

DRAFT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thirty artists for thirty years: the secret lives of Oxfordshire artists

Black and white photos of thirty Oxfordshire artists at work in their private studios go on display at Modern Art Oxford next week (17th-29th April) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Oxfordshire Artweeks, as part of a project that explores the interaction between creators and their work spaces, and the tools that are intrinsic to the making of the work.

Showing the wealth and variety of creativity in the county, painters, potters, printmakers, puppet makers, jewellers and furniture makers, artists working in stone, glass and metal are all pictured, many of whom are preparing for Artweeks in May.

Simon's photography is film-based and black and white, and the exhibition will include 150 hand-printed images. His documentary approach seeks to capture instances of the artists and craftspeople absorbed in the process of 'searching for inventions in their minds', and will be the subject of book to accompany the exhibition.

Michael Stanley, Director, Modern Art Oxford says "This is a project rooted in an age-old fascination in the place of an artist's making. Simon's acute and insightful depictions support the riposte to Beuys' legendary declaration that 'everyone is an artist' with the more telling assertion that 'all artists are people'."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a panel discussion on Thursday 19 April a gallery tour with the photographer on Saturday 21 April, and a family activity throughout. It will then tour to The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury for May.

The project has been supported by Oxfordshire Artweeks, Modern Art Oxford and Arts Council South East.

Photo opportunity April Tuesday 17th April 10 am at Modern Art Oxford
Contact Fliss Bennett on 01865 813813 or Esther Browning 07776 196967

Notes to Editors

Oxfordshire Artweeks 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 2010 over 107,000 people visited nearly 500 venues across the county.

All exhibitions are free

Oxfordshire Artweeks 2012 will run from Saturday 5th – 27th May 2012

and is organised 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

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