

Life & death



Art <<

Artist Patrice Moor has spent the last 18 months as artist in residence at University of Oxford Botanic Garden.

The focus of Patrice's work is death and decay – which is, of course, part of life – as can be seen at her upcoming exhibition at the botanic gardens, starting on March 7.

"After my residency at the Royal College of Physicians where I inspired myself from the medicinal garden to produce some works, I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to immerse myself further in the subject of plants," says Patrice.

"My subject is not morbid – there is an emphasis towards life holding death in mind and the cycle of life.

"Gardens lend themselves well to this and I felt hugely privileged to be able to observe and spend time at the Oxford Botanic Garden. Each season is full of interesting changes, as an artist all things can be a source of inspiration."

Patrice's studio is based in London so she has worked at Oxford – the country's oldest botanic garden – one day a week, immersing herself in the garden, sketching,

observing, taking photographs, sometimes taking specimens back to London.

"My paintings take a long time. I paint very thin layers of paint on top of each other. The sunflower painting, for example, in this exhibition, took four months to complete.

"I don't think you choose your subject; the subject chooses you.

"I am instinctive in my approach and tend not to plan – my approach is purposefully not intellectual or cerebral.

"My work is realistic but I find reality extraordinary. By looking at something closely and carefully and being faithful to what have in front of you often the object, the plant, evolves as if by alchemy. These are extremely exciting moment of surprises and a real joy."

* Patrice Moor: Nature Morte runs from March 7 until May 4 at University of Oxford Botanic Gardens in Rose Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AZ. Visit patricemoor.co.uk

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