

Sally Bamber



The Coreopsis flower, (also known as Tickweed) holds meaning of; optimism, positivity, resilience, and encouragement in our daily lives.

Coreopsis

Over the last 12 years plants have absorbed my attention, from their abundance, variation, architecture, and their medical applications. However, I am no expert on any plants, my response to them is entirely emotional.

With the Printfest award certificate I wanted to combine plants and printmaking. Thinking about the origins of pigment seemed the logical direction.

Coreopsis is strongly known for the quality of its colour for dyes. If you can make a dye, you can make a pigment, if you can make a pigment, you can make watercolours, pastels, oils, and printmaking inks. But the chemistry is beyond me, so I have left it to the experts!

Etching is my printmaking method of choice. I studied at Chelsea School of Art in the 70s and under Oona Grimes at the Princes Drawing School (now The Royal Drawing School) in 2005.

Richard Foster, a Printfest veteran, became my mentor. The editioning was at Iron Press Printmaking in Lancaster under the watchful eye of Iain Sloan. How great to be back in a print room. The paper is Snowdon 300gsm, it's a cartridge, tremendously versatile and flat. I have used Hawthorn Printmaking Supplies stay open inks, printing with Chartreuse green, using a fabulous old Cumbrian art college press. The certificates have been hand finished using Cadmium Yellow Medium Hue, a colour that is closest to the Coreopsis pigment, with a touch of Burnt Umber.