

Painting wild Orkney

28 June–5 July 2013

Master the art of painting the islands' wildlife and incredible archeological landscapes with three of the UK's top nature artists.



A place of wonderful birdlife and fascinating Neolithic history, Birsay inspired John Busby during his stay on the island.

BBC
**Wildlife
READER
HOLIDAY**

MEET OUR ARTISTS



JOHN BUSBY

Landscapes and birds have been twin passions in John's life

for more than 50 years. He has illustrated over 30 natural history books.



DARREN WOODHEAD

is widely acclaimed as one of the UK's most prodigious

talents. A field painter, his paintings encompass energy, life and spontaneity.



TIM WOOTTON

With a string of awards to his name, Tim illustrates articles on

birdwatching, wildlife and countryside issues. He has lived on Orkney for 10 years.

Enjoy painting the stunning wildlife and archeological landscapes of Orkney, under the tutelage of John Busby, Darren Woodhead and Tim Wootton.

Orkney is a magical place for artists, steeped in archeology, from Neolithic standing stones to Medieval churches, and famous sites of historic naval importance, such as Scapa Flow and the Churchill Barriers. In summer, the cliffs bustle with seabirds, and short-eared owls, hen harriers and merlins hunt over the moors. Grey and common seals can

be seen from coastal walks, while inland we shall search for endemic Orkney voles, rare Scottish primroses and special island breeds of sheep and pony.

During the week, we should spot red-throated divers at Burgar Hill, sketch fulmars and guillemots on the Brough of Birsay, and search for skuas on the island of Hoy. Every evening we will share our day's efforts and adventures.

With 18 participants and three leaders, everyone will enjoy one-to-one tuition, so you are sure to learn new skills and master familiar ones.



Brush up on your Orcadian, 'dunter' is the local name for Tim's favourite duck – the eider.



Every participant will receive a free painting kit worth £125, containing the materials you will need for the course, courtesy of Great Art (www.greatart.co.uk).

GreatArt
Price & Choice 



Darren's watercolours are infused with natural energy and life.



The essence of summer on Orkney for Tim – loafing seals, eiders and an Arctic skua.



John is happiest when sketching wildlife in the field.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrive in time to meet everyone and enjoy a relaxed dinner at the Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall, our base for the week. Then look ahead at the week's activities.

Days 2-7

The essence of the week will be drawing and painting in the field, so the itinerary will be very flexible in order to make the most of the conditions and locations. Each day will begin with breakfast together, before heading out for the day with packed lunches, returning in good time for dinner.

During the evenings we will enjoy discussing what we have learned that day, demonstrations, show-and-tell sessions and reflecting on the day's wildlife, sketches and paintings.

With just a few strokes, John has captured a wild otter perfectly.



Each day we shall explore Orkney's most beautiful wild places, painting the landscapes and searching for wildlife. Sites will include:

Brough of Birsay This tidal island is accessible via a natural causeway and offers an abundance of rockpools, seabirds and possibly even cetaceans.

Marwick Head One of the best places on the mainland for puffins, as well as other seabirds.

Skara Brae An entire prehistoric settlement with rooms and passages, beds and pottery, exposed by a fierce storm some 5,000 years after it was built.

Yesnaby Spectacular old red sandstone coastal cliffs, sea stacks including Yesnaby Castle, blow holes and boiling seas, Yesnaby is one of the few places where the rare Scottish primrose grows.

Kirkwall museum and Scapa Flow One of Britain's most historic stretches of water.

Hoy A short ferry ride will take us to the island of Hoy where we shall walk over moorland in search of both Arctic and great skuas, admire the dramatic seacliffs and enjoy views over the impressive sea stack, the Old Man of Hoy.

Days 8

After breakfast, we will sadly say farewell.

NEW ART SKILLS FOR EVERYONE

- Introduction to working in the field
- Enhance your observation skills
- Techniques to develop hand-eye coordination
- Improve your field skills, and identification and understanding of birds and animals
- Composition and how to make paintings work
- Study the work of great artists past and present who take their inspiration from the natural world
- Principles of anatomy
- How to use binoculars and telescopes to observe, draw and paint nature
- Introduction to watercolours
- Colour mixing and values
- Introduction to working with a limited palette
- Working with the elements
- Mixing colours in the field
- Understanding shape and form, texture and light
- How to bring life to the page
- Using sketches to develop your work further

PAINTING WILD ORKNEY READER HOLIDAY

28 JUNE–5 JULY 2013

Where Orkney, Scotland

Cost £1,595 pp based on two sharing (includes full board, tuition, transport on islands and ferries)

Deposit £300

Single supplement £175

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01479 812498

enquiries@speysidewildlife.co.uk

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Only 18 places available: so book soon!

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