

A Redlake Valley “Cabinet of Curiosities”

I took part in an art class at the Ludlow Museum Resource Centre for two terms, drawing natural history specimens from the collection (tropical shells, butterflies, corals etc).

For my final piece of artwork I thought it might be fun to expand on the museum/collecting theme and I wanted to concentrate on natural history closer to home.

Being something of a collector of feathers, bits of bark and skeletonised leaves, I have always been fascinated by the idea of ‘cabinets of curiosities’ and decided to explore this in a painting.

Enclosed in a snail shell structure, my ‘curiosities’ are all ordinary (yet extraordinary) things that can be found in my garden and neighbouring fields in the Redlake Valley – from rook skulls to thistle roots and butterfly eggs to dried up hazel leaves. (Some of the specimens are pictured at very high magnification so may not be immediately identifiable).

