

Press release 3rd February 2022: Stone carvings inspired by nature win Artweeks award for Bampton sculptor David Williams



Artweeks are delighted to announce that Bampton sculptor David Williams is the winner of the 2022 Mary Moser Award for his striking works in stone. The prize was established in 2003 to mark the work of a local artist who has taken up art as a second career later in life. David has spent many years as a teacher

David began stone carving about eight years ago when he was given some stone-carving chisels one Christmas. He has increasingly devoted himself to what started as a hobby and has now become a way of life. Most of his pieces are inspired by nature, either echoing the shapes he sees or else carved in a stylised way. Recent work has included big sections of sunflowers nearly a metre across in offcuts of Ancaster limestone and small sleek tactile owls.

“I have often used a circular shape for the animals – leaping fish or flowing otters – as I like the idea, inspired by Barbara Hepworth, of being able to see through a sculpture. I am also inspired by the books of Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris: I also enjoy working with text and extended my skills into letter-cutting which is quite technical,” says David.

Limited in size by what he can manage in the back garden, and what he and wife can carry through the garage, David also makes a range of gilded pebbles to fit – literally – every pocket. David also teaches day-workshops for people who would like to have a go at stone carving.

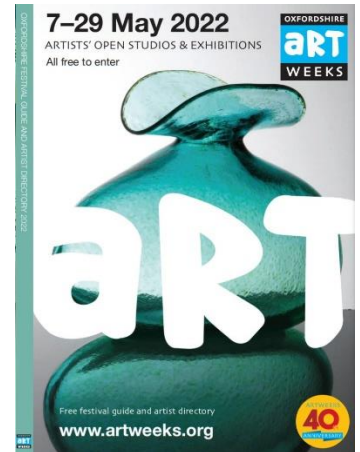
David Williams is holding an exhibition of his work as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks in May. His exhibition will run from 7th-15th May at 39 Robsart Place, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QT (Artweeks listing 198).

This portrait of David was drawn by artist Sue Side with whom he is exhibiting.

For further press information and high res images, contact **Esther Lafferty** 07715 640228 esther@artweeks.org. **Notes to editors**

Oxfordshire Artweeks www.artweeks.org 7th-29th May 2022

The Artweeks festival is Oxfordshire's largest visual arts festival and the UK's oldest and biggest Open Studios event. It is a three-week not-for-profit celebration in May each year of the county's artistic & creative talent encompassing the visual arts in their broadest sense. Over 1000 artists open the doors to their homes and studios and welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work –over 100,000 people visit Artweeks exhibitions each year and a million pounds of art changes hands! This year Artweeks celebrates 40 years!



The Mary Moser annual prize honours the work and commitment of Lady Mary Moser who took up art seriously on retirement and became a printmaker; first working in silk screen and latterly in etching and woodcuts, Mary was also chair of Kids@Art, the Oxfordshire Artweeks Education Charity which provided residencies in schools until 2009.

Previous winners include Rachel Cronin, a painter from Banbury, glass artist Wendy Newhofer; Elaine Kazimierczuk, a painter from Oxford, and Andrew Harrison, a sculptor in wood from Brize Norton.