



*The moon in the water
broken and broken again
still it is there*

Haiku by Chosu

PRESS RELEASE

Patricia Swannell | A commemorative exhibition
11 September - 11 October 2024

jaggedart is honoured to showcase a memorial exhibition to celebrate the wide breadth of Patricia Swannell's work.

Patricia Swannell's work explores our relationship with and our effect on the natural world around us.

Trees, the lungs of the earth, are potent signifiers. Rooted in the ground while reaching to the sky, they connect us to both past and future human generations. Her work represents a meditation on time – embedded in the environment we inherit and the legacy that we leave behind.

Patricia Swannell worked with print, drawings as well as creating fluid large scale abstract watercolours. Her works are inspired by the beauty of nature and the dark threats to the natural world.

Patricia collected willow branches and leaves, ferns and grasses. These natural materials are used on the printing press so that the paper becomes embossed with their shapes and textures. From large trees, to tiny seeds and fragile grasses, Patricia transformed flotsam and jetsam into works of beauty and resonance.

In Patricia's *Tree Ring* series, she explored the identity of local trees. At the heart of each drawing lies a tiny tree seed. Spiralling out in concentric rings, mirroring the cross section of a tree trunk, Patricia wrote repetitions of the English and Latin names of the tree. Of particular interest in this series was the Silver Maple, Black

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Locust, and Golden Rain trees. Written in such fine text, the words merge together to form a unified shape when viewed from afar. Only on close viewing can you read the details of each text.

Her focus on environmental matters was also reflected in her work for The Royal Botanic Garden Kew at Wakehurst Place. She designed a brick and turf maze and a series of small bronzes, which highlight the conservation work of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank for visitors to the garden.

Legacy: A Reciprocal Tribute is a project that she started in 2014 with the Woodland Trust to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. It records for six decades the growth of a woodland in Leicestershire by photographing the same family every year as the trees in the background shift, grow and transform alongside them.

Patricia Swannell's work started from the idea of time, with the ever-moving present providing the only vantage point to the past and future. Through paintings, drawings and prints, paying attention to the particular expression that each medium allows, she looked closely at the commonplace. The works focus on moments of exquisite balance and beauty in nature that are receding from experience to memory, perhaps forever.

Selections of Patricia's prints and tree drawings will cover the walls of the gallery, showing the incredible scope of her work. Displayed among these larger series will be a selection of Patricia's more experimental works. From vibrant feather prints to hand-embroidered haikus, each work tells a story of Patricia's practice and journey.

Compelled by a selfless passion, vision and determination to make a difference for those who come after her, Patricia devoted the last year of her life to working with Breast Cancer Now to fund research into secondary breast cancer and to support healthcare professionals. Throughout this exhibition, jaggedart will continue to donate to and support the Patricia Swannell Appeal. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Patricia's appeal. More information on the Appeal can be found on the [Breast Cancer Now website](#).

For more information please email
info@jaggedart.com

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday 11-5 pm
Other times by appointment

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