

Your Artweeks Guide



Seven Local Hotspots

Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event, and the 41st festival – which runs from 6-29 May and begins with a coronation – promises to be fit for a king. As the country's creatives open their doors to welcome visitors, for free, there's a wealth of art and intrigue to explore. In the villages around Faringdon as many as 50 artists, ceramicists, sculptors, and jewellers – many of whom are taking part in Artweeks for the first time this year – invite you to explore more than twenty locations venues including the National Trust Heritage and Rural Skills Centre in Coleshill, just beyond Badbury Clumps, once the top-secret training headquarters for the secret British Resistance. You'll find artists, designers and makers showcasing extraordinary talent, explaining their materials and, often, demonstrating their methods. Touch and talk about thousands of pieces of art and craft and uncover the stories of their inspiration.

Week 1

6-14 May: Between the Thames and the Ridgeway

1) Closest to home and perennially popular:

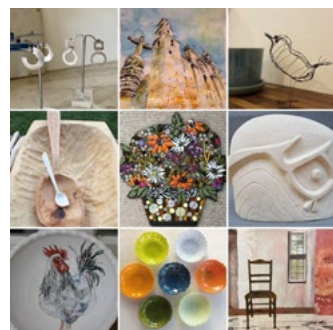
Great Coxwell Artists are showing their regular mix of ceramics, stone, glass, painting, digital art, wire, mosaics, jewellery, collage, quilts, and wood and promise a charming stroll through the village and delectable refreshments in The Reading Room.

(Artweeks venue 43)

Start at Holloway House,

Great Coxwell SN7 7LZ

Open 7-8 and 13-14 May, 11am-5pm



2) Two new venues in the Oxford directions:

There's a new venue along the A20, as **Buckland Village** artists exhibit stunning hyperrealism drawings, sculptures, ceramics, oil paintings, drawings, photography & more in St George's Church. Look out for Gabriella Anouk's hyperrealism drawing using colouring pencils in which she finds beauty in the mundane and then distorting it in an unnatural way. A big lover of Dalí's absurd and surreal style, her unexpected and possibly impertinent 'Slime Series' depict beautiful natural pieces of fruit part coated by dripping colourful or translucent substances. Expect too statement furniture pieces, animal sculptures loaded with personality and presence and other surprises.

(Artweeks venue 42)

St George's Church, SN7 8QR

Open 7-14 May, 11am-6pm



In **Hinton Waldrist**, visit Andrew Bloomfield and Wilbur Heynes in a 17th century barn. Both newcomers for 2023, Andrew and Wilbur are exhibiting landscape paintings, still life and portrait paintings alongside portrait sculpture in clay and kiln-fired art.

(Artweeks venues 40 and 41)

Barn at The Grange, Hinton Waldrist SN7 8SA

Open 8 and 11-14 May, 11am-6pm;

Sun 11am-2pm



3) In Stanford, a trio of treasures:

In **Stanford-in-the-Vale** nine artists are coming together in three venues within a few hundred metres of one another. They offer a warm welcome, a tour of local walks, woods, and hills in evocative paintings by Lawrence Ward, and a great variety of work including charming ceramics, intriguing jewellery, delicate collaged wall art, stunning stained glass, and tactile wood pieces.

(Artweeks venue 51)

Kate Daunt | Jamie Macfarlane | Noriko Macfarlane

53 High Street, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8NQ

Open 6-14 May (11am-6pm)

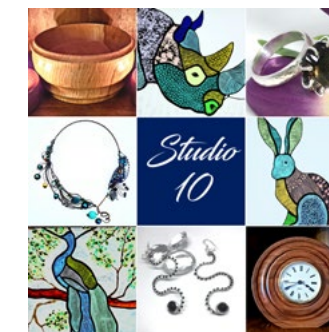


(Artweeks venue 52)

Kerry Houghton | Chrissy Morton | Ben Houghton

10 Spencers Close, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8NG

Open 6-14 May (11am-4.30pm)



(Artweeks venue 53)

Lawrence Ward OAS | Anne Mills | Chloe Romanos

The Vine, Mill Farm, Faringdon Road, Stanford in the Vale SN7 8NP

Open 6-14 May (11am-6pm)



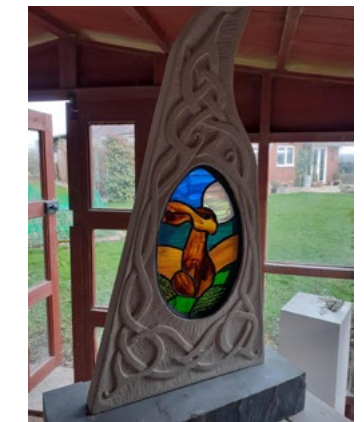
4) Take the backroad out west:

Follow the B4508 from Fernham to Bourton, stopping first at Henleaze Farm Bungalow, next door to Farmer Gow's in **Fernham**, Sharon Rich's unique hand-carved stone sculpture and stained glass is inspired by nature, myth, and magic.

(Artweeks venue 50)

Open 6-14 May,

11am-6pm/Mon-Thu 2-5pm



In **Longcot**, Pat Elmore also invites visitors into the sculpture garden and gallery at Nutford Lodge, (next to King & Queen pub) where over 100 sculptures will be on show.

(Artweeks venue 48)

SN7 7TW

Open 6-12 May, 11am-7pm



Nearby, Artweeks newcomer Penny Ling who has been a mixed media artist, illustrator and designer since '87 showcases a surprising variety of art styles.

(Artweeks venues 49)
15 Church Close, Longcot SN7 7TN
Open 7-10 and 12 May, 10am-4pm
by appt only



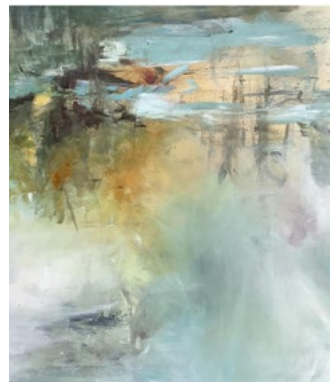
Further west in **Watchfield**, sculptor Emma Ablitt is exhibiting further hand carved stone sculptures in a peaceful country garden.

(Artweeks venues 47)
3 Oxford Square, Watchfield SN6 8TB
Open 6-14 May, 1pm-6pm



Beyond in **Bourton near Shrevenham** you are invited into two charming studios, to meet artists Tara Parker-Woolway and Clare Carswell and discover vibrant and ethereal original paintings imbued with wistful colours, drawings, collage, prints, cards and performance art.

(Artweeks venues 45 and 46)
Tara: The Studio, 6 Church Row, Bourton SN6 8JG
Open 8, 13-14 and 20-21st May (12pm-5pm)
Clare: York Cottage Studio, Bourton SN6 8JH
Open 8 11-14 and 18-21 May (12pm-5pm)



Week 2

13-21 May: In Coleshill, Clanfield, Bampton and Beyond

5) A new Coleshill venue for Artweeks, a new Heritage and Rural Skills Centre for the National Trust

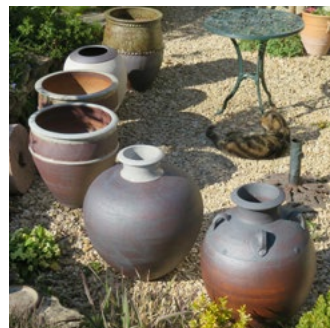
It's a great opportunity to see the inspiring work and talent of craftspeople who provide courses or work from studio spaces at the Skills Centre on the Buscot and Coleshill Estate. You might even decide to have a go yourself.

(Artweeks venue 44)
Coleshill nr Faringdon SN6 7PT
Open 20 May, 10am-4pm



6) Over the Radcot Bridge to Clanfield: **Clanfield** is home to six talented artists and the Drew School of Ceramics which invites you in to see the work produced by its students. We guarantee you'll be impressed. Here too teaching duo Ben and Sue exhibit high fired garden stoneware and domestic pottery and right next door Silvi Schaemloeffel's contemporary expressive oil painting studio is a whizz of floral-inspired colour and energy, character, and charm. Also in the village, you'll find Charlotte Sweeney's colourful, functional stoneware ceramics for the home, wheel-thrown with some pit-fired vessels; faces in many media including acrylic, ink, charcoal, and pastel by Artweeks newcomer Tee Trueman, and exquisitely realistic paintings of people, animals and still life by Petra Richards

whose fine detail, vivid colours and life-like capture will take your breath away. **(Artweeks venue 281 and 282)**
Ben, Sue, and the Drew School of Ceramics
Friars Court OX18 2SU
Open from 13-18 and 20-21 May, 12pm-5.30pm



(Artweeks venue 283)
Silvi Schaemloeffel
Friars Court OX18 2SU
Open 13-21 May, 11am-5pm



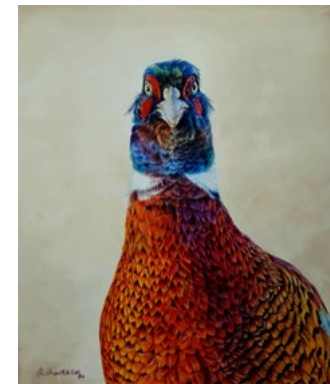
(Artweeks venue 284)
Charlotte Sweeney
Elder Barn, Bushey Drive OX18 2TS
13-14 16-21 May, 11am-5pm



(Artweeks venue 285)
Tee Trueman
Sol Studio, Setting Barn, High House Close OX18 2TD
13-21 May, 11am-6pm



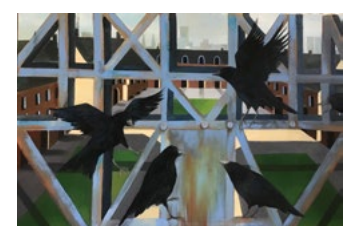
(Artweeks venue 286)
Petra Richards WOA
Northcourt Farm, The Barn, Marsh Lane OX18 2RQ
Open 13-21 May, 11am-6pm;
Sat/Sun 12-4pm; Wed 17 7-9pm.
Also 6-12, 23 and 26 by appt.



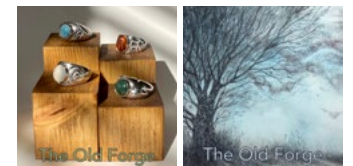
7) Beyond to Bampton:
 At the heart of Bampton's Market Square stands **West Ox Arts Gallery** which is gathering together a new selection of artists for 2023 and art that stunning stained glass inspired by the moon and lunar incantations by Kay Gibbons, a fresh take on still life by Denny Webb and felted bags by Helen MacRitchie. Alongside popular regulars Pip Shuckburgh and Tuula Nicolson, you can also visit Mark Fitzgerald at Sun Pottery and explore a first-time venue, The Old Forge, where Sue Side's striking graphite portraits and watercolours are shown alongside organic tactile stone sculpture by award-winning David Williams and talented young jeweller Tamzin Keown. **(Artweeks venue 287)**
West Ox Arts Gallery
Market Square OX18 2JH
6-28 May, 11.30am-4.30pm



(Artweeks venue 288)
Pip Shuckburgh
Fairwood, Cheapside OX18 2JL
Open 13-14 and 18-21 May, 11am-6pm



(Artweeks venue 289-291)
Tamzin Keown, Sue Side & David Williams,
The Old Forge, Church Street OX18 2NA
Open 13-14 and 19-21 May, 10am-5pm



DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

Living Museum of the Great Western Railway

Travel back in time to the golden age of the Great Western Railway and savour the sights, sounds and smells of steam as you explore this 21-acre living museum with trains dating from Victorian times to the 1960s.

Explore this 21-acre living museum and unearth almost two centuries of railway history. Stroll through the original 1932 Engine Shed and see magnificent preserved locomotives – you can even climb onto the footplates of some!



(Artweeks venue 292)
Tuula Nicholson
Wisteria, Church View OX18 2NE
Open 13-21 May, 11am-5pm



(Artweeks venue 293)
Mark Fitzgerald
Sun Pottery, 2a Bushey Row OX18 2JU
Open 13-21 May, 10am-5pm



(Artweeks venue 294)
Also, Neville Crowson shows plein air landscapes, garden scenes, seascapes, still life and church interiors
Blomfield House, Cote nr Bampton
OX18 2EG Open 13-21 May, 11am-6pm



Elsewhere across the county, explore a five-acre sculpture park in the Cotswolds, take an art trail through the towns of Woodstock, Watlington and Wallingford or visit city studios in the heart of Oxford, including a printmaking workshop in the heart of the Bodleian library. Artweeks also promises a global journey through the eyes of Oxford artists who have been influenced by people and places around the world and the

colours, fabrics, and styles of exotic destinations: tour America on a motorbike, go on safari in Tanzania, head to Svalbard or Cuba, and be enchanted by Rajasthan.

The question is, where will you go first?

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Coffee Conversations

Prompted by a nosy barista over a coffee, Artweeks colleagues Lawrence Ward, Chloé Romanos and Anne Mills chat about what makes them tick. Lawrence is a well-known and respected landscape artist, Chloé – a jeweller – designs and makes beautiful gold and silver pieces, and Anne crafts fireside bellows and creates digital art.

What inspires you?



Lawrence Ward

Lawrence:
My pleasure in walking through the breathtaking countryside in England and elsewhere, and my hope is that others will enjoy that experience through my work. I aim to recreate both the physical and the emotional aspects of the time and place, such that the viewer stands there with me. What started principally as an antidote to the stresses of everyday life has become an ongoing passion.

Chloé:
Each creation has a story behind it, from the winged creations inspired by French Art Nouveau to the textured effects I like to use, which are reminiscent of the worn aspect of archaeological artefacts dug up from the ground. I also like to let my imagination be guided by memories of inspiring places I have visited or quotes from books and poems I have read. Jewellery is a way to express feelings and emotions to others, and also to create little heirlooms to cherish for years to come.



Chloé Romanos

Anne:
Initially, it is the wood and its potential character to be found in natural grain, knots, or burrs. Ultimately, it is other people's happy reactions to the finished bellows as they touch, smell, or pick them up to give them a good workout.



Anne Mills

Can you remember the first item you created?

Lawrence:
In 1988 I joined the Stanford Art Group to encourage me to take my painting more seriously and to exhibit my work. I remember submitting a portrayal of a row of cottages and was pleasantly surprised to find that it sold – just the boost I needed.

Chloé:
The first item I created when I started my silversmithing course was a silver squirrel brooch. We were asked to pick an animal and at the time I had a pet squirrel who I rescued. I loved especially working on the texture of the tail.



Chloé Romanos

Anne:
I wanted bellows for our own fire. Better than fainting from blowing! Natural to me was to try and make them myself. The successful outcome was great, but it was working with a beautiful piece of vintage British Elm that won me. I use that first bellows every evening it is not really warm. With digital art, it was a Spitfire flying low across an ocean shoreline below a moody sky 'Under Radar'.

What do you think about before you make your first mark/cut/action?

Lawrence:
The pleasure of turning a blank canvas into a finished work. I get stuck straight in with big brush strokes and washes to lay the foundation.

Chloé:
Trick question! I usually stress a lot. Is it going to work? Will I manage to make it? Will it look right?

Anne:
Firstly, what are the best cuts from a plank of timber to have the most character in each of the bellow's blanks? Later, what is the best leather choice to go with the wood? With digital art, it is thinking through the story in my head and some of the layers I will need to build.



Anne Mills

How do you feel when you make a sale?

All three agreed that it is a combination of emotions every time they make a sale:
Flattered, excited, grateful, and sometimes relieved. There is a joy and pleasure that never gets old when someone actually buys something they spent time and effort creating.

What does Artweeks mean to you?

Lawrence, Chloé, and Anne were unanimous in their appreciation of Artweeks and the value it offers to participants and visitors. A time when they can meet people, share their work and witness first-hand how people are reacting while making real connections with them for an immediate sale, a commission, or an understanding of what they do.
Artists and crafters like nothing more than talking about their work, what prompted them and how they achieved the results – so don't hesitate to visit Artweeks Venue 53 and ask them directly. Entry is free.
They all will be at the venue during Artweeks, but not all hours! Lawrence may be contacted if you would like to arrange a time to visit one or more of the three: lawrenceward45@btinternet.com or 07484 871777.



Lawrence Ward

OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS ARTISTS: Lawrence Ward, Chloé Romanos, Anne Mills
Oxfordshire Artweeks Venue: 53
6-14 May, 11am to 6pm
The Vine, Mill Farm, Faringdon Road SN7 8NP
what3words: library.confusion.straw

Preserving Tradition at Coleshill

Dating back to the Domesday Book, Coleshill is an archetypal English village set in a patchwork quilt of fields, woodland spinney, water meadow and parkland. Swathed in history, it's no surprise that this spot has been chosen to house a new National Trust centre for Heritage and Rural Skills, a rural place of innovation, and as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks, on 20 May (Artweeks venue 44) you are invited to go along to the grand opening of the centre and see what's happening in the newly transformed Estate Yard, formerly a Victorian model farm with far-reaching views of sweeping fields and parkland which was refashioned in the late 18th century in the style of 'Capability' Brown. "Many traditional crafts from signwriting to millwrighting have seen a decline since the mid-20th century, with a few even becoming extinct in the UK," explains Jacob Downey, Senior Visitor Experience Officer for the National Trust in West Oxfordshire. "Not only does this represent a huge cultural loss, but many of these endangered skills are essential for preserving the UK's historic buildings and structures. Already a shortage of skilled craftspeople can slow vital conservation work, with some crafts, such as mouth-blown sheet-glass making, having just one or two full-time practitioners. Without a sustainable future for traditional crafts, there is a real risk to some of our most loved, and most historic, buildings. At Coleshill, the National Trust has decided to try and address this skills shortage and has set up a Heritage and Rural Skills Centre, with the aim of keeping these traditional crafts alive and with the prospect of a sustainable future. It also aims to champion the makers behind these crafts, whilst showcasing the incredible skill and creativity involved in traditional crafts.



The estates at Buscot and Coleshill have 1,200 buildings and structures between them. These require a huge range of skills to look after, from thatchers to keep the roof on, to lime plasters to repair walls and ceilings to blacksmiths to repair iron gates and railings. Since 2017 work has been taking place to convert redundant spaces at the Home Farm at Coleshill into workshops and teaching spaces. In Coleshill, we plan to preserve and teach these important traditional crafts to ensure their long-term survival," continues Jacob. "To achieve this, we're offering courses to industry professionals, for owners of old houses and to offer hobbyists who'd like a taste of some of these traditional skills. These range from short afternoon courses on willow weaving and block printing to in-depth multi-day courses teaching lime plastering. They're designed around the Heritage Crafts Association's 'Red List' of endangered crafts, with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of them for the future." In addition to these courses, the skills centre also offers workshop space and studios for craftspeople which visitors

will be welcome to have a look around during Artweeks. These studios house, amongst others, classically trained master carver and restoration specialist Thomas Ball, who works in wood and stone and whose conservation work can be found in renowned locations including Lincoln and Trinity College chapels in Oxford and further afield. You'll also find blacksmith David Gregory who specialises in decorative commission work and recreating period-correct metal work for restoration and as props for living history, museums, and re-enactors. "In addition to these studios," says Jacob, "there are also several small 'incubator units' for craftspeople potentially looking for an up step from working in a shed or garage. If there's anyone reading this who thinks this sounds perfect, we'd love them to get in touch." The grand opening of the Heritage and Rural Skills centre will take place on 20th May, the first time it is open to the public, and alongside the open-studios event, they'll be giving guided tours of the site. Visitors can also enjoy an on-site exhibition of Heritage and Rural skills exploring individual crafts in-depth and looking at the craftspeople behind each item, and how they came to be involved in that craft. "There will also be live demonstrations of traditional crafts, including a chance to see our resident blacksmith at work in his forge, so we're inviting everyone to come along, get involved and try their hand at some traditional crafts," smiles Jacob.



nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/buscot-and-coleshill-estates/coleshill-conservation-skills-centre

