

BRUCE PEARSON (G62-67)

After leaving the College he went to Great Yarmouth College of Art and Design, followed by 3 years at Leicester Polytechnic where he obtained a BA (Hons) in Fine Art.

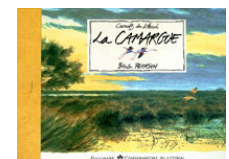
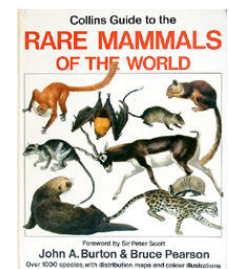
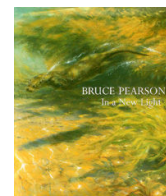
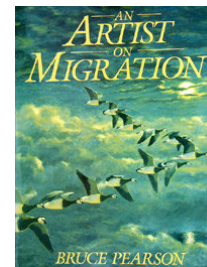
He then got a job as a Production Assistant in the RSPB Film Unit, before joining the British Antarctic Survey in 1975 as a Biological Assistant. Since 1977 he has been a self-employed artist and occasional filmmaker.

Ever since his first visit to Antarctica, with the British Antarctic Survey, in 1975 he has continued to travel to many of the world's remotest and spectacular locations, wearing a variety of hats: ecologist, film-maker, writer and artist.

He earned the accolade of Wildlife Illustrator of the Year in 1983 and Bird Illustrator of the Year in 1984. He was elected President of the Society of Wildlife Artists in 1994, serving 10 years. He has also been Visiting Lecturer at the RCA.

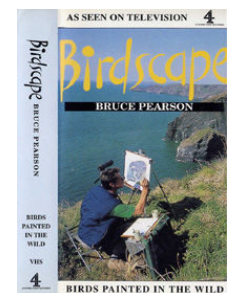
His publications have included :

- '*Collins Guide to the Rare Mammals of the World*' (Collaboration with John A Burton)
- '*The Countryside in Winter*' (Collaboration with Brian Jackman) 1985
- '*An Artist on Migration*' 1991
- '*Birdscape*' (Collaboration with Robert Burton) 1991
- '*La Camargue - Carnets du Littoral*' 1997
- '*Artists for Nature in Alaska*' 1998 (A contributory artist)
- '*In a New Light*' 2003
- '*White Horizons: British Art from Antarctica 1775-2006*' (Collaboration with David Walton) 2006



His television and film work includes :

- '*The Private Life of the Fur Seal*' (BBC)
- '*The 150 Million Ton Shrimp*' (BBC)
- '*Beyond Timbuktu*' (BBC)
- '*Birdscape*' 1991 series for C.4
- Narration for '*Ten Days to Paint the Forest*' (Artists for Nature Foundation) 2004



For the past 10 years his work has largely involved private commissions from individuals, museums and institutions; and by invitation from the Artists for Nature Foundation (ANF). He has participated in international art events and exhibitions in USA, France, Holland, Spain, Poland, Ecuador and Peru. In the UK he has contributed work to a number of group exhibitions and undertaken a range of solo commercial gallery shows.

Prior to that a lot of his work was largely as a freelance illustrator on a wide range of natural history books, magazines and journals, including writing and illustrating *An Artist on Migration*, one chapter of which, centred in West Africa, was subsequently filmed and shown on BB2 television in a programme (*Beyond Timbuktu*) that he presented. Other illustrations were for *Rare Mammals of the World* and the *Gem Guide to Zoo Animals*. Throughout that time he continued to exhibit larger fine art works when the opportunities arose.

As well as painting and printmaking, early projects involved filming in Antarctica as director-cameraman on an idea developed in collaboration with a friend and colleague. This became a documentary programme (*The Private Life of the Fur Seal*) subsequently shown on BBC1 television. A second programme (*The 150 Million Tonne Shrimp*) telling a more complex Antarctic story was shown on BBC2 television two years later. Following the success of the programmes he was commissioned by Channel 4 Television to write and present the six part *Birdscape* series about a range of British landscapes and the lives of some of the birds, and some of the people associated with them.

His studio is now filled with huge numbers of drawings, paintings, notebooks, and sketches reflecting visits over many years to the Arctic and Antarctica, Africa, many countries and regions of Europe, the Caribbean, and North and South America. There are still opportunities to travel and find new ideas, see new species and experience different landscapes.

After 30 years he has just been presented with an opportunity of returning to the Antarctic. This time he is going there as an artist in residence on board the cruise ship Spirit of Adventure.

Visit his website at www.brucepearson.net

An example of his work



A detailed summary of the main events in his working life :-

- 1975 – 2006 Contributions to Society of Wildlife Artists annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London
- 1973 – 1975 Film Production Assistant, Film Unit of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- 1975 – 1978 Three austral summer visits to Bird Island, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula. First visit as field assistant, and subsequent visits as freelance artists and filmmaker.
- 1976 *Life, Light and Landscape*, Assembly Rooms, Norwich - first solo exhibition
- 1977 *An Artist in Antarctica*, solo exhibition at the Scott Polar Institute, Cambridge
- 1978 Elected member of Society of Wildlife Artists
- 1979 Publication of *Rare Mammals of the World* (illustrator) - a guide with text and maps to over 100 endangered species
Exhibition at Natural History Museum, London of all illustration work from '*Rare Mammals of the World*'
- 1987 Extensive journey through West Africa and Sahara researching and preparing for a project about bird migration

- 1989 Solo exhibition *An Artist on Migration* at The Jane Neville Gallery, Aslockton, Notts
- 1991 Publication of *An Artist on Migration* (author and illustrator) - a personal interpretation of the annual journeys made flowing with the seasons between Europe and Africa.
- 1992 *Beyond Timbuktu* – writer and presenter of a BBC2 World About US film about the people and wildlife dependant on the seasonal floods of the Sahel region of West Africa
Selected for inclusion in *Birds in Art* exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, USA
- 1994 Writer and presenter *Birdscape* a series of six half-hour programmes for Channel 4 television
Elected President of the Society of Wildlife Artists
Selected for inclusion in *Birds in Art* exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, USA
- 1995 Exhibition, Wildlife Art Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk, UK
- A poster for an art exhibition. At the top, it reads 'THE WILDLIFE ART GALLERY LAVENHAM SUFFOLK'. Below this is a landscape painting of a rural scene with a windmill and a church. At the bottom, it says 'BRUCE PEARSON EXHIBITION 28-31st OCTOBER 1995'.
- 1996 Commissioned by Conservatoire du Littoral and Gallimard (publishers) in France to portray the landscape and wildlife of the Camargue region of southern France
Invitation from Artists for Nature Foundation to join international group of artists in Extremadura region of Spain.
Subsequently, work included in exhibition tour through Europe
Invitation from Parc Les Écrins, France to contribute to an art project in the National Park.
- 1997 Publication of *Carnets du Littoral, La Camargue* (author and illustrator)
Visiting lecturer, Royal College of Art (Communication Art and Design)
- 1998 Invitation to return to Parc Les Écrins in the Alpine region of France to contribute to an ongoing art project
Solo exhibition at The Peter Hedley Gallery, Dorset
Invitation to join Artists for Nature project in Alaska's Copper River region; subsequent contribution to Alaskan project touring exhibition in USA
- 1999 Mural commission for London Aquarium
Commission for 24 original works from Royal Caribbean Cruise Line
- 2000 Mural Commission for entrance foyer at RSPB national headquarters
- 2001 Mural commission for Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) visitor centres at Derwent Ings and Pulborough Brooks nature reserves.
- 2002 *Wildlife and the Artist*, group exhibition, Wildlife Art Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk
- 2003 Invitation to participate in art project undertaken in the Tumbesian region on the borders of Ecuador and Peru; included as one of a group of artists invited from 6 countries by Artists for Nature Foundation (ANF)
Visiting lecturer, Royal College of Art (Communication Art and Design)

In a New Light, solo exhibition, Wildlife Art Gallery, Lavenham, Suffolk

Publication of *In a New Light*, a personal book looking at the contemporary and earlier work as an artist

Selected for inclusion in Birds in Art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, USA

2004 External Examiner, Royal College of Art (Communication Art and Design)

2005 Commissioned to complete twelve paintings for Sultan of Oman

Winner, GMAC Commercial Mortgage Europe Art Award, (SWLA London)

2006 Exhibition at Tallag Dearg gallery, Isle of Skye

Commission to complete fourteen paintings for Sultan of Oman

2007 Exhibition, *Recent Work*, Westcliffe Gallery, Sheringham, Norfolk, UK