

20th September 2016



Oxfordshire Artists promise tales for the table with original art this autumn.

More than 100 artists and makers are preparing for exciting exhibitions and studio events in November and December as Oxfordshire Artweeks presents its 'runaway' Christmas Season, eight weeks of pop-up exhibitions and Christmas Fairs across the county. A selection of the county's painters and photographers, glass workers, metal sculptors, wood turners, stone carvers, jewellers, print makers and textile artists will be presenting seasonally-inspired art and crafts to the public for free, in a range of interesting venues and they're the perfect places to pick up original locally-crafted gifts for under the Christmas tree.

Among the unique offerings on show, you'll find chameleon jugs that bring a character from tropical Madagascar to your table; a canal-side alchemy of textile art in Banbury, a celebration of the acclaimed traditional Gifford's Circus in Jericho and an exhibition of Arctic art to make you shiver in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Escape inclement windy and wet weather with Elaine Allender's 'Summer in Winter', make a red nosed reindeer in Long Wittenham or choose handcrafted wooden chairs for the fire-side in Milton Common. And then when you're ready to wrap, Harwell's Robert Strange has reproduced that evocative sea of scrumpled festive wrapping paper, with it's cheery colour and pattern, in a drawing that is now printed as wrapping paper itself to celebrate the joy of present-opening!

With a Gingerbread House in colourful glass in Holton, and delicate contemporary metal design in Stonesfield, hand-made earthenware and stoneware pottery for the festive dinner in Bicester, and hand-made chocolate in Aynho, there'll be something to everyone's taste in Artweeks Christmas! Art aficionados and everyday enthusiasts alike are invited into dozens of houses and art spaces to delight in art and craft inspired by nature and local scenes, world travels and seasonal celebrations. For more information and to plan your weekend, visit www.artweeks.org.

LOADS OF BEAUTIFUL IMAGES!

Notes to Editors

Oxfordshire Artweeks www.artweeks.org is a community organisation that presents Oxfordshire's largest visual arts festival annually, 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 during which almost 1000 artists open the doors to their homes, studios and other interesting venues welcome the public to see their creations and watch them work. Each May approximately 100,000 people visit around 400 exhibitions and events across the county. They also present a Christmas season of pop-up Christmas fairs and exhibitions throughout November and December. All exhibitions are free.

**Further press information & photographs from Esther Lafferty 01367 242498 or 07715 640228; 07810 546160 artweeks@artweeks.org esther@artweeks.org
Esther Lafferty, and dozens of artists, are also available for interview.**

