

The lady who vanished to a duck

‘When she vanished she was an old woman. The old woman had a guitar and she was playing it when she was a duck. She had little bean hands and when she got to a forest she turned to a lady duck with lady hands so it vanished into a duck.’

Annabelle (4-4)



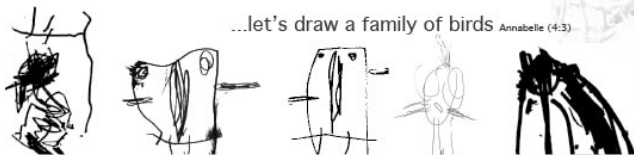
‘Another extraordinary bird’ Rupert [4-5]

Six months went by and the children were still fascinated by birds. Sometimes the children were birds, sometimes they spoke like birds, sometimes they healed birds and made food, nests, stories and songs for them. Sometimes they shared their expert knowledge, but they still had basic questions. Were the birds in the Atelier dead or alive? Could they fly away? Could they talk? Where was the best place to hide an egg?

Perhaps their repeated questions and continuous fascination with birds is like the life-cycle of birds themselves; moving from egg to bird to nest to egg to bird and on again. Perhaps because birds are so familiar but still so strange the children are showing a fundamental fascination we have always had as human beings, described perfectly here by ‘the old man’:

‘We feed them and tame them and think we know them. And yet they inhabit a world which is really rather mysterious. Once they take off from our bird tables or our lawns they disappear into a world of their own.’ David Attenborough, The Life of Birds

...let’s draw a family of birds Annabelle (4:3)



Build him a big house 'cause his glass is thick. Bricks, straw, plasters - something that's really special. Hery (4-4)

