

Artist statement January 2013

ARTIST STATEMENT

JOE HOGAN

I was drawn to basketmaking because I wanted to grow my own willow (the raw material for most of my baskets) and I sensed that this involvement from growing through to making would prove deeply satisfying. This has certainly proved to be the case and I continue to find basketmaking deeply satisfying. The opportunity to live rurally and develop a real understanding for a particular place is also very important to me.

For the past 15 years I have become increasingly interested in making non-functional or sculptural baskets, many of which involve the use of tree holes or interesting marks on the surface of the bark of a tree. I also incorporate finds of bog wood from a wonderful area of wild isolated bog land near where I live. This work is prompted by a desire to develop a deeper connection to the natural world. My concern in this work is to reawaken a sense of wonder. Every time we walk out into the world we have the opportunity to see it anew and to experience the wonder of being here. Rilke talks about us being “the bees of the invisible” gathering the honey of the visible and storing it in the hive of the invisible. When I make artistic baskets I am trying to rediscover the richness in this store of images. I also hope it will touch the spirit of others in some way.