

## ***Wild Flower Arrangements* – (2015 ongoing)**

Daucus Carota, wild carrot, bird's nest, bishops lace and Queen Anne's lace, so named as the red colouration at its centre is thought to represent a droplet of blood, where the wife of King James I pricked herself while making lace. Another story refers to the earlier Anne Boleyn, the beheaded wife of King Henry VIII, the white flower representing the lace around her neck and the red centre, the point of decapitation.

These wild flowers, found at the side of agricultural fields and roadside ditches were once popular as a contraceptive for women, and simultaneously in ancient rituals and spells, to increase sexual potency in men.

In the construction of *Wild Flower Arrangements* the flower heads at different stages of maturity, often displaying at the same time on the same stem, have been cut and rearranged in unnatural configurations as constructed "portraits". The complex beauty of the weed that thrives in wasteland is heightened by its isolation within an interior space, reminiscent of the opulent surroundings of society portraiture.

Helen Sear