

Helen Cowcher

British Artist and Writer

Profile

Born 1951

BA Chelsea School of Art & Design.

Fellow of Royal Geographical Society

Member of Society of Authors.

LECTURING

Cowcher has been a visiting Lecturer at Royal College of Art and Sunderland University as well as a part-time lecturer at Bath Academy of Art.

ART & ENVIRONMENT

Throughout her career she has been involved in Exhibitions and Festivals benefiting many charities involved in wildlife, education and sustainable development including WILD FOUNDATION, LIVING EARTH, WWF, FRIENDS of EARTH, RSPB & ELEPHANT FAMILY

AWARDS

She has won many awards (USA) for her 'compelling picture books , ambitious in concept' (Oxford Encyclopedia) all on environmental themes. Awards include John Burroughs Nature book award for RAINFOREST and 4 times winner of Outstanding Science trade books (NSTA-CBC)



INSPIRATION

Since 1990 she has used her art and writing to tackle ambitious subjects. She is inspired not only by the raw power of nature to astound with its beauty but also through her fascination with the stories behind places, the myriad connections between man, wildlife & habitat.

“ I am interested in the habitat where wild creatures and plants live, as much as the individual elements in isolation. Mine is an holistic approach. I also aim at achieving a connection with the audience through ‘visual poetry’. I hope to transfer my sensual responses to what is before me in the wild, onto paper. Not immediately, but by a distillation of imagery, information, ideas and influences. “

ART

Her use of artist's medium ranges from watercolour, gouache, acrylics and oil, to mixed media photomontage. Cowcher uses saturated color combined with a dramatic sense of chiaroscuro. Her mixed media images make use of directly sourced photography.

She enjoys collaboration with designers, video artists and musicians as well as zoologists and ethnobotanists. Her art has been used internationally in mixed media stage shows and light installations. Including a 140 piece TV wall for a Gala Ballet at the Royal Opera House 'Carnival of the birds'. Travel feeds into her working practice.

VENEZUELA

2009 - Helen Cowcher artist in residence at Biological Station HATO PINERO, Cojedes State. She had returned to work there annually throughout 17 year period from 1992, also continuing her work in the studio in London.

VENEZUELA continued



Dr Francisco Delascio Chitty and Helen Cowcher

2008 - Dr Francisco Delascio Chitty ex-director of El Jardin botánico Caracas and joint founder of the Botanic Garden of the Orinoco, Ciudad Bolivar, Bolivar state, Venezuela. Dr. Delascio is the scientific assessor for Cowcher's Flora Book project (in production) and was founder director of the herbarium at HATO PINERO.

WEST AFRICA

2007 – TALK at US Embassy residence Bamako Mali. Guest of honour at champagne reception. Invited to do presentation about work for diplomats & educators. Author & artist tour of West African countries: Mali, Niger & Burkina Faso.

UK

2006 - MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL Billingsgate, City of London Auction. Presented to HRH Prince Charles for her work as an artist supporting Arts for the Earth. Her ANTARCTIC image for the series" Transformation playing card Art " purchased by the UK Government Minister of Fisheries and Food, Ben Bradshaw.

2003 - Shortlisted for WELLCOME TRUST Sci-Art award : A collaboration with Dr.Maria Gloria Basañez. PHD Imperial College University of London for proposal 'ART & MUSIC & MEDICINAL PLANTS OF LLANOS.'

VENEZUELA

2001 - A talk for Annual Conference of all the librarians of Miranda State. Biblioteca Pública Don Luis y Misia Virginia, Guatire, Estado Miranda.

RADIO CARACAS Live Interview on Radio Caracas

EL NACIONAL Full page interview (spanish) in national newspaper, 'El Nacional'.

UK

2000 - ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND sponsor RESONANCE JAGUAR PERFORMANCE
An important collaboration for Cowcher on a multi- media production involving actors & musicians. She worked using photography and paintings on an hour long projection backdrop with the video installation artist. Tom Gray of The Gray Circle who had been involved in the opening light show for the 2000 Sydney Olympics & a video installation for Zaha Hadid in Chicago. She collaborated with world acclaimed concert pianist Elena Riu & director Peter Bridges.

1997 LECTURE - The Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council, Canning House, London.
Art & Environment with Climate change : JAGUAR theme on the Orinoco Floodplains.
Based on Cowcher's work as artist, writer & researcher alongside Argentinian scientists Daniel Scognamillo and Ines Maxit & American scientist John Polisar at HATO PINERO.

1992 - Thames TV 15 minute documentary on TIGRESS & artist's research in Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary, **India** .

1992 - EARTH IN FOCUS -First UK Environmental Film Festival, on film selection committee and from **1993-1997** on environmental film selection committee for GREEN SCREEN at ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, London.

VENEZUELA

1992 - LIVING EARTH FOUNDATION Artist collaboration and working trip together with 12 other British artists and 16 Venezuelan artists all based in the diverse ecological zones of the Venezuelan countryside. Helen Cowcher based in the Llanos at Hato Piñero. Group Exhibition at the National Museum of Natural Sciences Caracas raising funds with which to found FUNDACION TIERRA VIVA

UK & INTERNATIONAL

1989 - NAT WEST BANK Commission nine paintings from Cowcher for World Savers Campaign. They pledge £3million to WWF.