

CREATIVE

GENIUSES



Oxfordshire Artweeks, the UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event, returns May 3rd-26th to showcase the art of more than 1,000 creatives



Artists, makers and designers from photographers, sculptors and ceramicists to silversmiths, textile artists and glassworkers, including more than 200 new to the festival this year will be showcasing their work.

Some artists team up to host group shows while others open their studios, and there are hundreds of venues, some of which are extraordinary in themselves. This year, as well as medieval churches and magnificent Manor Houses, the 400 venues include two Oxford colleges, hidden cloisters, The Abbey in Sutton Courtenay, Oxford's historic Covered Market, medieval barns, manor houses, woodlands and even a canal boat.

Artweeks is not only about the art and craft on show: it is about the artists and makers who have created it and the stories they have to share. At most studios and exhibitions, all of which are free to visit, you can meet the creative and talented people and chat about their materials, methods and inspiration. Simply drop in during their opening hours and be amazed, surprised and inspired.

Over 150 venues across Oxford are throwing open their doors from 3rd-11th

May, and welcoming you in. These include The North Wall Gallery on South Parade where Marjorie Collins, an artist known for her bold and bright paintings, is hosting a collection of her work produced since she moved to Oxford 50 years ago! Expect strong shapes, lines and patterns, striking contrasts, shadows and reflections.

More unexpectedly, visit large wood-fired kilns in Wytham Woods, look out for tessellated origami art by Ayako Ono or explore an exhibition of 65 children's costumes worn for adult roles in classic films set in the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries, all of which were made by the creative Verity Peto. Over on the Oxford Canal in Wolvercote visit Karis Harrington, a visual storyteller who is showcasing her painting, illustrations and animation in her floating studio. With a focus on water and the witch she invites you to explore fiction and folklore aboard her boat. There's more Oxford with a literary twist in Littlemore as Lorraine Berkshire-Roe adds a cast of magical characters to iconic views in pen and ink. You'll also find original artwork depicting the current 'Tunnel of Doom' linking West Oxford and the centre of the city, a timely 'iconic' view for Botley-folk.

Elsewhere, visitors can explore political satire in papier-mâché and wire sculpture, steampunk upcycling, and serendipitous portrait photography taken in strange places. Discover collage art with *Where's Wally*-esque details, and 'Not So Still Life' paintings and look out too for female stories that explore the social impact of art through the life and work of artist-activist Barbara Steveni in Modern Art Oxford and, in Woodstock's Oxfordshire Museum, 'Michael Black, chisel, wood, stone'. This exhibition explores the work and legacy of the Oxfordshire sculptor best known for carving the Emperors' Heads outside Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre in the 1970s.

- Pick up a festival guide from a local information point or browse the events by location or type of art at artweeks.org