

# Artist Claire to hold new book signings

NEW FOREST artist Claire Wiltsher will be signing copies of a new book showcasing her work at two local art galleries.

Claire, who lives in Romsey Road, Lyndhurst, said the 48-page book 'Journeys from the Forest to the Sea' is something she has wanted to put together for some time.

She will be signing copies at the Lyndhurst Gallery in Lyndhurst on Saturday June 20th and at Lymington's Coastal Gallery, where she has exhibited for four years, on Friday July 3rd and Saturday July 4th.

Stewart Mechem of Coastal Gallery said her paintings have been consistently popular with both local customers and visitors, while partner Bev Saunders added: "Claire's

work truly captures the spirit of our beautiful coastal and Forest habitat in a contemporary and intriguing way."

Born in Wales, Claire was originally an art lecturer and, whilst teaching, completed an MA in Fine Art at Northumbria University. After a period of travelling, she set up her studio in the New Forest. A keen walker, Claire draws and records the landscape around her adding personal responses to her surroundings back in the studio.

Her work is in the House of Lords' collection and has been included in the Cork Street Open Exhibition.

Painting in an expressive, contemporary manner, Claire's work is based on direct observation of

nature. Working in oil and mixed media, many of her paintings combine layers of paint with fragments of collage. She uses palette knives to build up a depth of paint and then scratches through sections of the painting, allowing colours from underneath to emerge.

"I want to create evocative paintings of land and sea that show a sense of place, different weather conditions are key elements," she said.

Published by Creative Coverage, 'Journeys from the Forest to the Sea' is available for £9.50 from some Hampshire galleries as well as Blackwells bookshops and Amazon.

The book will also be available during Claire's open studio from August 21st to August 24th at her home in Lyndhurst.

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