

View to a thrill

Ceramacist Lucienne de Mauny at work in Crowmarsh

Robert Strange at work and, left, work from Peachcroft Farm Barn

Once again, Oxfordshire bursts into life this spring with as many as a thousand artists of all ages at more than 400 county venues for Oxfordshire Artweeks

The longest-running event in the UK lands in Abingdon and Cumnor, as well as Wallingford and Didcot, from May 16th to 25th.

Head to Abingdon historic town hall where five jewellers will showcase their new pieces inspired by the Roman remains discovered nearby Marcham, now housed in the Abingdon Museum. Enjoy striking sculpture in Garford or *Views From A Taxi*, photography from India and Sri Lanka by Bernard Auton – alongside ceramic birds and driftwood sculpture by Shira Gal, both new to Artweeks this year.

For large group exhibitions with a wide variety of professional artists, head to Dry Sandford, Appleton or Peachcroft Farm Barn to discover a new group of artists in a medieval barn, just metres from the Jewellers and Silver Society of Oxford who will demonstrate their craft.

With two schools and new responses to Old Masters by Oxfordshire Mind in the Wellbeing Centre, artists of all ages and abilities open their doors.

In Harwell, Robert Strange is preparing for his may open studio with sparse textured landscape paintings inspired by the Ridgeway, each taking just a few hours to complete. These are a contrast to his other work – colourful ephemera squashed into boxes drawn in coloured pencil. His obsession with 'collecting things in boxes' is a source of inspiration and each

takes between 80 to 120 hours to complete.

With four ceramicists on The Green in Steventon, textiles at Milton Hill House, rag-rugs in Upton, painters in Aston Tirrold and small sculptures in East Hagbourne, there's plenty to explore. In Didcot, the Cornerstone hosts its annual open show for Artweeks, with drawings (traditional and digital), see silver jewellery by Charlie Davis or head to North Bush Furlong and visit new exhibitor Ruth Rothery and her appealing animal portraits and fun speckled flower art.

Visit Brightwell-cum-Sotwell with work ranging from large lively canvases to botanical watercolours; discover fresh jewellery and ceramics in a delightful Little Wittenham barn and orchard garden

You can escape to Cornwall with vivid seascapes by painter Jane Duff or travel further afield in Dorchester-on-Thames where narratives, history, people and ideas are captured in a wall-mounted three-dimensional 'theatres'. Ceramicist Lucienne de Mauny celebrates 30 years as a professional potter and welcomes you into her new Crowmarsh studio to see her craft, and in Castle Lane print-maker Marion Hill celebrates 50 years an artist and teacher with a retrospective of her work.

Artweeks is held across Oxfordshire from May 2nd to May 25th. For full details, visit www.artweeks.org