

# Clare Hadley

## Modernism meets Upton Country Park

During our first session discussing this project, I very quickly settled on my theme of seabirds at Upton. I love being out & about round the harbour & while I would not describe myself as a bird watcher, I do love to see them soaring high above the water or feeding on the mud at low tide.

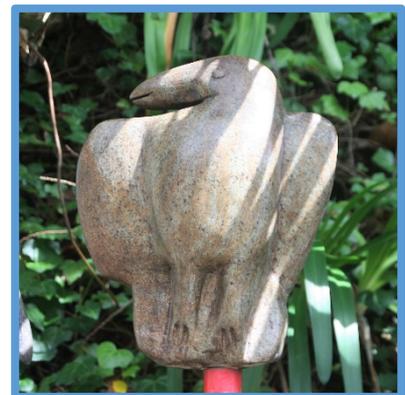


My next decision was how to reflect the birds in a modernist manner & how to create something in my preferred medium of handmade felt! Modernism covers so many movements but when I think of modernist work I'm always struck by the move to simplify, declutter and pare back. I could think of no better way to present my birds than in 3D felt sculptures. I looked at work by Brancusi & Moore as well as some of the African tribal art that inspired many modernists & loved the simple flowing lines and gentle forms.

My birds are not as abstracted as some of their work but I hope they do capture some of their simplicity and clean lines.

The bird forms are hollow and made using the wet felting process – there is no stitching and no gluing involved, just wool fibres, soap and water.

I've been making hollow 3D felt forms in the shape of hats, boots and vessels for many years but a recent workshop with Somerset felt artist Gladys Paulus enabled me to look further into what could be achieved when using it as an art medium.



I've dabbled in many art and craft forms but have found myself most at home with textile crafts. I'm an active member of the International Feltmaker's association and the Dorset Guild of Weavers. Spinners and Dyers. As well as my arty crafty endeavours I work as a medical physicist in the radiotherapy department at Poole hospital so the art provides an important balance. I have combined both aspects in the past by coordinating PEDAS art projects around the hospital.