

# Painting Pollinators

A closer look at the relationship between pollinating insects and plants, with

Cath Hodsman, Wildlife and Natural History Artist



Monday 15th August 2016, 10am – 4pm.

Run in association with the Royal Society of Biology

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August Cath Hodsman welcomed us into her home-based classrooms and studio, in the beautiful Cotswold's, for a fascinating art and science event.

Cath is one of the country's leading entomological artists and is well-known for her unique and fascinating workshops where she takes students on magical journeys into the unseen world of insects.

Cath has paid homage to insects through her art, for the last 6 years. In every artistic study she does, she strives for anatomical accuracy. Her aim is to show the world how colorful, strong, intricate intelligent, resourceful and beautiful they are. In doing this, she aims to educate about and celebrate insects' importance and significance in the natural world.

Through her art she has worked with organisations and groups, such as The Natural History Museum, London; The Royal Horticultural Society; The Wildlife Trusts; The National Trusts; The Wildfowl Trusts, the Royal Society of Biology; The Amateur Entomologists Society; Butterfly Conservation; The British Beekeepers Association; Buglife; The Species Recovery Trust, and many more.

This watercolour painting course was aimed at beginners and for those wanting to learn more about the hidden worlds that are all around us.

Attendees examined the essential and fascinating relationship between pollinating insects and the plants that



they live in, on and around.

Each student had their own dedicated microscope for the day, as well as beautiful insect specimens, to enter the unseen and fascinating world of insects - To study how insects pollinate and how they obtain food from plants. The students then paid homage to what they saw and learnt, through the medium of art, by producing a beautiful and unique watercolour painting. The day also included a tour of Cath's own wildlife garden, incorporating indigenous wildflowers, insect habitats and even a badger sett! -To see how her work is also a lifestyle choice, Cath also provided us with a lunch of soup and crusty bread and delicious cakes.

Feedback from attendees included comments that the course was *"fantastic – a great balance between science and art"* and that Cath provided a *"lovely warm welcome"* and was *"very supportive of everyone."*

Thank you very much to Cath for a wonderful day, and to all those who attended. If you would like to register your interest in attending another of Cath's wildlife and natural history art courses, please contact me at:

[training@rsb.org.uk](mailto:training@rsb.org.uk)

**Naomi Smith**  
Training Officer  
020 7685 2578  
[www.rsb.org.uk](http://www.rsb.org.uk)

