

## Dr Claire Blennerhassett

An Academic, Registered Dietitian and Contemporary Artist based in the North West of England. Claire works with recycled materials to create paintings and installations that focus on food sustainability and food insecurity. Her work is wrapped up in the wider issues of planetary health, including climate change, loss of biodiversity and degradation of natural resources, as the current food system is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, soil erosion, pollution of water systems and disruption of ecosystems, both on land and at sea.



‘Like the somewhat forgotten German naturalist ‘Alexander Von Humboldt’ (1769 to 1859), who went to great lengths to both educate and entertain people beyond the scientific community (and the world), I see my artwork as a means of communicating scientific knowledge with a view to prompting change that is beneficial for society and the environment. I believe art has the power to connect with people, in a way that words alone cannot, providing an opportunity to engage with people who may ordinarily be disconnected from discussions about the planet and climate change. Art also has the power to give people a voice, an opportunity to express themselves and highlight what is important to them in the world they live in’.



### **Unnatural Selection (2021)**

Oil on recycled newspaper

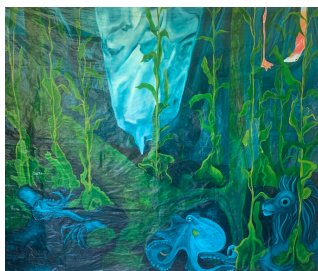
Eggs are a key ingredient to many foods that are enjoyed daily by humans. Their binding properties make them integral to cooking and baking for non-vegans, as such, eggs are found in many processed foods. The production and manufacturing processes that eggs go through are complex and have been a source of controversy. In creating this painting, I learned of efforts to produce eggs in an [ethical](#) and humane way, however I fear that we are far from achieving this at present.



### **End of Virgin Resources (2021)**

Oil on recycled newspaper

Globally waste, including that generated from agriculture, food production and consumption, is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing, repurposing and recycling waste, we lessen the burden on the planet and its natural resources. In addition, it could help mitigate food insecurity and help to provide nourishment for the growing population. The process of using waste to generate something new is referred to as [circular economy](#) and this shows promise for tackling climate change.



### **Dominant Hierarchy (2021)**

Oil on recycled newspaper

Inspired initially by the power of a single tree, that despite falling to the ground and left uprooted, it generated new life and a new way of living. This painting evolved as does nature in times of stress, most notably when there is a threat to life.



**Pollution Smokin' Oraghutan on a Motorbike (2020)**

Oil on recycled newspaper

This painting inspired my transition from using traditional surfaces that rely on earth's natural resources, to recycled materials. A news article about the impact of air pollution on the health of the planet and all species that inhabit it became central to the finished piece.

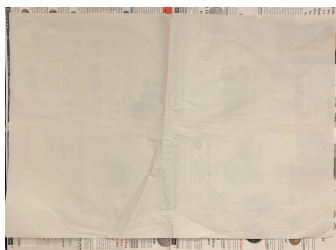


**Naturgemälde (2021)**

Oil on recycled newspaper

Naturgemälde, a German word without a precise English translation in its simplest meaning, is a nature painting that shows the 'wholeness of nature' and the interconnectedness of everything on planet Earth. This is a painting about the connections between livestock, consumption (food and non-food items) and the planet.

In the words of poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 'Every one thing exists for the sake of all things and all for the sake of one' (1807)



**Voices from the Sustainability Festival (2021)**

Graphite, watercolour pens and oil pastels on newspaper/newsprint

The final piece in the exhibition is a blank surface that will allow visitors of the sustainability festival and to the exhibition to record their thoughts, feelings and hopes for the future.



### **Circular (2021)**

Recycled newspaper, recycled cardboard packaging, recycled oil paintings on newspaper (x2) combined with flour and water and filled with recycled kitchen roll (used to clean art materials) and oil paintings on newspaper (x2)

This installation seeks to challenge the viewers relationship with waste and art. Throwaway culture is one of the biggest threats to the health of the planet, yet waste can often be reused, repurposed or recycled, creating new from old. These transitions can change the relationships and connections we hold with seemingly inanimate objects.



### **Artist's trail (2021)**

Sewing machine from car boot sale, recycled builders' wipes (used to clean my pallet and brushes)

As an artist, I am conscious that my efforts to entertain and educate viewers on sustainability issues may be contributing to the problems threatening the sustainability of our planet. This has inspired me to seek ways to reuse and repurpose waste generated from my painting process. This piece will evolve to become an outfit that will be worn by me at future exhibitions.



[Donniebogs\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/Donniebogs_art)