan the QR code to take you to the website.

<https://kittiejones.com/>



**Your turn Kittie Jones enjoys observing and drawing birds before creating paintings or screenprints from the drawings back in her studio.**

Why not take part in the RSPB **Big Garden Birdwatch** which is the world’s largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. This year the Big Garden Birdwatch takes place between 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Follow the link to the RSPB website for more information and how to take part. We will be taking part as a school and sending home birdwatch sheets to help you record the birds you see if you wish to take part.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



Whilst you are observing the birds in your garden or local park you could create your own drawing of the birds you see. You could take some photographs and then create a painting from the photograph. You could draw just the bird or create a landscape with the bird in its habitat, surrounded by trees and bushes.