









Oxfordshire Artweeks, the UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event, returns from May 4th-27th to showcase the art of more than 1,000 artists



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Some artists team up to host group shows while others open their studios, and there are hundreds of venues, some of which are extraordinary in themselves. This year, as well as medieval churches and magnificent Manor Houses, venues include the grounds of Broughton Castle near Banbury, the University of Oxford's Rhodes House, The Bibliographical Press in the Old Bodleian Library, the National Trust Heritage and Rural Skills Centre in the Cotswold village of Coleshill and the Westgate shopping centre.

Artweeks is about so much more than simply the art and craft on show: it is about the people who have created it and the stories they have to share. At most venues, all of which are free, you can meet the artist or maker and chat about their materials, methods and inspiration.

Drop in and be amazed and surprised by the county's creative talent.

This year in Oxford over 150 venues burst into life from 11th-19th May.

In Summertown, ever-popular spots include 369 Woodstock Road where Kathryn Shock celebrates the glory of the garden in oils, acrylics and watercolours, alongside handwoven scarves and shawls in silk, cashmere and lambswool and exquisite jewellery with a sense of movement by Kumiko Kihara who creates her one-off jewellery pieces with beeswax using an ancient Japanese technique, Mitsuro Hikime.

Emma Hardie's bold embroidered creations promise glittering colour and texture on jackets and jewellery next door to St Michael's & All Angel's Church where you'll find ethereal paintings, photography, sculpture, delicate textile collage and extraordinary etchings of animals and birds. If birds are your thing, then head to Summertown Wine Café where Anna Lockwood's oversize avian characters hint

at a narrative. "The life of birds has similarities to ours; arguments, fights for territory, pecking order, a love for food!" she grins.

Architecture inspires Finn Coburn on Oakthorpe Place; Dianne Frank hones in on botanical specimens in coloured pencil, and, new this year, Chris Jennings combines the spontaneity of the photographed natural world with painted geometric forms with striking effect.

Elsewhere, visitors can discover exquisite papercuts, five-minute portraits, locally-

created pigments and art to challenge the perception of Oxford as a bastion of privilege. Expect the unexpected as traditional boats, Japanese Ikebana and contemporary concrete creations make an appearance. Meet a milliner, follow a furniture-maker's creative process, talk sport ahead of Paris 2024 with an Olympian artist or be wowed by art created with computer coding by a cool robot called Stephen.















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In and around Wallingford more than 60 artists welcome you to 20 venues from 18th-27th May and there's an artist showcase in The Town Hall to get you started. An exhibition at Centre 70 off Kinecroft promises great paintings by 25 artists from Wallingford and District Art Club, many of local landscapes. There's also ceramics, mixed media and multidisciplinary practice by many professional artists and makers in the old rectory, now Ayres House Studios. Artweeks is also a chance to discover The Potter's Wheel, a working pottery space and artisan shop.

Equally impressive, by the castle and the river, explore a stunning home gallery venue in which Christine Bass presents stylised acrylic and mixed media landscapes inspired by the Chilterns and the Ridgeway characterised by strong lines, flattened planes and saturated colour. Sophie Bass's work focuses on music, artivism and symbolism whilst Kate Wilkinson presents contemporary statement jewellery in silver that is classic and clean in design

with a modern twist. For extraordinary modern furniture and abstract paintings head to St Peter's Church where everyone is invited to be an artist, exploring the theme fragments, memories and journeys by producing a print-based painting on wood offcuts. These small offcuts will be put together to form a 'CommuniTree' assemblage/sculpture.

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Pick up a festival guide from any local information point or browse the events by location or type of art at *artweeks.org* and be inspired by the talent on show.















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This year, over 50 artists welcome you to 20 venues around Didcot from 18th-27th May. At Cornerstone Art Centre Eden Faye presents Befriending My Brain an intuitive and colourful exploration of neurodivergence, and there's more bold colour on Brasenose Road where two artists, both new to Artweeks, invite you to enjoy their oil and acrylic landscapes in glorious post-impressionist and non-abstract styles.

Head north to Sutton Courtenay where another newcomer. Emma Cavell is showing mosaic creations with flowing lines and floral overtones. She has transformed discarded crockery and other materials into designs that mirror the beauty of the natural world.

To the south in Blewbury, you'll find another new venue close by a popular favourite, The Clubhouse where five artists are presenting a joint show. Here vivacious sweeping landscapes of wild and ancient places, hang alongside delicate embroidered birds and animals:

quirky still lifes and semi-abstracted paintings inspired by play and childhood, above wheel-thrown pottery.

Over at Aston Tirrold are four further venues on a village trail that's a pleasure to take on foot. Along the picturesque route you'll discover astounding botanical realism, aerial drone photography of the Ridgeway, the delicacies of seafood on canvas, woodcuts that demonstrate the power of pared-back lines and evocative abstracts that tell tales of Greenland and Svalbard

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Drop in and be amazed and surprised by the county's creative talent. Over 40 artists in and around Wantage and Faringdon welcome you to 20 venues most of which are open from 18th-27th May. Ten talented artists from Lechlade Art Society are kicking things off in style with an exhibition at Buscot House, home of their patron, Lord Faringdon. It's an opportunity to see original paintings in both oil and watercolour, reduction prints, wood engravings, and colourful glasswork and there'll be daily demonstrations.

Also new for 2024, in Faringdon town centre, Faringdon Art Society are presenting a vibrant and varied exhibition, a celebration of their 60th year, in Faringdon's Old Town Hall, and there's also a collection of work from artists across the surrounding area – this is to help you choose whose studio to head to next. There's a choice of stone carving and glass art in Longcot, fibre textile art in Bishopstone, ceramics in Fernham, and much more besides.

In Wantage, you can explore Bahar Murphy's cheerful studio in the heart of town to

see inspirational paintings inspired by a vision of cultures collaborating for a better world, or discover an intriguing collection of jewellery by South Korean metal craftswoman, Seeun Kim. Her brooches, created with bronze, steel and gemstones, draw on both the traditional and the modern

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Over 100 artists are throwing open their doors at more than 20 venues in Abingdon and local villages from 18th-27th May.

Ever-popular spots include St Nicholas Church, St Ethelwold's House and Peachcroft Barn where there are daily demonstrations and where the art includes a wide range of exquisite handmade jewellery. In open studios nearby, Fi Cooper invites you to see her hand built and wheel thrown ceramics inspired by the landscape and nature, as well as the old stories and folklore and Ian Shields' stoneware pots on show alongside abstract landscape paintings and letterpress and linocut designs - have rich earth tones, satin sheens and texture.

See Chinese Brush Painting in all its styles on paper and on silk at 35 Ock Street, visit a new collaboration of five artists in the heart of Abingdon shopping centre and enjoy a community showcase by the artists at -55 The Charter Studios on Broad Street.

Explore printmaking in a beautiful garden studio by the river in Lower Radley or discover the mosaics of Emma Cavell, a new exhibitor in Sutton Courtenay who transforms discarded crockery and other materials into designs that mirror the beauty of the natural world with flowing lines and colourful flowers.

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8 IMAGINATION

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Witney artists welcome you from 4th-12th May. In Kingfisher Studios nestling by the mill stream below Crawley Mill are six artists showing a wonderful variety of work from embroidered designs inspired by the everyday to oil paintings of wild places. New for 2024, Leigh Hicks presents her wheel thrown functional and decorative stoneware ceramics - bowls and mugs in strong simple shapes enhanced with glaze and pink interiors. E merging artist MI Marshall draws on her synaesthesia - a condition characterised by sensory overload in which she sees words and hears music in colour - to produce unconventional and individualistic contemporary abstracts in bold colours that evoke similar responses in the viewer. They're a far cry from the delicate papercuts of artist Natalia Podpora who, inspired by unspoken emotions, shadows, Japanese woodblocks, films and the small pleasures in life, translates life and the beauty into intricate and unique papercut works.

Derwent House on Bridge Street presents the work of top British designer-makers in handcrafted furniture, ceramics, textiles, and homewares; SOTA Gallery in Langdale Court has an impressive selection of locally made art and craft, and in The Blue Boar in Market Square, discover vibrant modern fluid art creations by Dominic and Candida Kerpache inspired by the natural world and the universe beyond.

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Local venues are welcoming you from 18th-27th May including several in the heart of Wallingford. At St Peter's Church you'll discover extraordinary modern furniture and in the multidisciplinary Ayres House studios, a former rectory discover the creations of many professional artists and makers. By the castle and the river in a stunning home gallery venue Christine Bass presents stylised acrylic and mixed media landscapes inspired by the Chilterns and the Ridgeway characterised by strong lines, flattened planes & saturated colour. Sophie Bass's work focuses on music, artivism and symbolism whilst Kate Wilkinson presents contemporary statement jewellery in silver that is classic and clean in design with a modern twist.

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on canvas, woodcuts that demonstrate the power of pared-back lines and evocative abstracts that tell tales of Greenland and Svalbard.

Beyond, along the A417, in Blewbury, you'll find The Clubhouse, a popular Artweeks venue where five artists are presenting a joint show. Here vivacious sweeping landscapes of wild and ancient places hang alongside delicate embroidered birds and animals; quirky still lifes and semi-abstracted paintings inspired by play and childhood, above wheel-thrown pottery.

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Watlington is a top Artweeks destination with dozens of venues along the High Street, and this year, from 11th-18th May, you'll find everything from contemporary still life to ceramics inspired by vintage pots, quirky illustrations, abstract photography and 3D animals for the wall.

As mosaic blooms brighten the garden, handpainted ceramic tiles promise the sea and sunshine of the French Riviera, and there's art from locally sourced plant-based inks, pigments and dyes. You can watch the timehonoured techniques of printmaking in action, have your portrait drawn live by Jo Harris, or even stitched at speed as Harriet Riddell captures people's likenesses in thread on a freehand sewing machine.

There's more stitching to behold – with Royal credentials - at The Tree Barn on Christmas Common where there's a huge variety of art in several inside spaces and beyond.

A stunning sculpture garden stretches into the rolling green gardens beyond in which sculptor/blacksmith Bruce Garside shows his series Dancing Leaves, a careful observation of maple leaves falling in autumn crafted in steel.

Also, offering a warm welcome Turville studios are nestled in a rural idyll: here find faces, figures and fizz in a vibrant palette, a celebration of trees in paint and print, a playful approach to the camera – all is not what it seems - and tactile pottery that evokes the landscape.

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