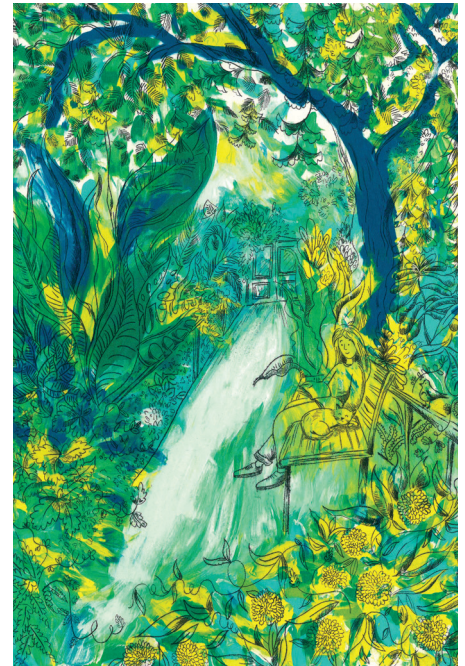




GETTING CREATIVE



*Hannah Chumbley is one of those artists who has Shropshire running through her veins, says **My Shrewsbury's Hannah Day** in her latest column on local creatives.*



Looking at Hannah Chumbley's illustrations is like walking through Shropshire at its most abundant.

Having grown up in Bayston Hill, Hannah returned to the county with a BA in Illustration from Lincoln and an MA from Edinburgh, and it is the countryside all around Shrewsbury that is the star of her lush, multi-layered artworks.

Layers of colour evoke layers of plant life up close, or a skyline of hills stretching out before you. This mix of perspectives gives Hannah's work a sense of the dramatic alongside the welcoming.

I was curious to know what draws her to illustration: "Working to a brief, knowing it's going to be put somewhere and used," she answers. Where I can see a purpose."

And it's true. Hannah's work 'fits', making her adornment seem as if it was always meant to be there, wherever there might be.

From coffee shop windows, a phone box, a classroom or a café wall, its application is site, surface and theme specific, showing an understanding of how images can enhance and change our surroundings.

While she uses a range of approaches, it is printmaking that she is truly excited about.

It was in Lincoln University's print

room that she first fell in love with lino and screen printing under the tutoring of illustrator Chris Roantree and technician Felicity Shum and she further developed these processes at Edinburgh College of Arts.

Her themes are always nature-related, with local places constantly cropping up in her pieces, sometimes recognizable, sometimes not.

"Recently, all my work has been from a sketchbook that I take with me," she explains.

"I have created lots of cards based on drawings from The Dingle and I have a range of lino floral cards developed from sketches of flowers in my garden. All my work is linked to the surrounding areas."

The use of the sketchbook was an interesting discussion. This has been a new development over the last year with Hannah going back to drawing for drawing's sake.

"I have been finding the fun of drawing; from that I have discovered so many compositions that then become a print. I feel now that a sketchbook is really important to avoid stagnation.

"Sketchbooks force me out of my comfort zone, placing me in situations where I draw what I might otherwise have avoided."

Alongside artwork, Hannah is a keen triathlete, having got into the sport after lockdown: "Swimming," she explained

"is a 'reset button for me, I instantly feel better after a swim." One of her favourite cycling routes is from Bayston Hill to Shawbury and back, a route that takes you through Condover and Upton Magna to Moreton Corbet Castle and then home, following the canal paths into town.

As for the future, she would love to be able to spend more time illustrating and hopes to get more commissions after recently completing a major piece of work for the National Trust owned Osterley House, in Isleworth.

A regular at Drawn and the recently formed Sketch Club Severn Hannah credits both for giving her a community where artists are all 'on a journey' together: "They give me the art school environment, these communities. I think it is special to Shrewsbury. Its' great being part of a creative community in your home town, I don't think you would get that in bigger places."

● To see more of Hannah Chumbley's work you can follow her on Instagram @hannah.chumbley or visit her website hannahchumbley.co.uk

● For more about Drawn and Sketch Club Severn search Instagram for @drawncollective and @sketchclubsevern respectively.

● Hannah Day lives and works in Shrewsbury, She can be found on Instagram, Facebook, Etsy and Not on the High Street. Search for Hannah Day UK.