

# R&A

ROUND & ABOUT Magazine

ABINGDON / KINGSTON BAGPUIZE

MAY 2023

## FEST FRIENDS

*A round-up of 2023's summer festivals*

### THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

*Love where you live but in need of a freshen up or is it time to move?*

### OPEN STUDIOS & POP-UP EXHIBITIONS

*More than 100 artists in Abingdon and the villages welcome you in to browse, chat and buy their work*

### COMPETITIONS

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NOEL GALLAGHER





# ART FROM

# THE HEART



*This year, Oxfordshire Artweeks, the UK's oldest and biggest artist open studios event bursts into life on 6th May with a festival that promises to be fit for a king*

**A**cross the county you'll find hundreds of open studios and pop-up exhibitions as artists and makers open their doors and welcome, for free, anyone who would like to see their art and chat about their materials, methods and inspiration.

From the traditional to the contemporary and multidisciplinary, there's something to delight, intrigue and inspire everyone. Explore painting, sculpture, ceramics and printmaking; look out for fashion and furniture; discover glass art, mosaics and other marvels; and perhaps choose a treasure or two to take home.

This year in Abingdon and surrounding villages over 100 artists are throwing open the doors of 30 venues from 6th-14th May, with new places and people to see alongside the ever-popular spots including St Nicholas Church and the Sewell Centre Gallery at Radley College. You'll find the Abingdon Quilters in the Abingdon Museum, the Oxon Artmakers in The Abbey Cinema, a celebration of Chinese Brush Painting in all its styles, on paper and on silk, at 35 Ock Street and a Goat with a Pearl Earring sculpture at Peachcroft Farm alongside a wide range of art and jewellery.

The Charter Studios in The Charter on Broad Street also welcome you – it's a space reanimated by Makespace Oxford who are on a mission to transform empty and underused spaces in local urban centres. Nearby, in St Ethelwold's House on East St Helen's Street, alongside regular exhibitor artist Caroline

Harben, you'll find newcomer Emma Williams whose semi-abstracted mixed media paintings are colourful and vibrant, often based on 'sunprints' and reminiscent of surface pattern and textile design. Others use natural pigments and materials such as real indigo, true sepia, foraged chalk and sea salt to create intriguing patterns and vivid contrast, a shorthand for the landscapes they represent.

Jan Morter and Julie Edge are two new exhibitors hosting a show with a botanical theme on St John's Road: enjoy paintings with abstract landscape elements drawn from the coast and wild places alongside bold and stylish jugs for flowers, lamps and bird feeders, all hand-thrown and fired in Abingdon.

On Suffolk Way, Oxford Wood Recycling present art from local children who have interpreted what it means to 'Reduce, Reuse, Repair' whilst in Culham, photographer Daniel Taylor is holding an exhibition of both landscape and abstract photography in the 179-year-old railway station and popular potter Charlotte Storrs welcomes you into studio, her greenhouse gallery and her riverside garden.

Whether you're an enthusiastic day-tripper or an experienced art collector there's plenty to catch your eye so get your hands on a copy of the festival guide from the library or other local information point or browse the full exhibition listings at [artweeks.org](http://artweeks.org) and get out and explore. Check out the online showcase at [artweeks.org/latestshow](http://artweeks.org/latestshow) for starters.



# Perfect patch

Check out Abingdon Quilters' Alphabet Exhibition at the Abingdon Museum over the next two months. Judy Harris tells us more

**E**ighteen members of Abbey, Fitzharrys & Barns Café Quilters have been inspired by the alphabet in its many forms and have an exciting exhibition in the museum from the until 25th June.

We have risen to the creative challenge of interpreting alphabets and letters using many techniques. Both modern and medieval letters are depicted, whole alphabets in books and quilts and a tactile version devised for blind children.

We have a joint project, an Abingdon Alphabet of the history, people and places of our town.

Each panel is a gem, so different from each other and varying from a brilliant Abbey Road zebra crossing with characters from the past inspired by the Stratton Way underpass, to some of our beautiful



buildings, local gems like Masons shop, the Thames and many other subjects, accompanied by a quiz to entertain the eagle eyed!

We are also delighted to be part of ArtWeeks (Site 19) and you can find information in the guide and online.

There are demonstrations in the museum and hand sewing workshops in the basement. To book a workshop please call **01235 523703**. The museum is open from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Sunday and on bank holiday Mondays. The exhibition is on the first floor of the museum and sadly does not have disabled access.

## Improve, Don't Move! Maximise the value of your home.

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# ART FROM

# THE HEART



*This year, Oxfordshire Artweeks, the UK's oldest and biggest artist open studios event bursts into life on May 6th with a festival that promises to be fit for a king*

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Although some are open for the whole festival, most venues in Oxford are open from 20th-29th May. In Botley, there are several venues to visit and new faces too, as stone carver Nick Thorn opens his garden studio for the first time to show his sculpture for indoors and out; potter Peter Wardell-Yerburgh exhibits his elegant, thoughtful pottery alongside Mark Clay's drawings and other thought-provoking pieces inspired by the landscape; and Botley Drawing group host their first exhibition in the Louie Memorial Pavilion.

In West Oxford Community Centre, wocART is well worth a visit: local artists are celebrating 21 years of Artweeks exhibitions with a wonderfully diverse show including basketry, ceramics, jewellery, painting, photography plus on 20th and 21st century sculpture designed to be contemporary conversation pieces.

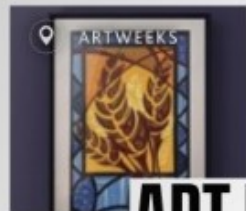
Over on Osney Island, newcomers Jocelyn Alexander and Simon Pressey invite you to West Street Studio to discover an experimental art collective working in paint and clay, and neighbouring ceramicist Elizabeth Newbery handbuilds slipware inspired by mythology, archaeology, landscape and travels.

Summertown and Wolvercote will also be abuzz with old favourites and new art, including watercolour and oil impressions of a magical Rajasthan by Katherine Shock on the Woodstock Road, displayed with exquisite jewellery and hand-woven soft scarves in enchanting colours. Nearby newcomers Clare O'Leary and Eloise Coyle are showing quirky functional ceramics and paintings inspired by the river and canal, an antidote to Peter Haxworth's alternative view of Oxford city and the buildings that shouldn't be in it, open on Islip Road, Summertown.

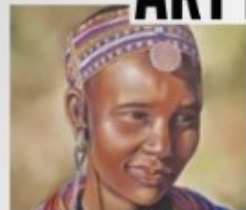
Keep your eyes peeled for amazing ceramic animals with a difference by Kate Byrne in the pop-up Spice of Life gallery, and as intriguing animal collages by Jackie Richards in Wolvercote.

Whether you're an enthusiastic day-tripper or an experienced art collector there's plenty to catch your eye so get your hands on a copy of the festival guide from the library or other local information point or browse the full exhibition listings at [artweeks.org](http://artweeks.org) and get out and explore. There's a vast on-line showcase too – visit [artweeks.org/latestshow](http://artweeks.org/latestshow) to get you started.





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This year, in and around Didcot over 50 artists welcome you to 20 venues from 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May. In the Cornerstone Art Centre artists Janine Phillips and Bahar Murphy promise a visual feast of paintings inspired by the sea and city alongside sleek contemporary furniture handbuilt in East Challow. Also in town, three very different talented artists are opening their studios and inviting you in to take a trip to South Africa as well as stroll through local landscapes, visit Sabine Barber (venue 68); for colourful limited edition lino cut prints then head to Tracey Underhill's (venue 67) and you can also meet newcomer Rachael Anders who was chosen to be the Artweeks cover girl 2023 with a stunning pencil drawing of a kingfisher.

In Chilton, three artists have come together to present a mixed show of contemporary watercolours, oils, silver jewellery and colourful


pottery, all inspired by the natural world and hares in particular! There's also a group show in Blewbury Club House where popular regular, textile artist Yvette Phillips presents new exquisite and delicate embroideries on Liberty fabrics, alongside Valentina Gonzalez Saez's intriguing collages inspired by the architecture and colours of sunny Spain, and Josie Clouting's giant canvases burst with loose immediate brushstrokes saturated with colour and vitality: emotional responses to the natural environment, inspired by the vastness and wonder of the world.

For a day trip into the countryside, how about a stop at North Moreton church where you'll discover art from earrings to cushions and rocking horses, and on to The Earth Trust for stunning drone shots of the local area by aerial photographer Hedley Thorne, amongst other things, and the impressive Sylvia Wood Centre where 16 artists will be on hand to chat and show their methods and creations, from paintings to furniture to take your breath away, micro-factories and even boats!

Whether you're an enthusiastic day-tripper or an experienced art collector there's plenty to catch your eye so get your hands on a copy of the festival guide from the library or other local information point or browse the full exhibition listings at [artweeks.org](https://artweeks.org) and get out and explore. There's a vast online showcase too – visit [artweeks.org/latestshow](https://artweeks.org/latestshow) to get yourself started.



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This year, around Goring several artists welcome you to a variety of local art shows and events from 6th-14th May. In the heart of town, visit Roberta Tetzner's artist studio and garden to see rich, contemporary, abstract paintings inspired by the natural world, showing what Roberta sees in a moment, in the fragment of a setting. Her paintings often depict the allure of water with abstracted flora and reflected vegetation adding a dream-like quality. Alongside, you can explore multi-sensory 3D pieces by Nadya Derungs investigating the complex relationships we all face in our lives.

In South Stoke, landscape painter Barry Kelly is hosting an exhibition over the bank holiday weekend from 6th-9th. It's a one-off chance to see a new collection of his stunning seascapes,

bright riverscapes and summery landscapes both small and large in which he often combines serene seascapes with textured and colourful wildflowers before they head off to his annual solo exhibition in South Devon.

You can also visit Jayne Ford in a charming log-cabin studio in Cray's Pond, a peaceful garden venue surrounded by trees and flowering plants, to see oil paintings and pastel drawings of landscapes, capturing their gentle beauty in rich colours.

At Kidmore End, potter Debbie Page is opening her home studio, and inviting you to see her glazes, smoke, flames and handbuilt Moon Jars. These spherical pots are inspired by the porcelain Korean Moon jar – an iconic style from 300 years ago, called moon jars because of their shape and the milky white glaze. Debbie's moon jars are burnished and smoke-fired to give a more lunar-like appearance, in blue, green and white palette of glazes as Earth Jars, and in dark with striking colour contrasts.

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This year, in and around Henley and Watlington more than 100 artists welcome you to 40 venues from 6th to 14th May.

At Kidmore End, potter Debbie Page is opening her home studio, and inviting you to see her handbuilt Moon Jars with striking contrasts between the colourful, shiny glazes and matt smoke effects and in Turville five artists are opening adjacent studios tucked at the bottom of the hill below the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Windmill, where you'll find wheel-thrown ceramics, haunting and evocative photography, contemporary printmaking, landscape and still life and 'Faces, Figures and Fizz'.

On Christmas Common, at The Tree Barn, there's art both in several inside spaces and beyond, where a stunning sculpture garden stretches into the rolling green gardens beyond, and in Watlington, the whole town blooms with

colour and creativity as dozens of venues throw open their doors along the High Street and the adjoining roads. Start perhaps at the Town Hall where The Undercroft will be adorned with a series of hands and faces that continue along the Town Trail, referencing the history of the town and ideas for the future with upcycled and recycled materials.

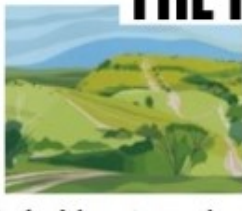
Keep your eyes open for drawings that celebrate the joy of foraging by Steph Hicks; striking retro linocuts by Mark Lord, characterful ceramic animal sculpture by James Ort; bold geometric and abstracted portraiture by Artweeks newcomer Emma Ogilvy who is inspired by the vibrant colours of Latin America. Look too for sets of ceramic tiles with hand-painted elegant figures by Alexandra Browne and photography by Andrew Kerr to take you on a whistlestop motorbike tour along 10,000 miles of 21st century America. This exhibition includes many facets of American life, history and geography from an outsider's perspective along back roads and highways, through country towns and major cities.

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This year, in and around Wallingford more than 60 artists welcome you to 20 venues from 6th-14th May. The town centre will become a showcase of local art, with taster displays in shop windows and a map to guide you. Artweeks is a chance to explore the intriguing Ayres House Studios, a wonderful old building where you see everything from mosaics and upholstery to art restoration and installations.

There are two new venues in town too: The Potter's Wheel is a working pottery studio, teaching space and artisan shop showcasing local independent artists and The Coach House on Castle Street where newcomer Christine Bass is opening a studio packed with striking paintings of the Chilterns & the Ridgeway characterised by strong lines and shapes, flattened planes and saturated colour,

alongside elegant ceramics in muted tones and contemporary statement jewellery in silver.

Take the road to Shillingford, and over the bridge and up the hill, you can also explore the garden studio of artist-illustrator and fabric designer Fay Ford with its open view to the Thames. Her joyful colourful illustrations celebrate the blooms and buzzing visitors to the garden.

There are popular regular venues to visit too in Dorchester-on-Thames, Shillingford, Benson, Ewelme, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and North Moreton where you'll discover art from earrings to rocking horses and for a day trip into the countryside, we recommend visiting The Earth Trust for stunning drone shots of the local area by aerial photographer Hedley Thorne. Nearby at the Sylva Wood Centre, one of six venues to discover in the Wittenhams, 16 artists will be on hand to chat and show their methods and creations, much inspired by wood and woodland, from paintings to tables to take your breath away, micro-factories and even boats.

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This year, in and around Wantage and Faringdon over 40 artists welcome you to 20 venues from 6th-14th May. See local landscapes in the Vale & Downland Museum from 9th-27th May, whilst in The Old Stables you can see a mixture of paintings, furniture and jewellery by artists and makers reanimating this previously disused space courtesy of Makespace Oxford. You can enjoy John Gunter's engaging mixed-media pieces and paintings on Segsbury Road.

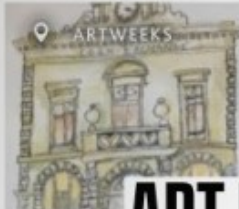
A trip to Stanford promises unexpected treasures in The Vine at Mill Farm on the A417 including wooden bellows, digital art and delicate jewellery by Chloe Romanos. Each piece has a distinctive striking character and a touch of intrigue or mysticism. She is especially drawn to opals, moonstones and labradorite, stones that change shade and colour as they move or the light changes: a silky turquoise

might transform into a smoky purple or hints of golds and pinks glisten in behind the smooth surface of an opal. Then turn into the village and you'll find two pretty studios a stone's throw apart with warm welcomes, ceramics, glass art, exquisitely delicate collage and woodwork.

Further north, the annual Great Coxwell art trail over two weekends promises to be as vibrant as ever from the beautiful Great Barn, where Boys from the Woodshed demonstrate their green woodworking skills, to Chapel House where you'll find delicate silver jewellery. En route expect ceramics and stone carving, mosaics, glass, collage, quilts, painting, digital art and wire modelling.

On 20th May, the new National Trust Heritage & Rural Skills Centre invites you to see the work of the craftspeople who provide courses on rural crafts and traditional building techniques, such as letter carving in stone, from studio spaces in the beautiful village of Coleshill, the top secret training headquarters for the secret British Resistance during WW2.

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This year, in and around Witney dozens of artists welcome you to lots of venues from 13th-21st May with lots of fresh new faces and places to visit. In the Corn Exchange, Market Square there's an exhibition of drawings and paintings by the Witney art group, Artistic Licence which meets there on Wednesdays, whilst at 53 Corn Street meet potter Stephen Broughton who moved to Oxfordshire from Cornwall and renovated an old derelict out building to become a home studio where he makes wheel thrown ceramics for use in everyday life.

Down at Derwent House on Bridge Street view the work of top British designer-makers in handcrafted furniture, ceramics, textiles, and homewares, and on Woodgreen, explore the varied creations of mixed media artist Debbie Howard which are bright, interesting and inspirational.

Visit a varied exhibition inspired by the natural world hosted by husband-and-wife team Andrew and Kerry Forkner in their home studio/gallery. Andrew draws and paints extraordinary wildlife paintings and drawings, including a series of art books, and has had his art featured in the Mall Galleries, Christies and Sotheby's. Kerry is a textile artist, also widely exhibited, who is inspired by historic landscapes and a desire to evoke a personal sense of place.

There are more textiles, and freehand machine embroidery, at Crawley Mill where contemporary designer Meg Harris is showing her stylised art, homeware and stationery alongside Jessica Parker's mixed media semi-abstract landscape paintings created with collage, ink and acrylic paint.

For a day out further afield, explore multi-venue art trails in Bampton, Charlbury and Eynsham, or visit stunning studios in Clanfield, a group exhibition at Asthall near Burford, or discover stunning quirky sketches of iconic local buildings in Freeland.

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