

**Catherine Rayner**

**The Garden | Sarah Wiseman Gallery Annual Summer Exhibition**

16<sup>th</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018

'Creatures are my very favourite things to draw. I have spent a lot of time with various animals during my life, and what really excites me is capturing their personalities in a pencil line. I love that you can suggest a mood by sketching the swish of a tail or the angle of some whiskers. I'm inspired by the variety of ways different creatures can swim, fly or gallop, and the way you can describe their movements on a simple piece of paper. I often like to leave the rest of a page blank in my artwork, so a viewer only looks at the form of the animal I have studied, but more and more I seem to find myself adding touches of foliage...

My more recent passion for drawing and painting flowers came about as I was (finally!) lucky enough to have a garden of my own. If I can escape outside for a cup of tea I'm there, observing the plants and trees. The shapes, textures and colours are an endless source of inspiration. From flowers in the summer, to bare branches in the winter - I'm drawn to my ever-changing garden in a way I can't quite explain. It's a privilege to be able to paint these amazing natural creations and share them with other people.'