



## **Artweeks opens for Christmas for the very first time**

More than 100 artists and makers are preparing for new exhibitions and studio events in November as Oxfordshire Artweeks presents a Christmas Art Weekend, a new venture for this open studios event, the longest-running and biggest of its kind in the UK.

A selection of the county's painters and photographers, glass workers, metal sculptors, wood turners, stone carvers, jewellers, print makers and textile artists will be opening their homes and studios and presenting their seasonally inspired art to the public for free, showcasing their talent at two day exhibitions across Oxfordshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November (11am-6pm), the perfect time to pick up original locally-crafted gifts before the seasonal festivities begin.

With shining silverware from the Jewellery and Silver Society of Oxford alongside free-range turkeys at Abingdon's Peachcroft farm; giftware in The Gallery at Waterperry Gardens; metal trees adorned with baubles in a loft gallery at Ascott-under-Wychwood and colourful paintings to beat the blues at the appropriately named Archangel house in Cumnor to name just a few, there'll be plenty to surprise and delight everybody this Christmas.

Art aficionados and everyday enthusiasts alike are invited into dozens of houses and art spaces on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November (11-6pm) to discover art inspired by nature and local scenes, world travels and seasonal celebrations.

For more information and to plan your weekend, visit [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org).

Artweeks is an annual festival celebrated across Oxfordshire during May in partnership with local arts centres, museums, and other Oxfordshire organisations, with support from The Riverly Club, The Oxford Times and Hamptons International.

Notes to Editors

Oxfordshire Artweeks [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

Artweeks is Oxfordshire's largest visual arts festival, a three-week celebration in May each year of the county's artistic and creative talent., and the UK's oldest and biggest Open Studios event. Almost 1000 artists open the doors to their homes and studios and welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work. In May 2013 approximately 100,000 people visited nearly 500 exhibitions and events across the county.

All exhibitions are free

This Oxfordshire Artweeks Christmas Art Weekend will run for the first time on November 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2013, 11am-6pm.

The Oxfordshire Visual Arts Festival (Artweeks) is a non profit-making company, limited by guarantee and owned by its members. Everyone is welcome to take part and there is no selection process for artists wishing to participate.

Further press information & photographs from Esther Browning 01865 821090 or 07776 196967 [esther@artweeks.org](mailto:esther@artweeks.org)

Esther Browning, and dozens of artists, are also available for interview.

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