

National Trust Press Release

Issued 28 April 2025

Images can be downloaded here  [Natalie Toms exhibition at Cotehele](#)

Artist ‘blossoms’ in her debut exhibition

- **Artist Natalie Toms will have her debut exhibition ‘Bleujenn’ 3-11 May at National Trust Cotehele.**
- **The exhibition coincides with the National Trust’s Festival of Blossom, which Cotehele are celebrating across Plymouth and the Tamar Valley through free events.**

Cornish wildlife artist Natalie Toms will have her debut this weekend in an exhibition at Cotehele, National Trust.

At a time when Cotehele is abundant with apple and cherry blossom, the exhibition, ‘Bleujenn’ (Cornish for ‘blossom’) explores how essential blossoming trees are to wildlife.

Toms, who works from a rural studio in South East Cornwall, has always been influenced by the Cornish countryside in which she grew up. Her meticulous art style and eco-friendly business practices have brought her a loyal following over her 10-year career.

The exhibition features detailed paintings of native birds, accompanied by delicately rendered branches of the blossoming trees that support them.

She said ‘I’m thrilled to have my exhibition debut at Cotehele, a place where I love to walk and take inspiration from the changing seasons. It’s exciting to finally have my work on display.’

Hours of exacting work have gone into each piece. Toms works by sketching a detailed composition, then painting painstakingly with watercolour paints in a technique she invented herself.

‘I use my paintings as a gateway to important conversations about the environment,’ she continued ‘That’s why I love to paint birds and insects. Bees and wasps are treated like pests, but they’re essential to our ecosystems, and we should celebrate them!’

Her work will be hung in the Victorian Drawing Room at Cotehele, a section of Cotehele’s historic house that was remodelled in the nineteenth century.

'Natalie's style is breath-taking,' said Allison Cowen, manager of Cotehele's Bullpen Gallery 'Her style is so uplifting and springlike, it feels as though the birds could fly off the paper. It's an honour to host her debut in this beautiful space.'

The exhibition coincides with the National Trust's Festival of Blossom. This year, Cotehele is celebrating the season by joining forces with community partners across Plymouth and the Tamar Valley, for a host of free events, many of which centre around creativity.

Rebekah Mason, Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer said 'This exhibition is a real celebration of the power of blossom. We're excited to celebrate Cornish talent as part of an exciting wider celebration of the blossom season here at Cotehele and in the local area.'

The exhibition will be available between 3 and 11 May in the Victorian Drawing Room at Cotehele, 12:00pm and 16:00pm. Normal admission to Cotehele applies.

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele.

- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

For further media information please contact: Emma Whitworth, Senior Visitor Experience Officer, on email at emma.whitworth1@nationaltrust.org.uk, or Lou Reeves, Marketing and Communications Consultant, on email louisa.reeves@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Images:

Images can be downloaded here  [Natalie Toms exhibition at Cotehele](#). Only to be used in conjunction with this press release. Credit and caption as per file name

About Cotehele

Cotehele is located in St Dominick, Cornwall, near Saltash, PL12 6TA. The estate and quay are open every day dawn-dusk; the garden, Edgcumbe tea-room, Barn Restaurant, shop and gallery from 10am-5pm. the house is open daily from 11am-4pm, the mill from 11am-4.30pm. For more details about Cotehele, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele or facebook.com/cotehele or Twitter: @cotehelent or contact Cotehele on 01579 351346.

About the National Trust

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving.

This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature
- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust's work and direction. Read more about the National Trust's strategy [here](#).