

Naomi Bean



Winter
2025

This portfolio contains two series:

- The Shape of Life (p. 4)
- In the Mouth of Fate (p. 20)

Plus CV (p. 33)

Naomi Bean

Visual Artist | Leicestershire, UK

Living beside a river in Leicestershire, Naomi Bean creates line-drawn, realistic animal art that captures the spirit and emotion of both the natural world and the turmoil of humanity. Living with autism, PTSD and chronic illness, multiple sclerosis (MS), gives her a unique way of seeing and shapes her desire to find shared language through art, a way to express emotions that words cannot capture.

With a PhD in Earth Sciences from Imperial College London, Naomi blends scientific observation with storytelling, bringing humour, realism and empathy into her work. Her artworks explore the connection between human emotion and the wild, using humour and personification to reveal the beauty and fragility of life.

Naomi's work has been exhibited across the UK, including solo shows with Charnwood Arts, featured on BBC Radio Leicester, and shortlisted for national awards including the VAA Art500 International.

Through her art, Naomi invites viewers to see animals not just as subjects but as mirrors of our shared experience, full of movement, character and emotion.

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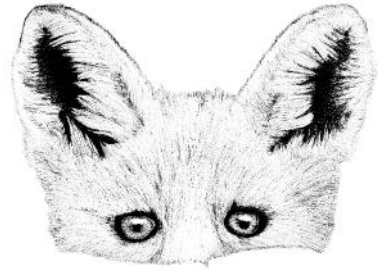
Tel: 07955 529 012

The Shape of Life

This series traces the quiet transformations that define us. Each piece captures a moment in the emotional evolution of being alive, from the first spark of innocence to the calm acceptance of wisdom. In *Hello*, a young fox peers into the world with unguarded curiosity, unaware of what lies ahead. *Peekaboo!* plays with vulnerability and trust, the tender thrill of being seen. *The Cake Watchers (and Other Joys of Being Small)* celebrates connection and the sweetness of belonging, fleeting yet full of wonder. *Mates* embodies the pulse of conflict and closeness, the dance of love and self-preservation. *Echo of You* holds the ache of loss, a stillness that follows struggle. *Love* celebrates how even the smallest of touches can convey the greatest of feelings. Finally, *Goodbye* closes the circle with quiet grace, an older elephant walking away, carrying the wisdom of knowing when to let go. Together, these works explore how we grow, love, fight, grieve, and begin again. They remind us that life is not a straight line, but a shape that bends, softens, and transforms with every experience.



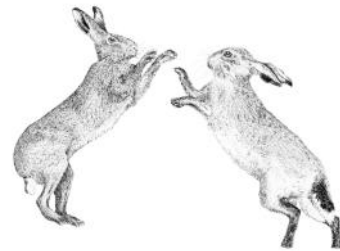
Hello



Peekaboo!



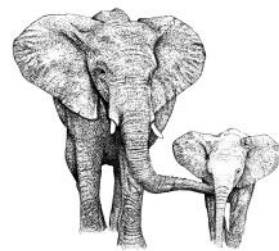
*The Cake Watchers
(and Other Joys of
Being Small)*



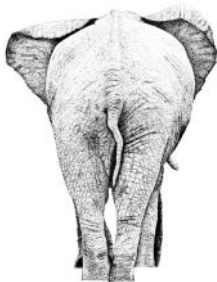
Mates



Echo of You



Love



Goodbye

Hello

Fine liner on paper

2025

29.7 x 42.0cm / 11.7 x 16.5 inches

Children have not learnt fear, they are just fascinated by the world and everything in it. Life teaches them fear, worry and concern, yet children cannot wait to grow up. I wonder why.

Before the world taught him caution, he watched everything with an open heart. Curiosity was his first language, and wonder his only fear.



Hello!

Peekaboo!

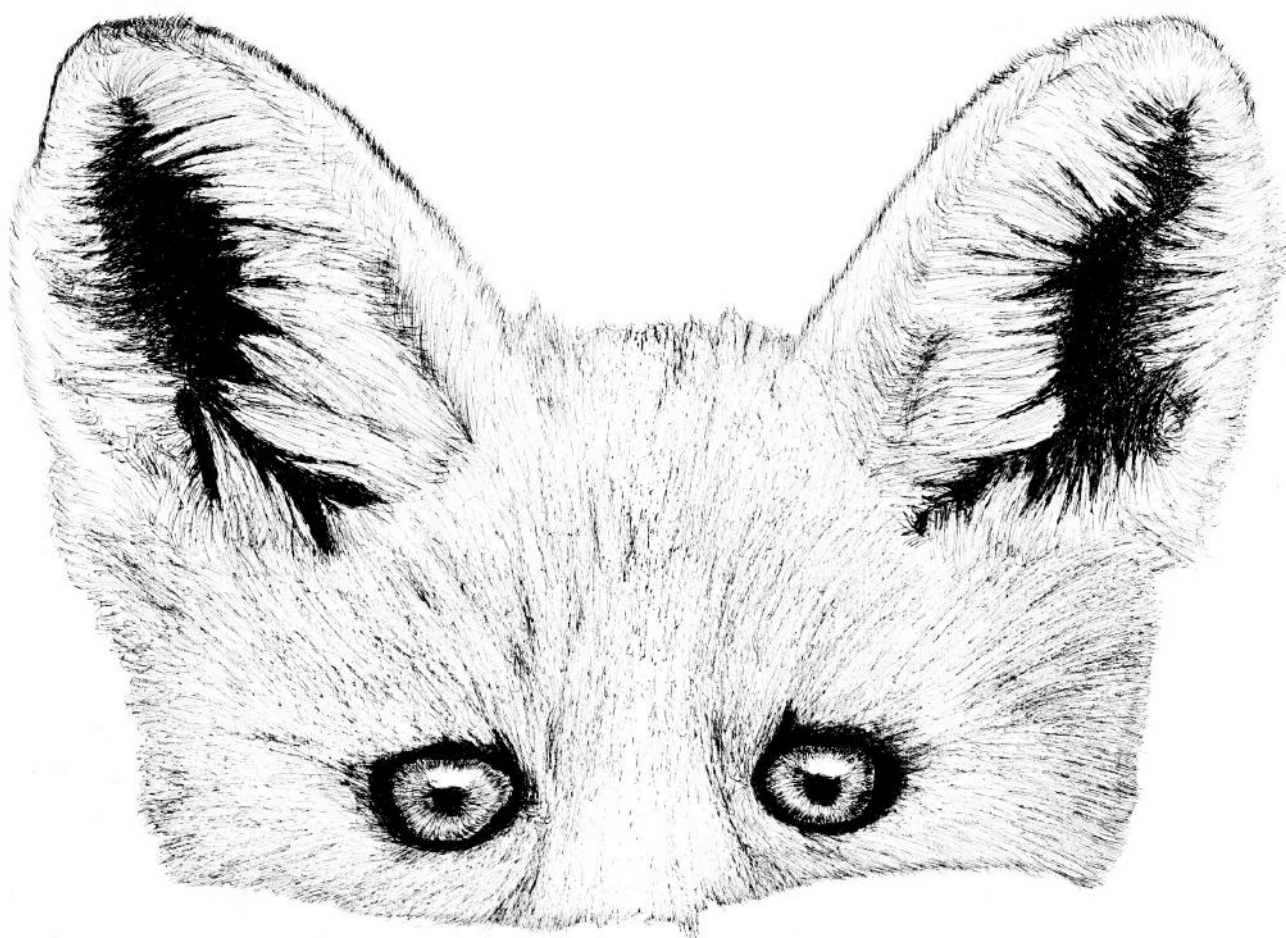
Fine liner on paper

2025

42.0 x 29.7cm / 16.5 x 11.7 inches

Peekaboo! Yes I see you, hiding there, eyes of trepidation and interest.

He wanted to be brave enough to look, but not yet brave enough to be seen. Between fear and fascination, he waited for the world to blink first.



Peekaboo

***The Cake Watchers
(and Other Joys of Being Small)***

Fine liner on paper

2024

29.7 x 21.0cm / 11.7 x 8.3 inches

To be small is to see the world as endless excitement. Every sound a question, every moment a beginning. Perhaps the secret to joy is never forgetting how it felt to be new to it all.

A moment of innocent wonder, two young brothers watching as the world unfolds before them. It speaks to the magic of seeing life with fresh eyes, of belonging to something vast and alive. Through their quiet curiosity, we are reminded of the joy that comes from simply noticing, from being part of nature's story



Cake?!

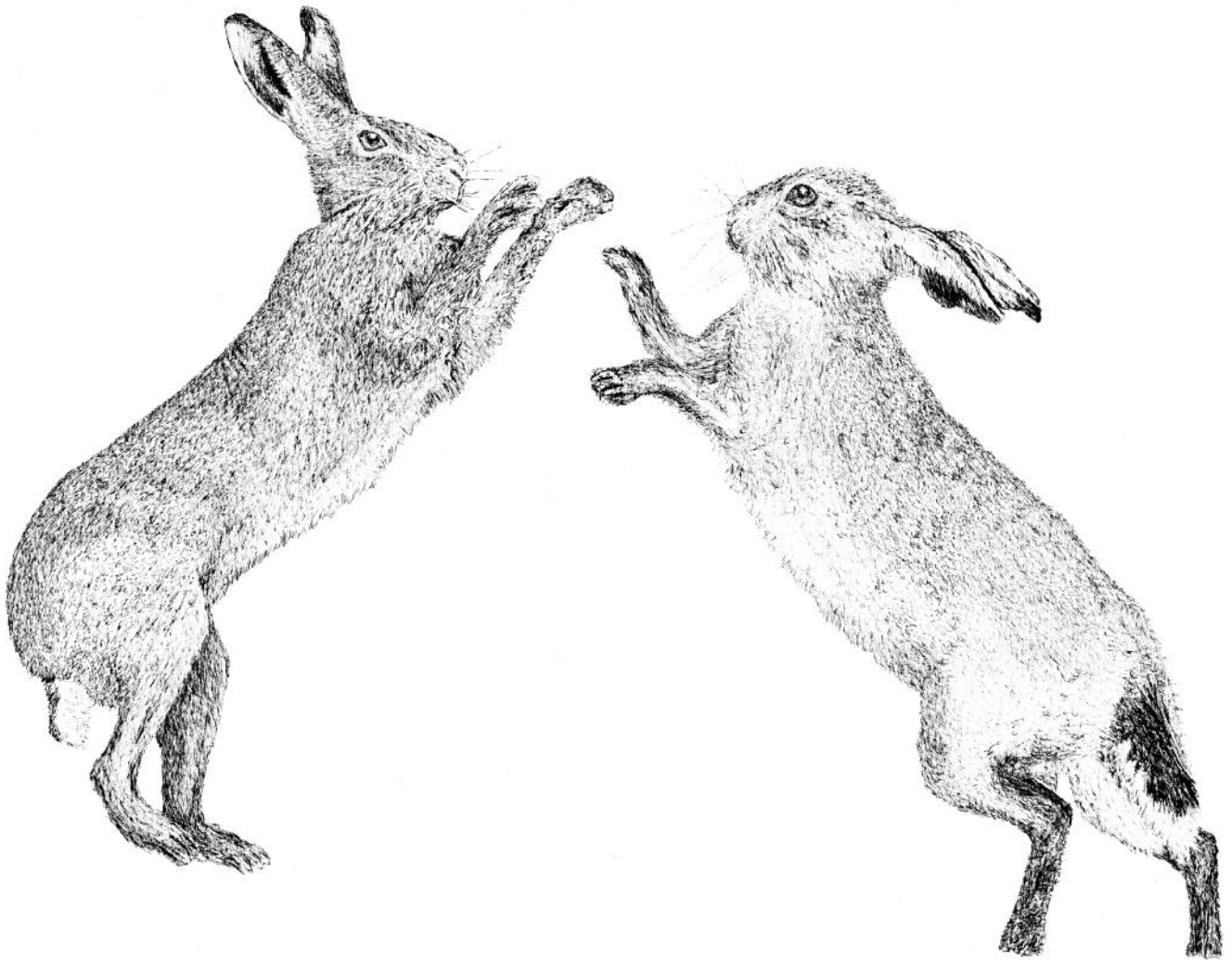
Mates: Close Enough to Hurt

Fine liner on paper

2025

42.0 x 29.7cm / 16.5 x 11.7 inches

Not every fight is about anger. Some are about holding on too long.
We fight not to win, but to remember who we are without the other.



Mates: Close Enough to Hurt

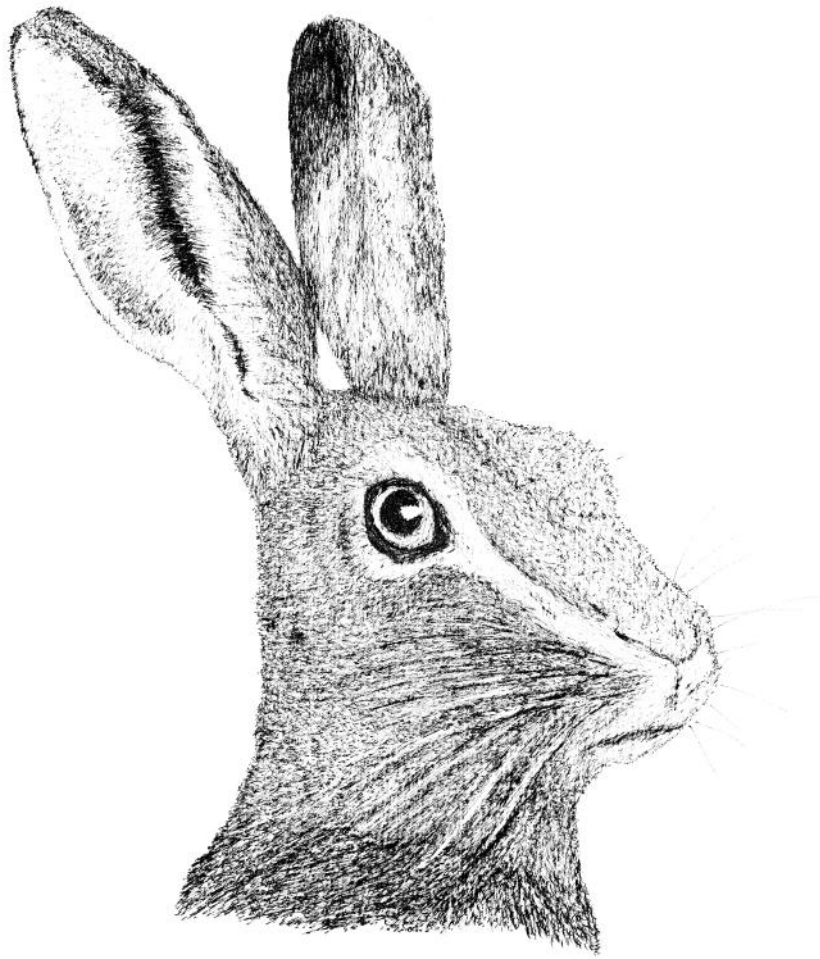
Echo of you

Fine liner on paper

2025

21.0 x 29.7cm / 8.3 x 11.7 inches

He turned to share the moment, but the moment had already gone.
His eyes soft with memory, the energy of struggle has passed,
leaving only the quiet weight of what was once shared.



Echo of you

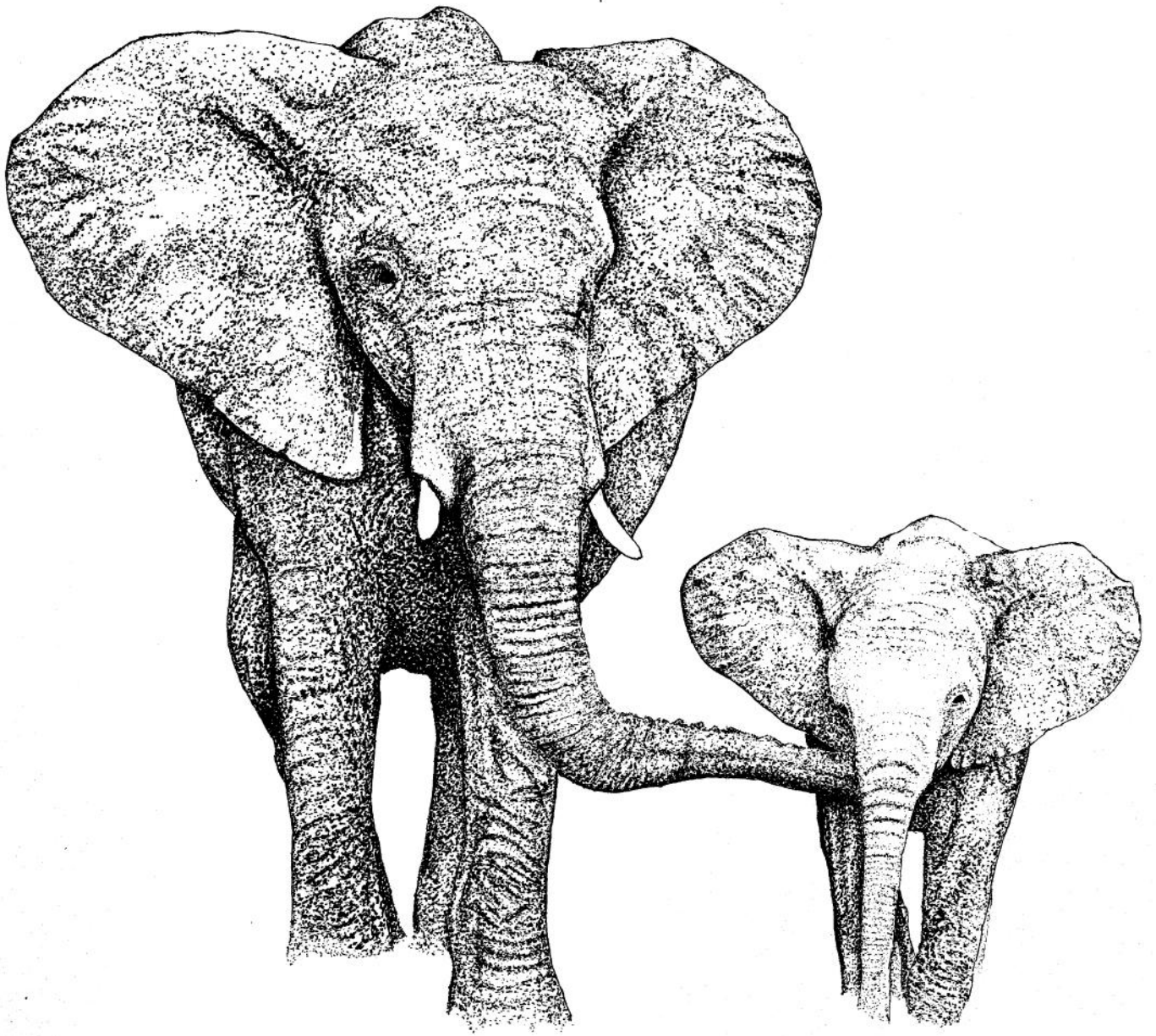
Love

Fine liner on paper

2024

29.7 x 42.0cm / 11.7 x 16.5 inches

Sometimes the smallest touch from another creature can remind you that they are there, that they love you. You are not alone in this world.



Love

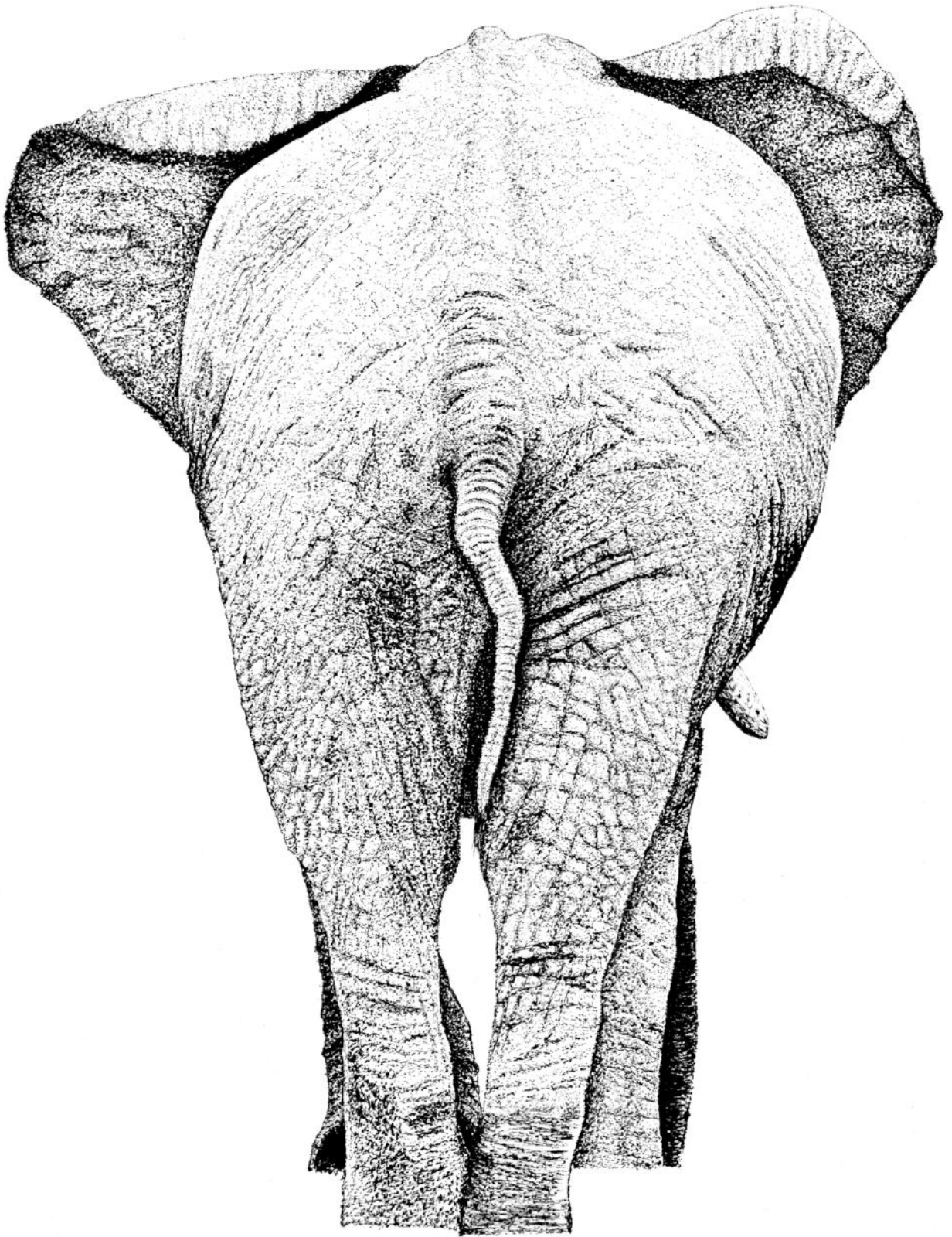
Goodbye

Fine liner on paper

2025

29.7 x 42.0cm / 11.7 x 16.5 inches

She carries the weight of knowing. Some paths call for you to walk away, others for courage. Wisdom is learning which is which.



Goodbye

In the Mouth of Fate: The Stillness That Follows

In this series, the natural world becomes a mirror for the human condition. It traces the quiet choreography between struggle and surrender, power and vulnerability, capture and release. Through the fox, falcon, heron, cormorant and spider, inevitability takes form, while their prey reflect our own fragile defiance. We witness the fragile negotiations of power, fear, and endurance. Each encounter becomes a mirror to the human spirit, revealing that survival is not always in the fight, but sometimes in the stillness that follows as you breathe and take a moment to assess the situation for escape. Within every capture, there is a flicker of hope — a reminder that even when the situation seems desperate, there is still light.



The Battle



*Not Going Down
Without a Fight*



Just Play Dead



Gulp



Sticky Situation

The Battle

Fine liner on paper

2025

29.7 x 42.0cm / 11.7 x 16.5 inches

On the River Soar, I saw fate play out in a clash of instinct and endurance. A cormorant grips an eel that should never have been here, twisting and thrashing in defiance. The eel coils around the bird's neck, desperate not to be consumed, trying to strangle, the water erupting with their fight to exist. Two foes, evenly matched, who will win? The river stills again, as if nothing had happened.

The Battle speaks to the quiet reckoning that follows chaos, the stillness that comes only after life has fought to survive. It is a reminder that life carries on after the storm and it is always worth struggling, no matter how hard it seems.



The Battle

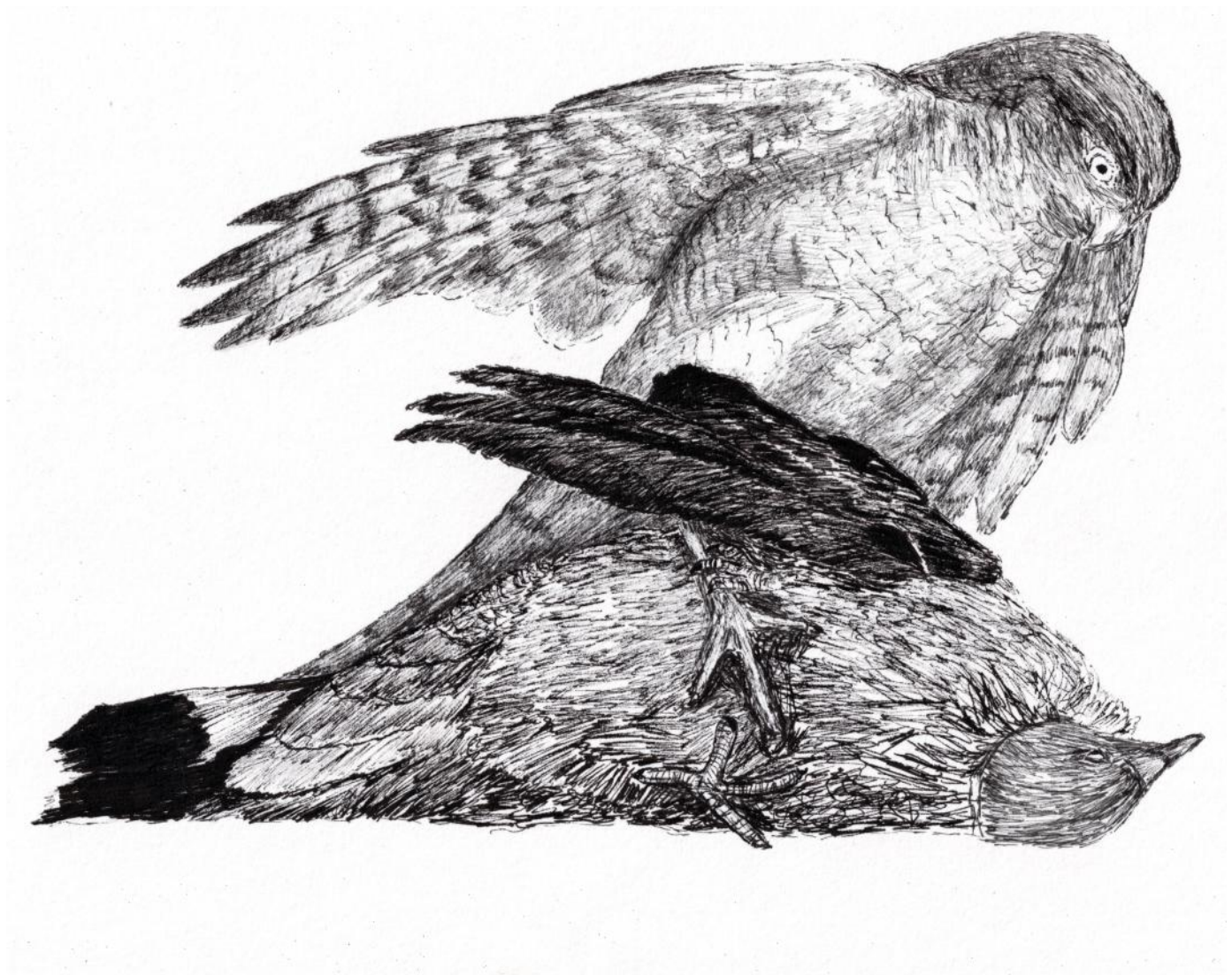
Not Going Down Without A Fight

Fine liner on paper

2025

29.7 x 21.0cm / 11.7 x 8.3 inches

Pinned beneath the weight of power, the pigeon does not look away. Two gazes meet, and for a moment, the struggle is suspended. In the space between fear and defiance, something human flickers — the courage to be seen, even when powerless.



Not Going Down Without A Fight

Just Play Dead

Fine liner on paper

2025

21.0 x 29.7cm / 8.3 x 11.7 inches

The fox holds the rabbit in a moment that feels endless, where hunger meets hesitation. Stillness becomes a kind of prayer, a fragile defiance. Life waits quietly inside the pause, trusting in the chance to run again.

There are moments when we must become still to survive, when the world's jaws close in and all we can do is wait. In that pause, fear and faith breathe together. We learn that endurance is not weakness, and that escape often begins in surrender. You need to just stop, wait, and look after yourself until the situation changes.



Just Play Dead

Gulp

Fine liner on paper

2025

14.8 x 21.0cm / 5.8 x 8.3 inches

Caught in the throat of fate, the fish still flickers. Even as it is taken, there is movement, a last shimmer of will. It reminds us that life resists until the very end, that even in the mouth of loss, something within us still reaches for light. It's that moment where life meets inevitability, yet it still clings to what remains – hope.



Gulp

Sticky Situation

Fine liner on paper

2025

29.7 x 21.0cm / 11.7 x 8.3 inches

The more the fly fought, the tighter the web became. Every effort to break free only bound it closer to what it feared. The spider waited, patient and certain. Sometimes the battle is not against the trap, but against our need to fight it. Only in stillness do we begin to see another way. Sometimes the more you fight back, the more a problem develops.



Sticky Situation

CV

Naomi Bean

Visual Artist

Education

- PhD Earth Sciences, Imperial College London, 2011 – 2017
- MSc and BSc Geological Sciences, University of Leeds, 2007 - 2011

Completed Series

- In the Mouth of Fate: The Stillness That Follows (2025)
- The Shape of Life (2024-25)
- Humour in the Wild (2024)
- Between Loss and Renewal (2024)

Exhibition and Fairs

Solo Exhibitions

- Charnwood Arts, Loughborough, and Online (2025) plus featured on BBC Radio Leicester
- VAA Open Exhibition, Kegworth Community Library (2025)

Group Exhibitions

- LCB Depot 2025, Leicester – juried open call (2025)
- The Drawing Room, Charnwood Arts, Loughborough (2025)
- Eyes 2025: Windows to the Soul - A Global Journey Through the Art of Vision, Exhibizone Online – juried open call (2025)

Art Fairs and Sales

- Solo booth, United Reformed Church Sutton Coldfield Christmas market (2025)
- Solo booth, Kegworth Library Christmas market (2025)
- Solo booth, Loughborough Art Fair (2025)
- Solo booth, Kegworth Library Art Fair (2025)
- Group booth, Loughborough Art Fair (2024)
- Artworks sold through Inspired, affordable art shop, Nottingham (2024)
- Plus online sales and commissions through personal website

Competitions

- VAA Art500 International: Shortlist (2025)
- Visual Artist Open 2025: Longlist (2025)
- Visual Artists Association Artist of the Year Awards: Longlist (2025)

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