

Press Release, 16 February 2012

Home is where the Art is

Hamptons International announces partnership with Oxfordshire Artweeks

Hamptons International has today announced its partnership with Oxfordshire Artweeks 2012, an initiative which runs between 5 and 27 May 2012 and will see more than 1,000 artists exhibit their art in 500 venues across the county, including their own homes. Hamptons International's Oxford Sales and Lettings, Banbury Sales and Lettings, Deddington, Banbury and Henley branches will all support the initiative.

Oxfordshire Artweeks, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, is the country's oldest and biggest open studio event and arts festival in the county. In 2010, more than 107,000 people visited nearly 500 venues across the county. All exhibitions are free*.

As sole partner of Artweeks, Hamptons International will provide "Artists in Residence" boards which will be erected outside participating artists' houses for the duration of Artweeks. The boards will increase artists' visibility, allowing potential visitors to quickly identify the location of their homes.

As part of the partnership, Hamptons International's branches will act as venues for a number of artists and will exhibit a range of art pieces within the branches and in their window displays. With art ranging from colourful abstracts by Christine O'Sullivan in Banbury to work by top British glass artist Vital Peeters in Oxford, members of the public will be able to visit the works as part of local trails which will take members of the public from Hamptons International branches to local artists' homes and studios. The local trails will be outlined in the Artweeks brochures, which will be distributed to more than 40,000 people across the county over the course of the festival.

Hamptons International will also donate 10 per cent of its fees for any participating artist who instructs them before 31st July 2012 to Artweeks, which is a non profit-making company.

Chris Scott, Regional Director at Hamptons International comments:

“Oxfordshire Artweeks is a hugely popular annual event in the local area and we are extremely proud to be working in partnership with the organisation this year. The essence of Artweeks is the promotion of local artists on a local, regional and national level and we look forward to supporting this initiative in every way possible.

“Giving back to the local community is of huge importance to us, and we’re very excited to have the opportunity to showcase local artists' work in our branches.”

Esther Browning, Executive Director of Artweeks, added: *“It’s great to be supported by Hamptons International during our 30th anniversary year. Like a home, art is something you choose for the long-term and we’re very much looking forward to working together to keep Oxfordshire a culturally vibrant and beautiful place to live!”*

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2012 will run from Saturday 5th – 27th May 2012 and is split into three geographical areas:

- North Oxfordshire Exhibitions: Saturday 5th - Sunday 13th May
- City Exhibitions: Saturday 12th - Sunday 20th May
- South Oxfordshire Exhibitions: Saturday 19th - Sunday 27th May

For more information about Artweeks visit www.artweeks.org

Ends