A young creative takes inspiration from Sussex’s natural colours

Sussex’s beautiful countryside has impacted on the poetry of William Blake and the watercolours of Eric Ravilious - and now a new generation of creatives are being inspired by the county’s natural landscape, as 14-year-old Mia Wilson is finding.

Chichester based Mia attends Bishop Luffa school, and has just started Year 10.

“I like to photograph flowers, people and all things bright,” she explained. “I use my friends as models and take photos in the countryside around Chichester.”

Armed with her mum’s old camera - a Canon EOS 400D SLR - Mia heads out with her friends to document the changing world around them.

“Everyday things inspire me,” she says. “I like to photograph the different seasons and the colours they have, using a person to compliment the colours to capture the natural beauty.”

Mia certainly has an eye for colour, finding pink, purple, yellow, white and green in gardens and fields, then using these naturally-occurring hues as the focus in many of her images. In her photographs, she adorns her models with flower petals and captures them enjoying the sun in a green grassy field. One of her shoots is entitled ‘Oliveeed’; another ‘Bluebell’.

Currently taking her Media Studies GCSE, Mia is hoping to be able to take photography at A-Level, and aspires to be involved in fashion photography in the future.

“Or perhaps start my own business by promoting products on social media,” she suggests.

As well as being inspired by other people’s social media accounts, Mia runs her own Instagram page (@miaa.pics) as well as a portfolio website, which can be seen at miajanetwilson.wixsite.com/portfolio.

“I have been inspired by one of my mum’s friends, Jess Siggers, who is a photographer from Bristol. She has a large Instagram following and loves to take pictures of the colourful areas of Bristol,” Mia says. “I also like Brandon Woelfel, who is a photographer from New York, that experiments with lights and colour. I like the way he looks for little details in things, rather than the bigger things that are obvious. My next project is to try and replicate some of his smoke cloud photography.”

When she’s not taking pictures, she enjoys acting, singing and dancing, and is a member of the Chichester Festival Youth Theatre, as well as performing for CAOS Musical Productions.

Although she enjoys documenting the natural world surrounding Chichester, Mia is looking forward to photographing other parts of the world.

“I would like to visit New York because I like the look of the colours and bustling streets,” she said. “I would also like to visit the Grand Canyon and Iceland because they have beautiful landscapes.

“I am hopefully going on a school trip to Russia next year, so I will definitely be taking my camera with me to try and capture some images of the Kremlin.”