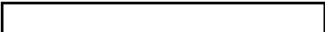


Here is some information about the four windows of the chapel at Abney Park Cemetery that I have been working on.

I thoroughly enjoyed the entire process of this project. I have been as inspired by the park as I have by the creativity that emerged from the workshops. The designs are based on the drawings and sketches of local school children that were created during successful outdoor workshops. The workshops were fantastic and creative experiences in which the children designed and drew things that they had seen and that had inspired them from a tour of the cemetery. These drawings included insects, plants, trees, gravestones and other natural and manmade aspects of the park.

The theme for the four stained glass windows in the chapel is 'The Four Seasons'. To meet this end I will translate the children's drawings (mostly their colours and line work) and use them as inspiration to create four unique windows.

I have incorporated some of their actual drawings and combined them with abstract forms. The results express how nature reflects the changing of the seasons. 

Summer

This design was inspired by a sketch of a tree (see attached) that one of the children drew. I used the shape of the trunk and branches to create this lines and form of this window. Inside the crown, you can see the leaves as been sketched by the child's own hand. The colours of the crown reflect the season of summer; red splashes represent fruit and berries and the rich yellows represent the sun. These add contrasting colours to the rich blues and bold greens.



Spring

In this design I used vibrant spring colours; the vivid greens of leaves and foliage and the blues of a pale spring sky are balanced with the whites and pinks of trees in bloom. The design here was inspired by the many pink flowers drawn by the children. The daubs of yellow represent the bees which provide a critical part of Abney Park's eco-system. These splashes of colour add vibrancy to the window.





Autumn

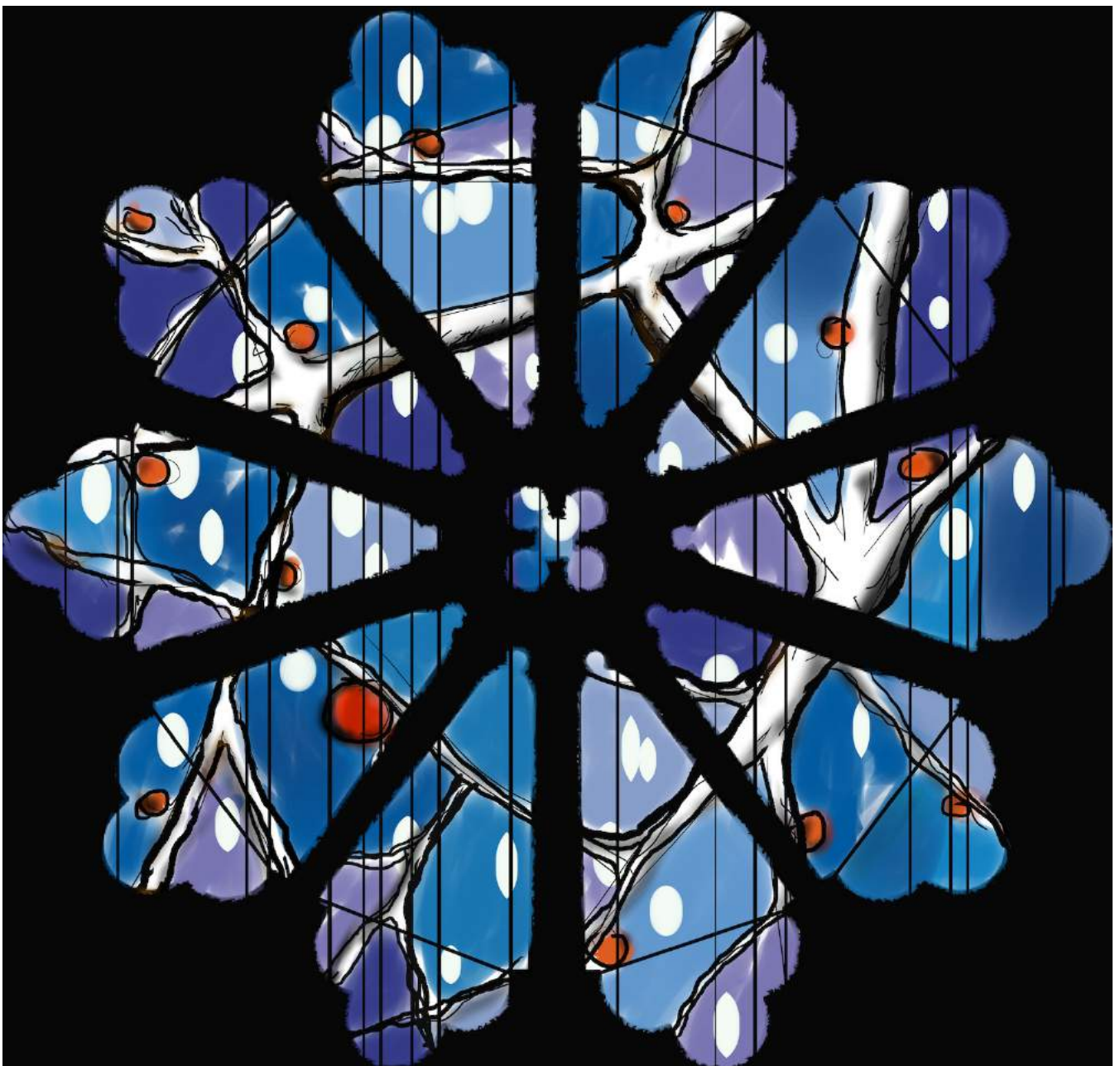
As you can see, in this window, the Autumnal colours abound. The deep, saturated colours show the depth and variety of, perhaps, the most varied and colourful season. In this design I made a collage of the different leaves that some of the children had drawn. The black shapes represent the insects and animals that the children found in the park; ants, flies, beetles and, if you look carefully at this rather complex image, you can spot a spider hanging from her web.





Winter

This image is intended to be slightly different and has a calmer feeling to it. The design was inspired by the children's drawings of the trees' branches. Although the colours may seem bleak, there is still optimism here: I tried to combine a vision of two worlds, that of the living and that of the dead. The shape and colours of the branches remind us of the bones of those buried in the cemetery and the red fruits represent the memories of the dead in the minds of the living. The thin black vertical lines represent the connection between these worlds yet also act as a veil, obscuring the brightness of the branches and enhancing the suggestion of divided worlds. There are splashes of white too. This emphasises the cold of the winter season and stylistically connect with the other windows.





Summary

I would like to add that this entire process has been an extremely pleasing experience. I am delighted to be a part of this community project that has brought together local children with art, history, nature and the community. The children were captivated by the challenge set for them and they took great joy in, not only learning about the park's history and geography but also contributing to its future.

I have tried to capture some of the essence of Abney Park Cemetery; the way nature and people co-exist there, how seasonal change has an impact on both the landscape and the people who go there as well as the important spiritual aspect of the setting.

Your local stained glass artist,

Piotr Frac





I would like to thank to many people who help, inspired and supported me during whole process , without them this project wouldn't happed .

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