

AND THEN THE WILDLIFE CAME BACK

Whilst we have all been staying at home, not travelling, not using buses, cars or airplanes something wonderful has been happening to the wildlife. The cities are quiet with no traffic sounds, the air is clearer, and we can see stars at night. Into the cities wildlife is returning. If you listen you can birdsong that you may not have heard before. Bees and butterflies are moving around untroubled by humans. The river is cleaner as no boats are using it and under the water there is no sound of motor engines. The fish like this and are coming back to lay their eggs. Some gardens are getting a bit more tangled and are changing into places for creatures to set up home.

We can start to imagine what life could be like if we lived more in friendship with nature. When you look out your window, you can imagine what animals you would like to see safe in your street. Sadly there are hundreds of UK animals, birds and insects that are in terrible danger of being wiped out by humans taking away or polluting their homes.

In this art project, you can choose anyone of them and welcome them into your drawing or painting of looking through your window. You can include yourself or family at the window, or watching the outside world with a pet beside you. The view outside could be as it really is or changed into a lovely countryside or a mixture of both. Your animal or bird could be tiny or huge, moving past or hiding.

Painting or drawing the creature will protect it.

You can get ideas for how you might do your window by looking at the collection of paintings of windows by different artists. There are also pictures of the UK creatures that are endangered. You can look at these and also google to find out more about your creature.

Good sites for this are:

RSPB birds [they have birdsong recordings too]

Wildlife trust

Bee conservation

Buglife

Froglife

You can draw in pencil, or paint if you have paints. If you have a printer you could collage. If you have scissors, you could do a picture cutting out from bits of paper lying around. When you have finished take a photo of it with a phone and send us a picture. If you can keep the picture till you go back to school, we can display them and remember this special time when the wildlife came back. Then we will have work to do to help the wildlife stay.

PROJECT

Artists have always responded to the time they are living in. This project is a unique opportunity for you to do the same and create a picture that will be a meaningful historical document describing this time and will record your own experience of staying at home along with people all round the world.

In the next few art sessions we would like you to create an artwork inspired by the view from your window at home and imagine what it would look like as the wildlife returns to your street.

Lesson 1: Have a look at the paintings in the resources page that Artists have created when they looked out of their own windows. Choose two of these paintings that you like and then:

- Describe what you can see in the paintings - what is the room like, are there any people, what is outside the window, what does it feel like to be there?
- Are there any similarities or differences between the 2 paintings that you have chosen?
- Which place would you prefer to be in and why?
- What kind of marks/brush strokes is the artist using, are they free or careful?
- What do you think is most interesting about the paintings? Which painting would you like to have in your home?
- Are there any techniques that you see in these paintings that you would like to use in your artwork?

Next: Choose one of these paintings and copy in either pencil or paint. Can you try and make the same sort of shapes, marks or colours as the artist? If you like the artist, you could look up other paintings they have done.

Lesson 2: Now it is time to look at your own window and view.

- Do a drawing of a window at home. This could include you, a family member or pet stood inside looking out. You could ask your family member to stand while you draw them so that you are able to closely look at the body proportions. You can also include some objects from your room and the view through the window.
- Can you think about the light in your artwork? Is it brighter outside or inside? How can you show this with your shading?
- You can use this drawing to help when you do your final piece.

Lesson 3: Have a look at the examples of UK endangered animals. Choose an animal from each category to draw or paint. You will then have 4 animals; 1 mammal, 1 bird, 1 insect and 1 reptile.

- You could also do some research about the animal you have chosen, such as where the animal lives and what it eats. You could even try to find out the reasons that those animals are endangered and things that we can do to help them.

Lesson 4: In this session all the elements will come together to make your final art work. This can be a drawing, painting, collage or mixture.

- We would like you to make a picture which imagines that you are looking out of your window. What animals might come back to your street? Create an imaginary view from your window and chose some animals to put in your view. This could be a completely made up view of countryside or any other landscape that you can think of. Or you can mix it up with what your street looks like and what it might look like.
- You might like to add some imagined elements to the real view you see from your window such as a river flowing through the street or a floating tree.
- When you include some of the Uk endangered animals you can experiment with scale. You can make the animals very big or much smaller that they really are. They could be hiding or running, flying or hopping down the street.

Welcome them back!

EXAMPLES OF ARTIST'S PAINTINGS OF WINDOWS AND VIEWS

Balthus



Gwen John



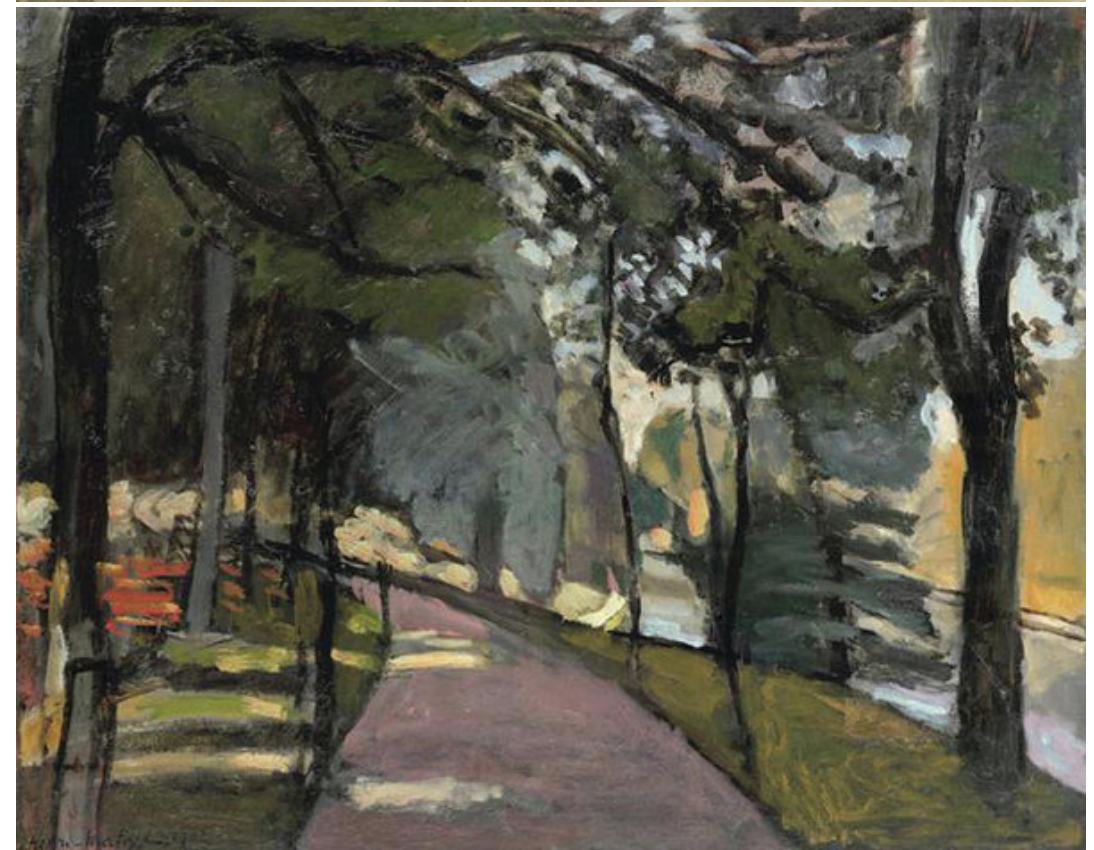
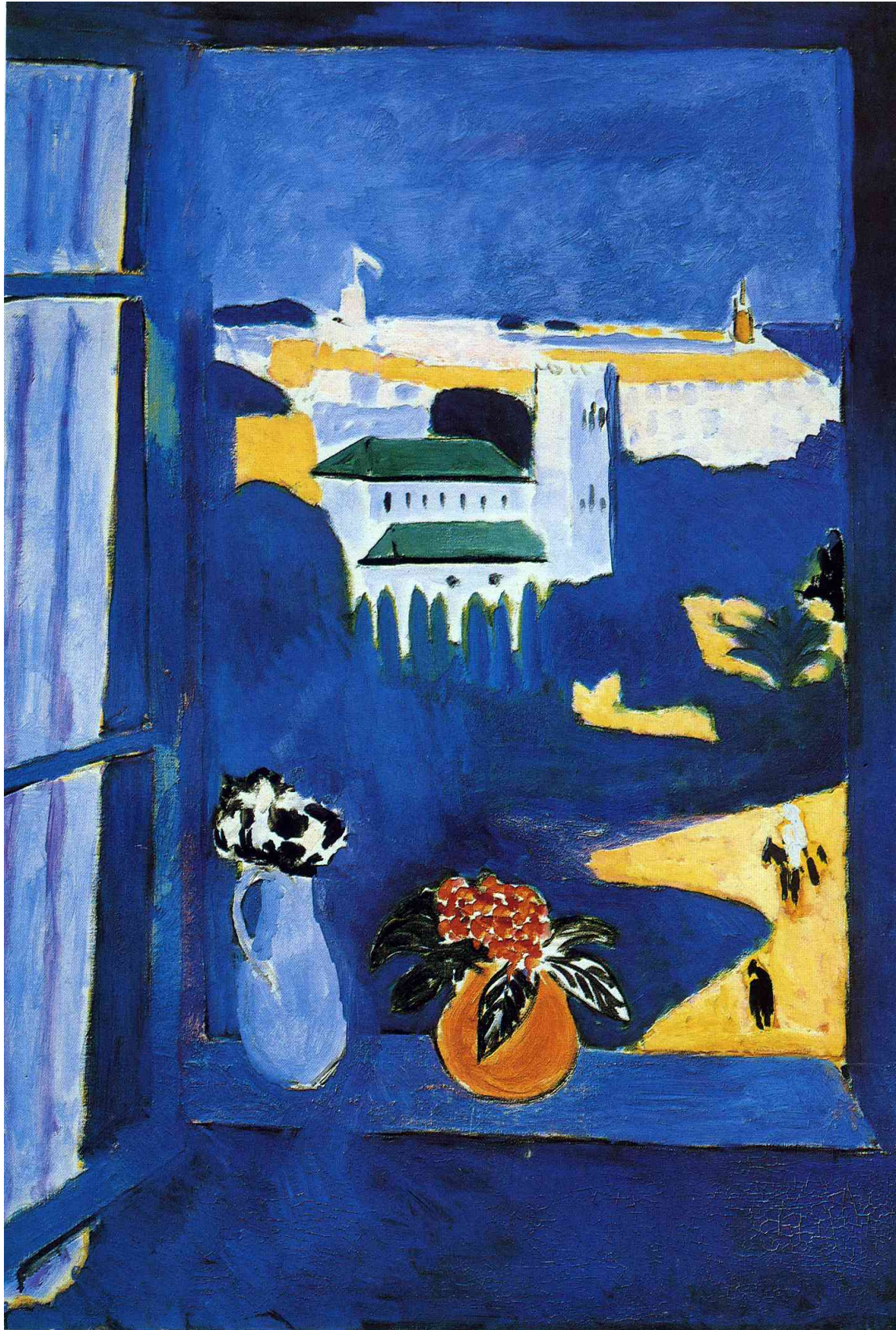
Edward Hopper



Pierre Bonnard



Henri Matisse



Edouard Manet



Berthe Morisot



Vilhelm Hammershøi



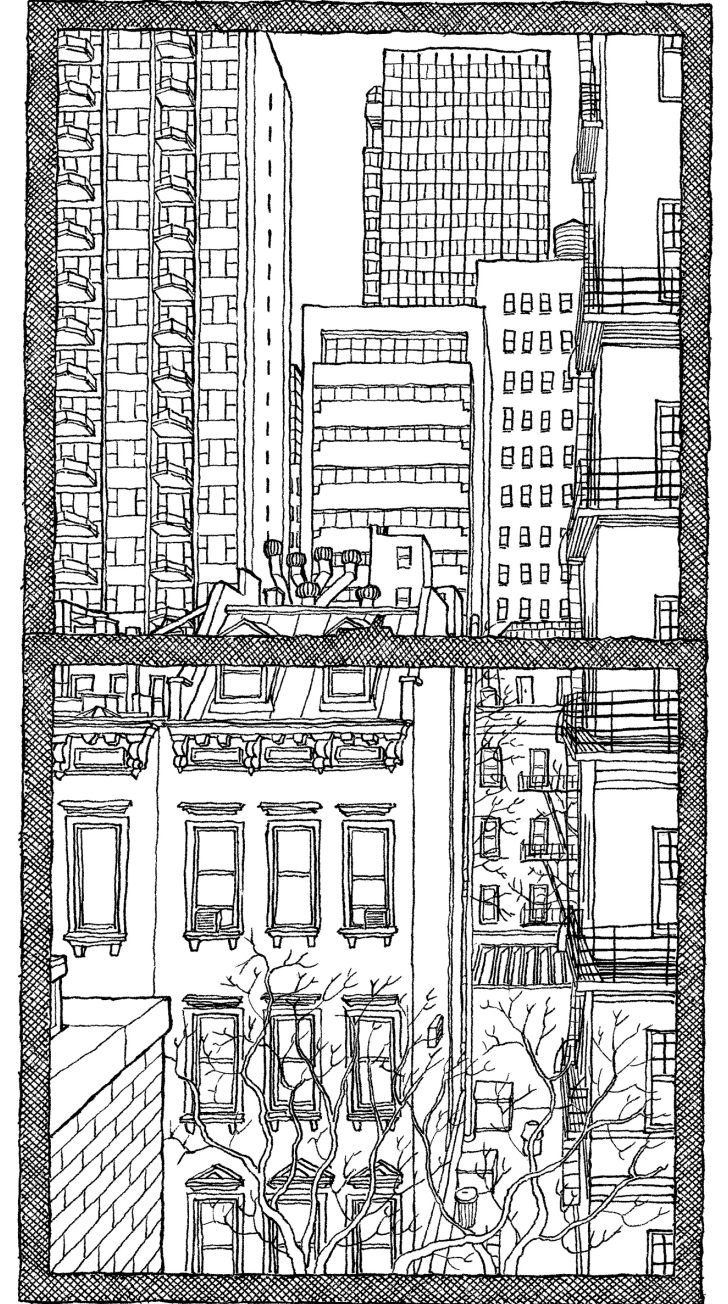
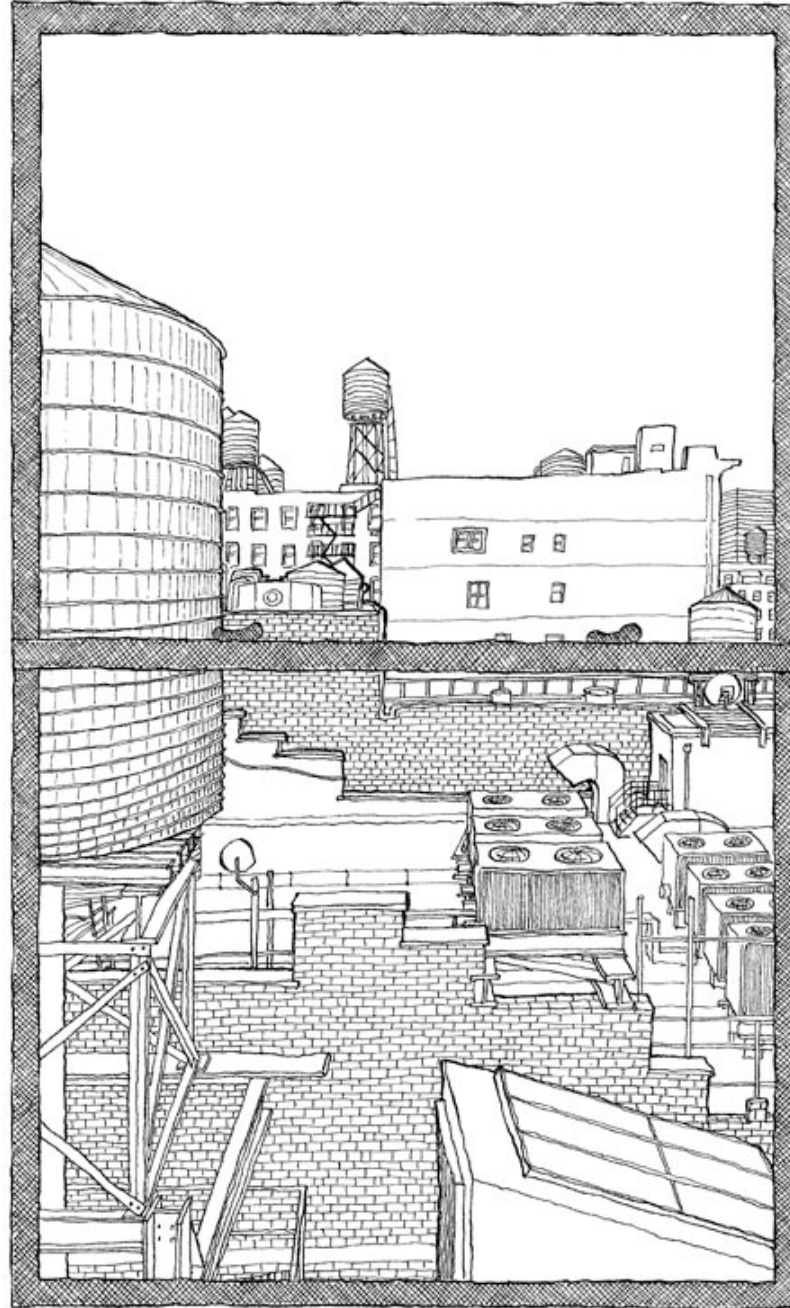
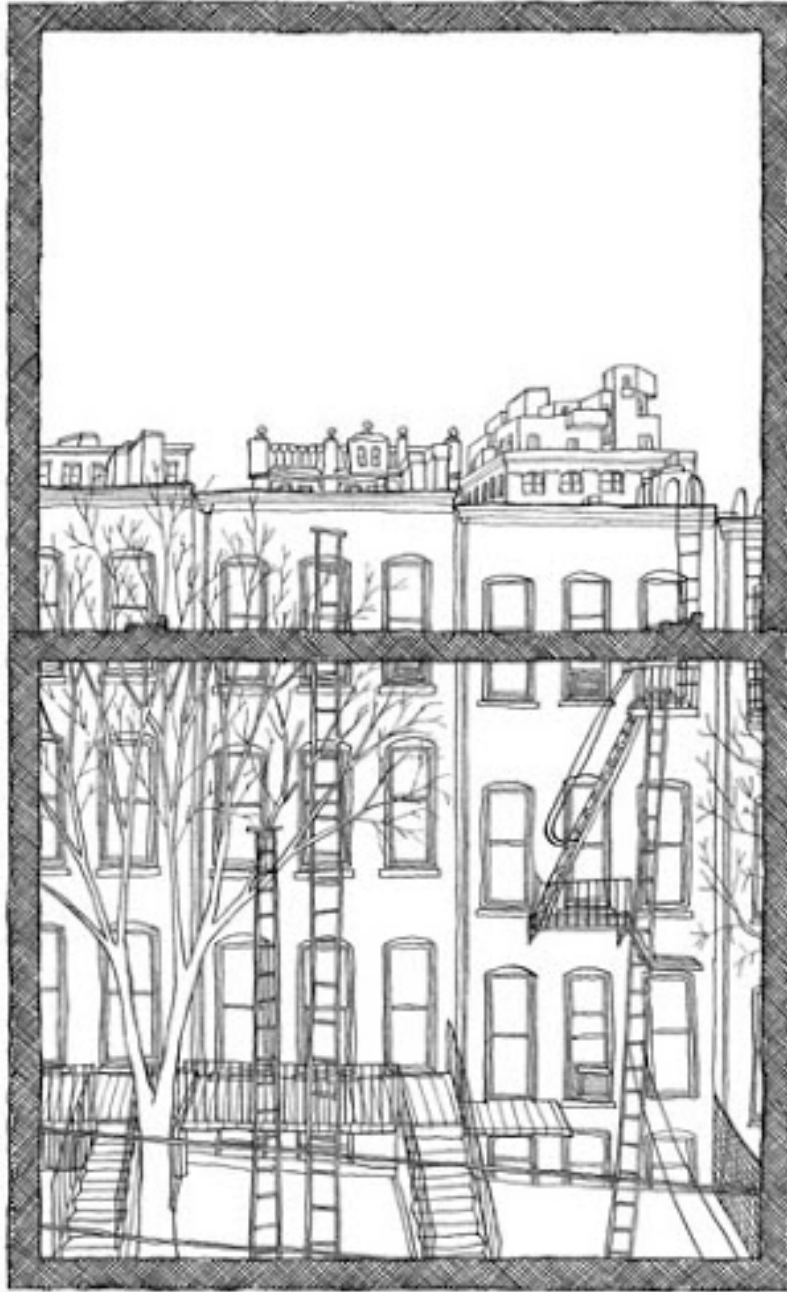
Johannes Vermeer



Fairfield Porter



Matteo Pericoli



L. S. Lowry



COUNTRY SIDE LANDSCAPES

Paul Nash



Eric Ravilious



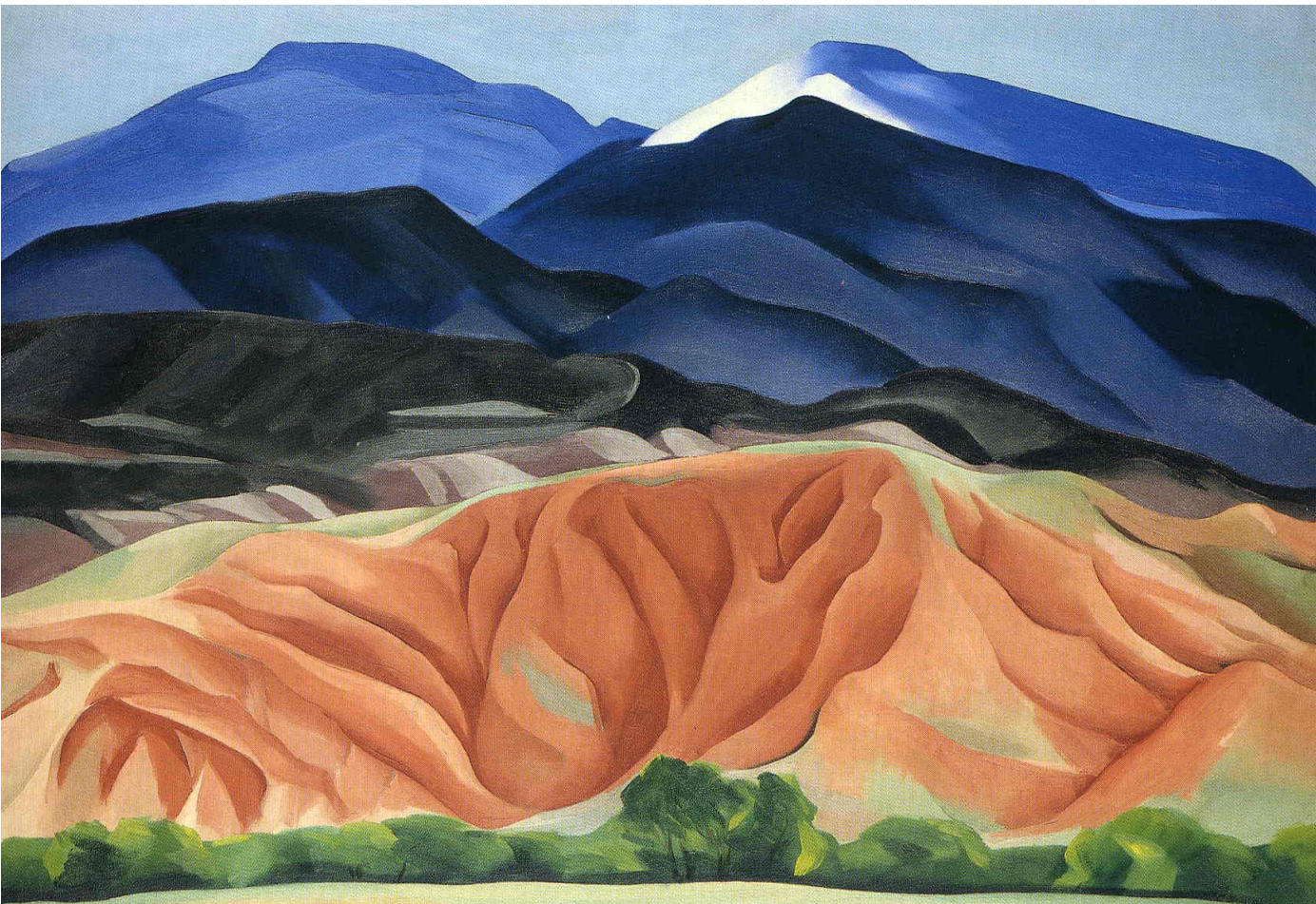
Ivon Hitchens



Emily Carr



Georgia O'keefe



ENDANGERED UK ANIMALS

Detail from 'Garden of Eden' by Artist Deborah Law showing endangered UK animals and plants



Examples of endangered UK Birds



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker



Skylark



Curlew



Cuckoo



Turtle Dove



Puffin



Yellow Hammer



White Tailed Eagle



Hawfinch



Yellow Wagtail

Examples of endangered UK Birds



Linnet



Lapwing



Pied Flycatcher



Willow Tit



House Sparrow



Herring Gull



Starling



Nightingale



Song Thrush

Examples of endangered UK Mammals



Red Squirrel



Water Vole



Long Eared Bat



Harvest Mouse



Beaver



Hazel Dormouse



Hedgehog



Polecat



Mountain Hare



Wildcat

Examples of endangered UK Insects



Large Blue Butterfly



Checkered Skipper



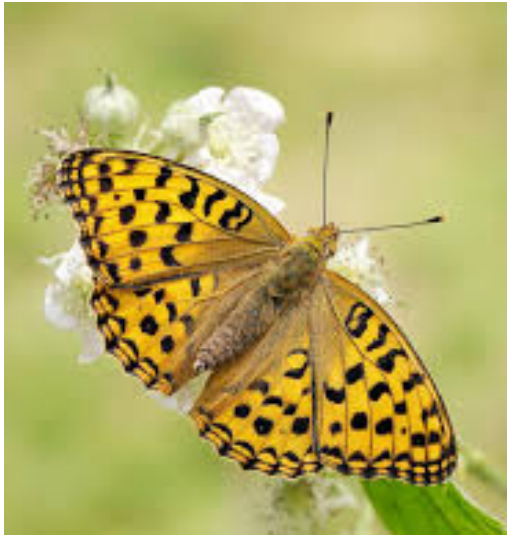
Swallowtail



Wood White Butterfly



Barberry Carpet Moth



High Brown Fritillary



Ladybird Spider



Stag Beetle



Tansy Beetle



Large Garden Bumblebee



Narrow-headed Ant

Examples of endangered UK Reptiles



Adder



Natterjack Toad



Crested Newt

Check out this video...

<https://www.facebook.com/350.org/videos/692879531255184/>