## Jenny Musker BA(Hons) VPRMS, MASF, TWASI Scientific and Natural History Illustrator

Jenny's work: www.jennymusker.co.uk. Facebook: Jenny Musker

## **Education**

Secondary Education: Deyes High School, Maghull, Liverpool, UK 1987-1994

Further Education: Hugh Baird College 1994-1995

Higher Education: Blackpool and the Fylde College 1995-1998

Diploma: Art & Design Foundation

BA Honours Degree: Art & Design, Scientific & Natural History Illustration

## **Skills and Experience**

As a trained wildlife illustrator, Jenny has been exhibiting in the Aberdeen area (Scotland-UK) since moving from Liverpool in 1998. She creates informative compositions in watercolour, gouache and pencil. Whilst at Blackpool she also trained in photography, which allows her to generate first hand reference in support of her artwork. The work is highly detailed wildlife art, varying from large watercolour compositions on hot press papers to miniature works, which are produced on Polymin. Polymin is a specialist translucent manmade archival base. Many of her pieces are painted not much larger than 4"x6" including the frame. She has always enjoyed capturing nature in its finest detail and frequently uses brushes down to triple zero in size to achieve the levels of precision that are characteristic of her miniature works.

Many magazines have published her miniature artwork step guides. "Speckled friends" was a butterfly miniature which was shown at the RMS and has been **published in 'Artists & Illustrators' 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Edition**.

Yorkshire 2002 saw the beginning of her miniature painting where she was the winner of the **Rose Bowl** for 'Best Artist in the Miniaturist Exhibition.' In 2004 she entered her first works into the Royal Society of Miniature Painters Sculptors and Gravers Exhibition (RMS). She was then elected to Associate Membership (ARMS) in 2006 and won the Anita Emmerich Presentation Award for 'Perfection in every aspect'. This was for her butterfly miniature 'Dark Green Fritillary on Spear Thistle'.

In 2008 she was then **elected to be a Full Member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters Sculptors and Gravers (RMS)** at the Mall Galleries in London. By 2012 she had joined the Council for the RMS and now still sits on the judging panel, helping to select works and new members to uphold the standards of the Society.

In 2010 she entered the miniaturists Small In Nature Exhibition in British Columbia, Canada, winning 1st place/prize with the watercolour piece 'At Home in the Bramble'.

In 2015 she exhibited for the first time in **Kirkland, Washington, USA** where her work was accepted by Parklane Gallery for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Juried Miniature Show. She was also awarded an



an **Honourable Mention** for her piece 'The Lone Ranger". She has since won further prizes at their annual exhibitions.

The WFM (World Federation of Miniatures Exhibition) was another new venue in 2016. This exhibition was held in South Africa in conjunction with MASSA (Miniature Art Society of South Africa). She then went on to represent Scotland as an independent member. This exhibition brings together the best miniature art societies in the world.

2016-2023 sees her enter works into the **Miniature Art Society of Florida (MASF) USA**. She was delighted on her first exhibition with them to have both works accepted and also to be awarded a prize. Over the years she has won various prizes at MASF including **First Place in the Transparent Watercolour** category with 'Looking for Trouble' in 2023', and 'Magnificent Moths & Butterflies' in 2024.

One of Jenny's greatest privileges was being chosen by the RMS President Rosalind Pierson in 2018, to join her and three others to go to **Buckingham Palace in recognition of her services to the RMS**. This coincided with the then HRH Prince Charles 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party, a fantastic day that she will never forget. Jenny also received the Royal Miniature Societies '**Presidents Special Commendation Award**' with a miniature painting of the UK's native bird the wren. The title was 'Love Blossoms' and was chosen out of 630 miniatures. Her latest Award '**The Group Award**' in July 2023 was for the best set of five or more miniatures, what a great honour at such a prestigious exhibition.

Jenny was also commissioned by the Balmoral estate to produce a watercolour study of Balmoral Castle for their Christmas card. This design has proven to be so popular that they have just ordered a reprint for Christmas 2024. Jenny also sells her miniature cards at Balmoral adding new designs for sale each year.

Jenny has also been showing her miniatures at the Snow Goose Gallery in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA since 2019-2023. This is **by invitation only**, so it is great be be asked back every year to exhibit with other miniature artists.

**TWASI (The Wildlife Art Society International)** is another society she is a member of. TWASI actively encourages members to support local & international conservation projects. A new category was created for miniature painting in 2021 so Jenny sent two butterfly artworks down to Gloucestershire and was delighted to find out she had been awarded the: **Gold Citation**, for the Best Miniature 2021, with the piece of artwork 'Cowslip Connoisseurs'. The judges commented the artwork had "**Superb quality and accuracy of depicting the species**". May 2022 sees her win another **Gold Citation**, for the Best Miniature: "The Summer Visitor" The judges commented the artwork "**Really draws you in to look, a true miniature**" To win this award a second time was truly amazing.

June 2022 Jenny exhibits at The Hilliard Society in Wells, Somerset, and wins on her first entry an award: **The Hilliard Society 40**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary Special Award** for her miniature: "Magnificent Moths & Butterflies" This piece comprised all the moths she had found in her garden.

Jan 2023, Jenny found out that she had been elected by the new president Ray Winder, council and members to the position of **Vice President of the Royal Miniature Society**, what a great honour!