

## About Helen Cowcher

Helen Cowcher has created six award winning picture books for children including RAINFOREST, ANTARCTICA, JAGUAR & DESERT ELEPHANTS. Her studio & home are in London, England.

*"I am an artist, author & illustrator and all my work is inspired by the natural world. In the wild I have been lucky enough to see beautiful birds, amazing animals and exotic creatures and exploring such places makes me even keener to help protect nature and inspire children to do the same."*

### As A Child

I grew up with my parents and two brothers in the English countryside. There were many books of all sorts in the house but very little art.

### Art & Words At School

At school I had a very inspiring art teacher. She encouraged me and I loved painting and drawing anyway so I always believed from an early age that I would be an artist. Later on there was a great teacher of english. Things were never dull in her lessons. The sound of words was exciting to me, not just the meaning. We talked about the way words were used in stories and poems and what we thought were the writer's intentions. Of course this all proved useful experience when I came to write stories for my books, much later on.

### Art & Travel

After going to Chelsea School of Art, London, I worked on commissions for clients such as design groups and large companies. I was also a visiting lecturer at Bath Academy of Art. In the mid 1980's I travelled to India several times and the dramatic change of scene inspired me to stop taking commissions and develop my own book projects and art. I have been working on those projects ever since.

### Books & Nature Conservancy

Travelling abroad helped me to understand the amazing natural diversity in our world but I was also learning more about what was happening to the planet through the growing 'Green Movement', which I supported. There was very little media coverage then about the destruction of tropical forests. I started work on my first picture book. RAINFOREST was first published by Andre Deutsch UK and by Farrar, Straus & Giroux New York in 1988. It won many awards and became a best seller. Then came ANTARCTICA and 4 other titles including DESERT ELEPHANTS 2011.

[see ART SITE IN DEPTH PROFILE for more information](#)

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