

The Birds Bear Gifts



Franzeska Ewart

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The Studio and Gallery Kilbirnie
Catalogue September 2017

In memory of Eileen Silcocks
1954-2017

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The Studio and Gallery Kilbirnie
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Giclée prints (A2) of the paintings are available for purchase. Original oil paintings may be available. Please contact franzaska@franzaskaewart.com

Size of paintings is approximately 60 x 40 cm.

This book was created using the Blurb creative publishing service.



In 2016, after three decades of writing and illustrating children's books, I published my debut adult novel, *The Faraway*. It is the story of a children's illustrator who, in her late forties, dares to face her fears and become a painter.

Then I decided to do the same thing. I painted key scenes from the book in oils on canvas board, and this became my first exhibition, *The Faraway*. It was a joy to be painting again, and I realised that art was my first love.

The Birds Bear Gifts followed immediately. In each of the ten paintings, a bird brings a gift to a woman, and these gifts are simple things from the world of birds. Simple though they are, however, to the women who receive them the gifts are priceless, for they are transformed into treasures that fill their inner emptiness in ways we can only guess at.

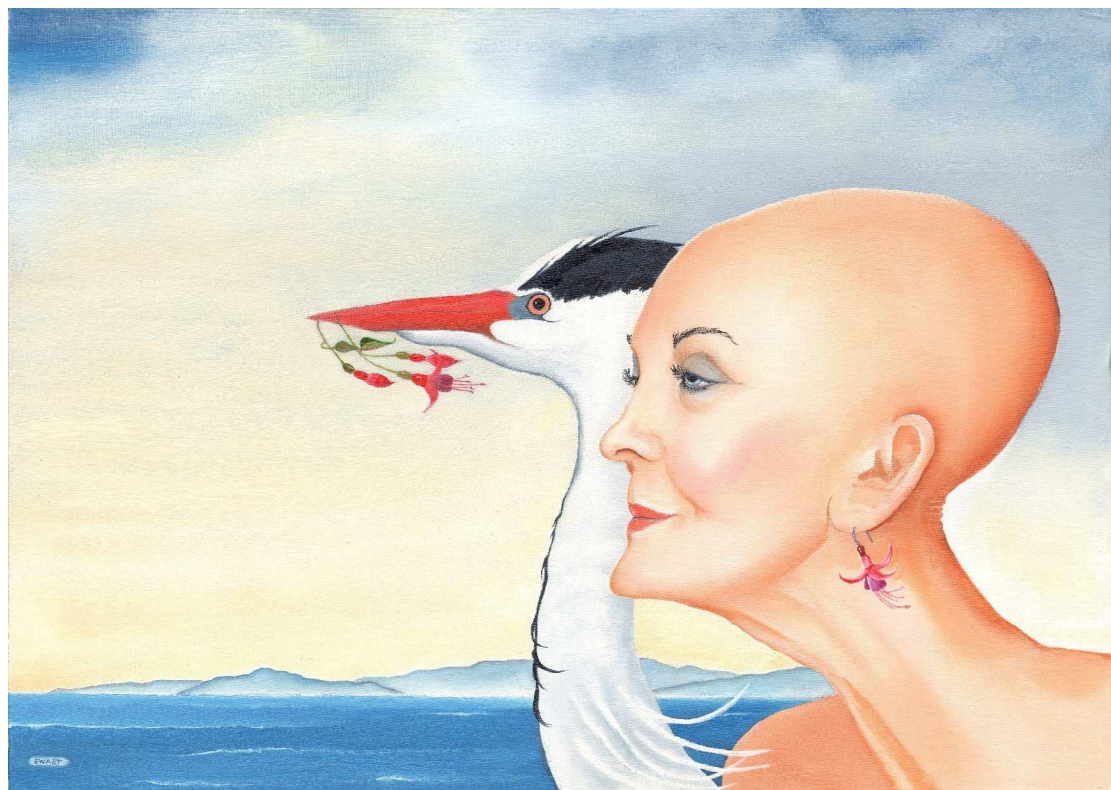
There is also an installation, with a book of my haiku. When I wrote these haiku, I imagined them as little songs of thanks the women might have sung to their birds. I am inviting visitors to put their own interpretations on my paintings, however, and write their own poetic responses.

The exhibition is dedicated to my friend and music teacher, Eileen Silcocks, who died this year in Ardgowan Hospice, Greenock. A proportion of sales goes to support the wonderful work they do.

Franzeska Ewart August 2017

Heron Healing

*Fear had made me pale
Until your flower's deepest pink
Flushed my heart with hope.*



Badass Jaybird

We two are blue as

Indigo seas; my lips

Cherry red ...

... Badass!



Safe Home

*From cold far-off lands
Gather berries red as fire
Make me warm once more.*



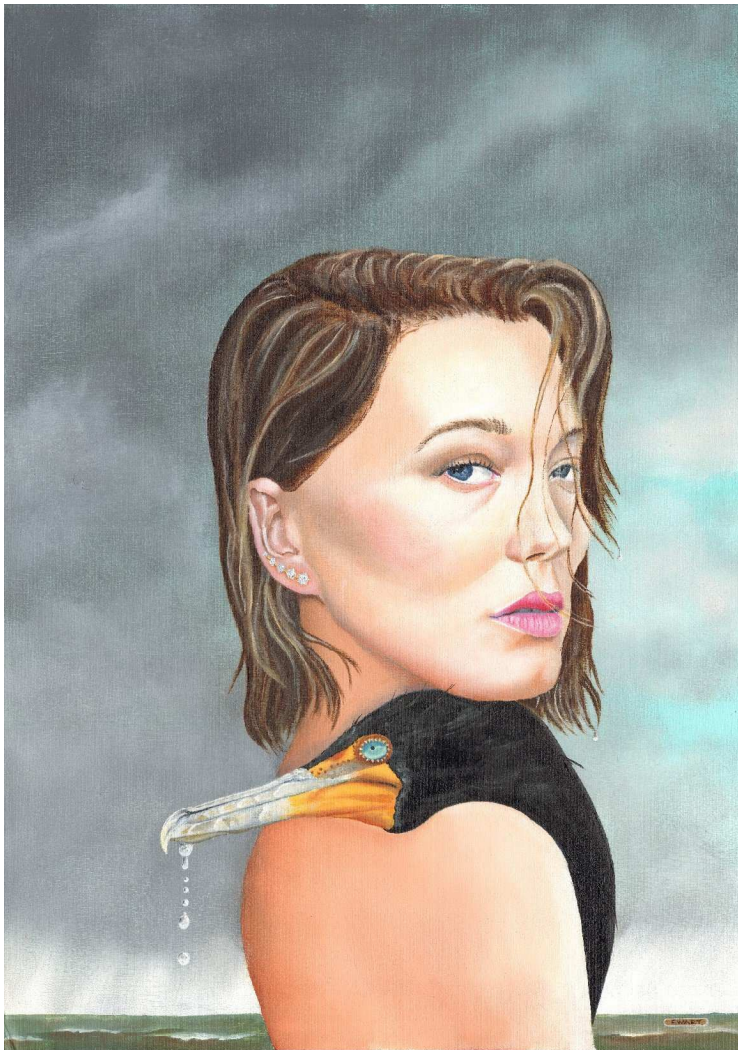
Green Peace

*Undo my bindings,
Weave me round with springtime green.
New day. New life. Hope.*



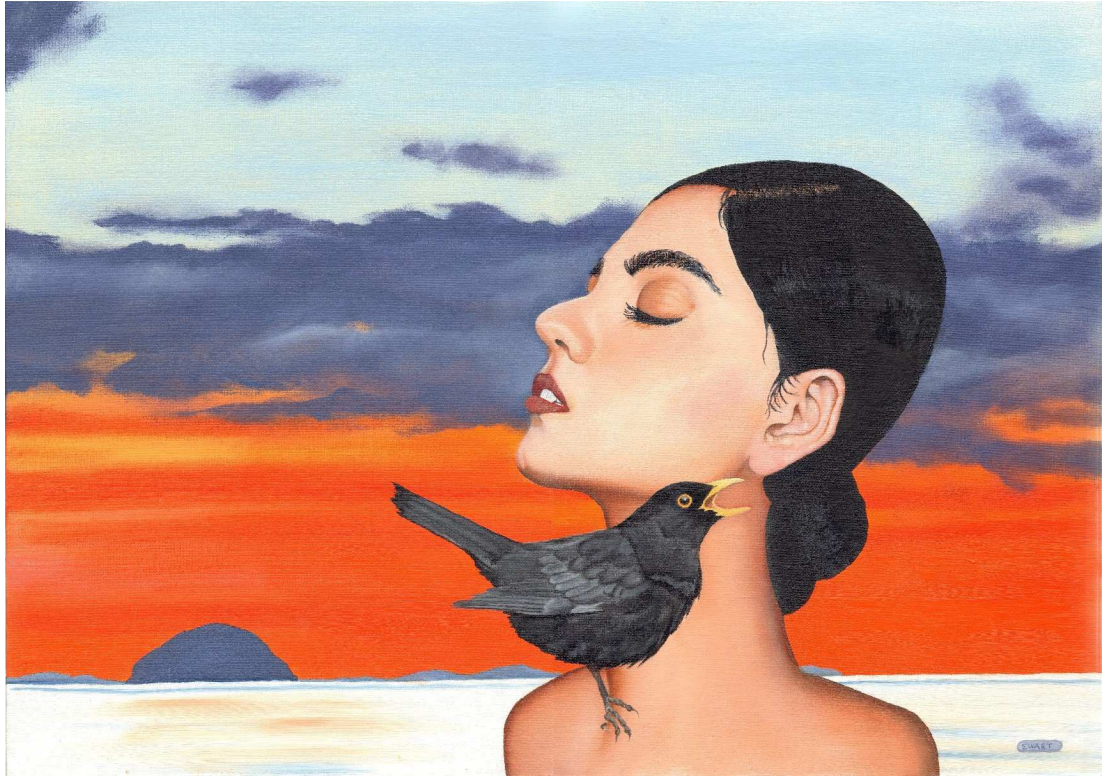
Diamond Drops

*From the deep grey sea
Bring me water sparkling light
Like bright white diamonds.*



Evening Rapture

Blackbird, serenade
The setting sun. Glorious
But transitory.



Red Venom

*Tree swift dart and dive
Catch me strong scarlet poison
And make me fear less.*



Golden Heartstrings

*My heart burns fire-hot
Loves yet fears the crimson wings
Pulling me sky-high.*



Catching Dreams

*The apricot dawn,
Ending dreams too sweet for words
Feather – hold them. Fast.*



Love Mist

*A sea-mist veils me
Cold and dank; still my heart sings
Lovebird leaves me love.*



A Feather for your Cap

Installation with book of haiku.



I would like to thank Alan Campbell for producing cards and postcards, and Nicole Alexander for being the beautiful model for *Love Mist*. Above all, thanks go to Adam McLean for his technical, artistic, and moral support, and also for editing and setting up this catalogue.

Franzeska Ewart August 2017





Franzeska was a children's author with over 25 published titles and was shortlisted for a Scottish Children's Book Award in 2011. The next year, while Royal Literary Fund writing fellow at the University of the West of Scotland, she began writing for adults, and in 2016 completed her debut novel, *The Faraway*, which is all about art, and artists, and the quest for an individual style. It led Franzeska back to her own love of painting.