



Pas Ce Soir,
BDK Parfums,
£150 [selfridges.com](https://www.selfridges.com)

More floral, but this is an altogether treacly, sweeter proposition. That said it doesn't lack sophistication – in fact the opposite. This is a deliciously sensual medley of spice and sweet, courtesy of black pepper and ginger which are muddled together with white florals and finally, memorably, the mouth-watering hit of ripe, luscious fruits, with mandarin teasing the top notes before giving way to quince chutney at the heart. It is truly seductive and without wanting to gender anyone's preferences, I would suggest this falls firmly into the feminine. It's unashamedly summery, but without any hesitation, this is for night-time when the music is loud and the spirits are flowing.



Sophie Elkan

THIS MONTH I'M INSPIRED BY... **ARTWEEKS**

At time of writing all fingers and toes are crossed that Oxfordshire Artweeks will be active and that all venues expecting to open will be allowed to welcome us in, because isn't it just the most wonderful thing? Professional and amateur creators opening their doors to all and displaying their pieces. I've seen delicate drawings, bold slashes of oil colour, paintings, glass, jewellery, silks and more but – ok, I'll admit it – a significant highlight of the experience for me is the chance to nosey around other people's houses. I love other people's houses.

I've used the analogy before, but I think of Oxford as an advent calendar and, like the best advent calendars, one opens a door with no idea of what might lie beyond. A tardis-like house that extends, seemingly for miles; a small courtyard garden or even a large quad; a private gallery in the garden; a smell which takes you back to childhood because the occupiers use the same washing liquid as your best friend's mum and someone has been cooking the same tea as your grandma; or an historic looking crumbling stone cottage which inside has been converted into an ultra-modern space. All of which is at least as fascinating as the art on display (and sometimes more so).

And you never know who you might meet. It's a great way of getting to know neighbours, and even spot the odd celeb (in my case, most memorably bumping into Darcey Bussell with my then Strictly-obsessed daughter). It was also at Artweeks three years ago that I met OX's publisher, founder and overall superwoman Jill Rayner. We got chatting and to my continuing delight she asked if I'd be interested in writing on fashion and beauty for OX. There are many ways in which I enjoy exploring creativity and I am promising myself that as soon as restrictions permit, I will take lessons in portraiture, inspired by my brother-in-law who has produced some beautiful paintings during lockdown.

However, the way in which I inevitably end up expressing my more artistic leanings is through my clothes and makeup. I guess I am my own canvas.