



THE ARTIST

Dr Michael Darby studied at Art College and as an assistant to the artist Barbara Jones, before spending 25 years at the V&A Museum, the last five as Deputy Director. In 1990 the offer of early retirement gave him the opportunity to pursue his life-long fascination with beetles and he is now one of our foremost experts. He is a Fellow and former Council member of the Royal Entomological Society, a Council member of the British Entomological and Natural History Society and Wiltshire County Recorder. His numerous publications include *Wiltshire Beetles: History Status, Distribution and Use in Site Assessment* (2009). He edited *Recording Wiltshire's Biodiversity* until it ceased publication in 2005 and is now Natural History Editor of *Wiltshire Studies*. Within the beetles he specialises in the Ptiliidae which are the smallest known insects, most being less than 1mm long, and has described new species from places as far apart as Chile and South Africa.

TECHNIQUE

The drawings in the exhibition were all made from British specimens in his own collection (except for *Emus hirtus*, borrowed from the Natural History Museum) using only a mouse and keyboard with Corel software, both vector and bitmap, on a home computer. All the large images were printed by Salisbury Printing and most of the smaller ones by Pictureframes Ltd., Shaftesbury and Staples, Salisbury.