



# INSECTIBITION TZIPPORAH JOHNSTON



Tzipporah Johnston is an autistic embroidery artist living in Edinburgh. Her last exhibition was an immersive installation, [The Museum of Monotropism](#), about autistic hyperfocus, including her intense fascination with insects. Her work was featured in the [BBC](#) series about artists of the environmental crisis.

It will not take long before people forget the normal mass of dead insects on the windscreen of cars crossing the UK or Europe in the summer. However abnormal it may seem it does not take long for humans to mentally accept a new normal. This new normal with very few insects threatens the world with drastic food loss and the collapse of the eco system that supports humans. The visibility of this absence is a time limited warning.

Tzipporah's art helps us remember absent insects. The white shapes are the absences and the third plate is a warning of what can come to pass. Due to our co-dependence, those white blanks might as well include a human shape.



Insects tend to be reviled or regarded as something to swat without thinking. There are two ways of motivating people to look after our insects. One is to examine our co-dependence. When insects become extinct so will humans. The triptych above focuses on presenting impending and ominous absence.

Another approach is to develop an intrinsic appreciation of insects. One important part of this approach is the representation of charismatic flagship insects that people tend to like. On the right is Tzipporah's embroidered Black Arches Moth.



**tzipporahfeiga** The beautiful red bottom of the Bilberry Bumblebee ❤️ Surely the best bee bottom - have you ever seen such glorious ness? 🍯

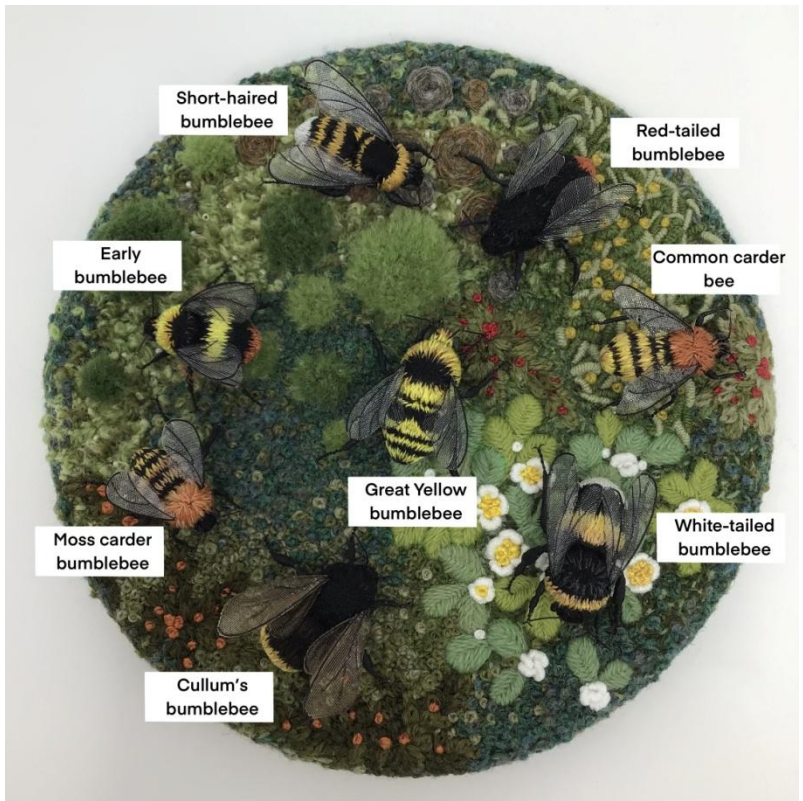
The Bilberry (or Mountain) Bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) is another species in steep decline, and is on English Nature's Species Recovery Plan. They like moorland and mountain habitats, particularly where bilberries grow, but have been found in grassland areas too.



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Butterflies are an all time favorite and Tzipporah has spent many hours creating a whole collection. Here is The Common Swallowtail indistinguishable from a real specimen



The 'Insectibition' will take place from 10-5pm from 3rd 4th and 5th June in the Summerhill Pavilion & Gardens Winchester Terrace Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6EH It will feature Tzipporah Johnston's creations alongside Newcastle local artists of insects and biodiversity

A highlight of

of Newcastle's first Art and Biodiversity Celebration

# ABC22

