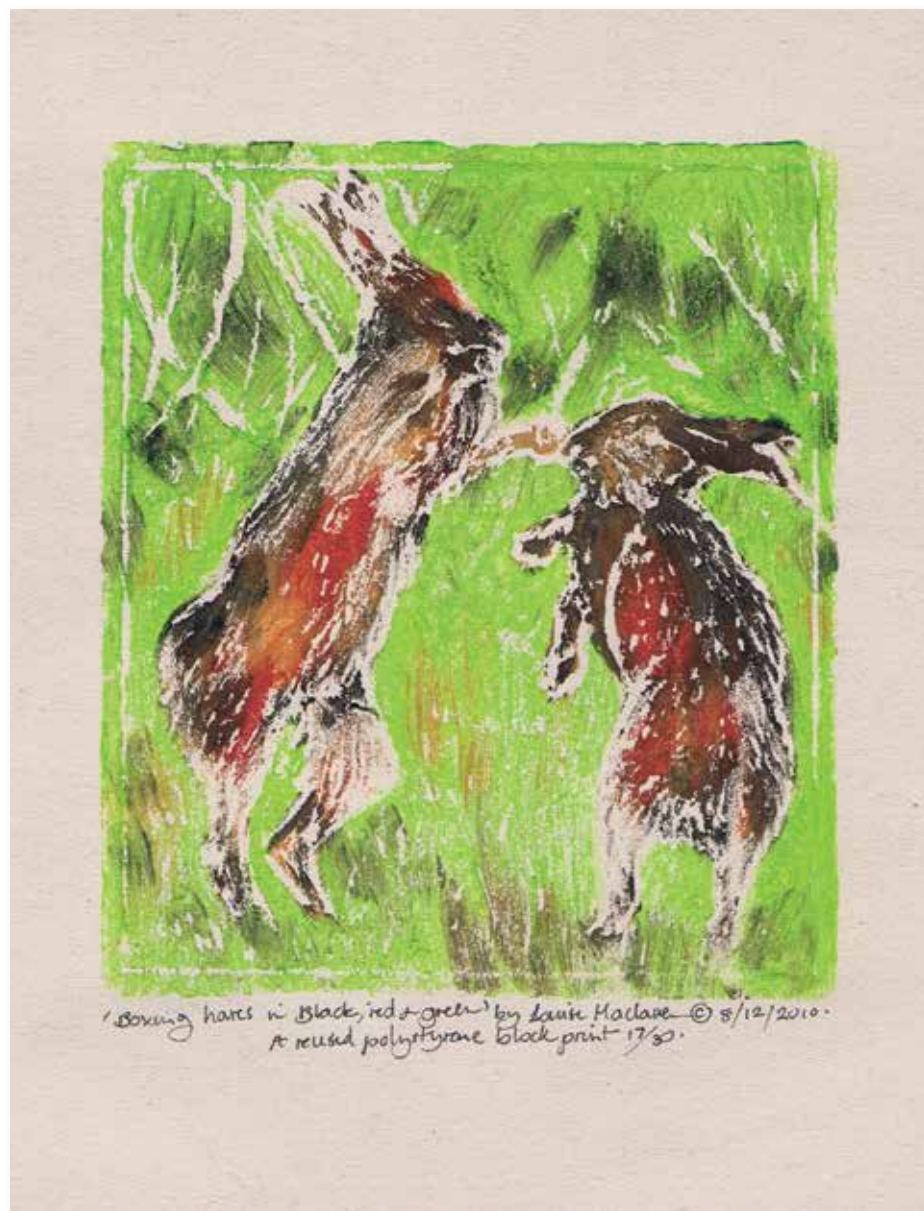




LOUISE MACLAREN

'I have seen many a hare shoot out from the edges of stubble fields in late autumn.'



From left: *Boxing Hares In Black, Red & Green*; *Boxing Wild-eyed Hares*; *Boxing Hares In Red, Gold & Green*; *Boxing Hares in Black, Red, Grey & Green* (all re-used polystyrene block prints)



Norfolk-based Louise Maclaren's first memory of hares was seeing one run across a muddy winter weald and downland field at dusk in West Sussex, where she spent part of her childhood. Once she started printmaking, she was drawn to "the graceful and enigmatic" creatures.

"Some years ago my pet greyhound Essie unfortunately gave chase to one in a field by the North Norfolk coast one day. Watching them, it seemed like an equal test of sheer speed and agility. I was very concerned that Essie would catch the hare, but she would not come back to my call. Luckily for

the hare, Essie collapsed on a corner due to an old racing injury and lost it. What a sight, though – two magnificent creatures enacting an age-old scene of hunter and quarry.

"Since then I have seen many a hare shoot out from the edges of stubble fields in late autumn. On reading up about them I was surprised to learn that they never sleep in burrows or holes but above ground – often in the open beside the edge of fields.

"Another thing I didn't know was that it is not two male hares boxing over female hares or territory in

spring but females boxing males in a kind of rebuff of affection!"

Having loved art as a child, Louise discovered printmaking after working on a project with Action for Children, which involved training at the V&A using simple block prints.

Concerned about the build-up of non-recycled rubbish in our lives, Louise began reusing polystyrene as part of her printmaking practice, using pizza bases and food containers to draw on. She recently finished her City and Guilds Level 3 in Printmaking. www.louise-maclaren-artist.co.uk