

# Sophia Shaw



## Illustrator

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## Biography

I am an illustrator working from my narrowboat home/studio on the Shropshire Union canal. Living on the waterways for the past few years has really influenced my work- exploring the network, feeling close to the elements and enjoying a different pace to life. In 2017 we settled on a mooring just outside of Chester city and then in 2020 my partner built me a recycled shed-studio on the canal bank so that I can work whilst watching the world go by- it has been a dream come true and a real source of inspiration.

From my tiny studio space I create highly detailed illustrations, maps and commissioned portraits. My work is often inspired by sights that I see; canalside gardens and allotments, green countryside and creatures, all put together in my colourful and quirky style with artistic licence and an element of story-telling. Predominantly I work with pen, watercolour and gouache paint to make my artwork.

I also enjoy creating detailed map illustrations of some of my favourite parts of the British Isles, all intricately painted by hand. A lot of time is spent researching and deciding what to include in the maps, but usually consists of natural landscape, cultural highlights, ancient monuments and local curios.

You can find me selling my work at local markets and fairs in and around Chester and the North West. I love the hustle and bustle of the marketplace and meeting my customers face to face. I also have my greeting cards stocked by a few indie galleries and shops.