



Dorchester Festival Community Artwork

Opportunity to contribute – open to all

We are excited to announce that this year's Dorchester Festival will include a community artwork project. This will be installed in the People's Chapel of Dorchester Abbey for the duration of the festival (1st – 10th May). We are hoping to include work from as many people as possible within the local community and invite you to make an artwork. See details below for information, guidance and inspiration.

Overall Concept and Design

The completed installation will be a collaborative piece, comprising hundreds of small artworks made by participants from the communities of Dorchester and surrounding villages. Designed and led by artist Emma Coleman-Jones, individual creative responses to the local area will be displayed together in an innovative design inspired by the windows and arches within the Abbey itself. Through the generous support of sculptor David Harber, the supporting arches designed for the display in the People's Chapel will be auctioned at the end of the festival to provide additional funds for our charities.

The theme, 'Impressions of Dorchester' gives scope to a wide variety of approaches and subject matter that could link to the physical landscape, the natural history of the region or the historic buildings of the village. Artists might, for example, take inspiration from the Wittenham clumps, The River Thames, architectural details from the Abbey, Oxfordshire wildlife, the allotments and gardens or the rich archaeological history of the area.

Details

- **Style, technique, media and interpretation of the theme** are completely up to each artist and we are hoping to get a diverse and vibrant array of artwork. Drawing, painting, collage, paper cut, printmaking, textiles, weaving, mixed media all welcome. No photographs, please. **Scan the QR code below to find links to artists, past and present, whose subjects and styles might provide inspiration or ideas.**
- **Size of Artworks.** Artworks must be created on the cards provided to create a unified design on the supporting structures. The 15 x 15 cm cards are cut from high quality art card suitable for all media. Work can thus be made directly onto the card, but it is also possible to attach other materials to the cards if required or to cut into the card as long as the edges remain for attachment.
- **Names.** Please include your name and address/contact on the back of the card so that it can be returned to you after the exhibition. This will not be visible during the exhibition as the cards will be displayed back-to-back. If you would like to include your name and/or a note about the location of the drawing on the front of the card so it is visible to visitors, please do so.
- **Deadline:** all artworks must be completed by Easter Sunday (5th April) at the latest. They may be returned in an envelope to 73 High Street, Dorchester marked 'Artwork'. One artwork per artist, only, please.
- **Publicity.** The exhibition will be advertised through Oxfordshire Artweeks (as a non-selling exhibition) as well as in through the main Festival guide. There will be an opening event on Saturday May 2nd 2026.
- For queries or to be sent cards, contact Emma on email: emmacolemanjonesart@gmail.com /website: www.emmacoleman-jones.co.uk /instagram: @emmacolemanjones



Emma Coleman-Jones, Lead Artist
& Steph Forman, Festival Director





Paul Nash. Landscape of the Wittenham Clumps. Watercolour and pencil. (Public Domain via ArtVee).



Paul Nash. Wood on the Downs. Oil on canvas. (Public Domain via Wikimedia commons)

A few examples, mainly from Oxfordshire, of varied styles & media used to explore the physical, natural and built landscape. See links via QR code for a much more extensive selection



Eric Ravilious. Vale of The White Horse. Pencil & Watercolour. Tate. (Public domain via Wikimedia commons.)



W. A. Delamotte. Oak. Trees by a country lane. Etching from a pencil drawing. Wellcome Trust . Public Domain.



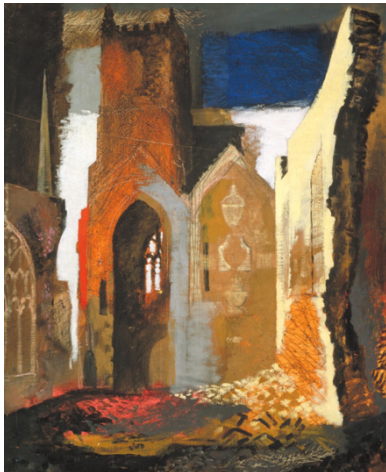
Anna Dillon. Sunny Days. Oil on board. www.annadillon.com



Emma Coleman-Jones. Chilterns Walk. Charcoal. www.emmacoleman-jones.co.uk



John Constable. Cumulus clouds over a landscape. National Trust Oil. (Public domain via Wikimedia Commons.)



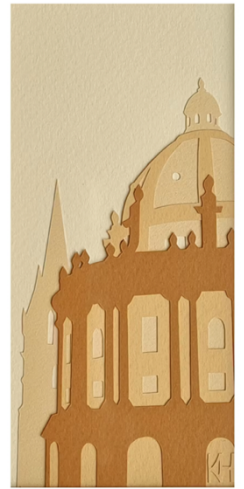
John Piper. St Mary Le Port, Bristol. Oil and pencil on canvas. Tate. (Public domain via Wikimedia commons).



John Ruskin. Basket and lily capitol. Pencil and wash. (Public domain via Wikimedia Commons).



Tim Steward. Dorchester Abbey. Pastel. www.timsteward.co.uk



Kate Hipkiss. Radcliffe Camera papercut. www.katehipkiss.co.uk



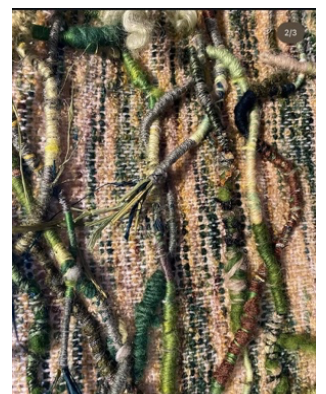
John Ruskin. Oak Spray in winter. Watercolour. (Public domain via Wikimedia commons)



Emma Coleman-Jones. Woodpecker Feather. Pencil, Watercolour & chalk.



Sally Anne Stewart. Snowdrops. Linocut. www.sallyannestewartprints.co.uk



Helen Pakeman. Weaving with twigs & thread. @helenpakeman