



Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios 2019

North Norfolk



Shauna Richardson. Credit: CATERS

Artists from North Norfolk get set to invite the public into their studios.

Hundreds of artists from across the region are preparing to throw open their studio doors to the public as part of Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios 2019.

The event, which has firmly established itself as one of the biggest open studio schemes in the country, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year.

The 16-day celebration of Norfolk's artistic community runs from Saturday 25 May to Sunday 9 June 2019.

The free event will see more than 430 artists taking part across 250 venues throughout the county - opening their doors to the public to exhibit, sell and talk about their work and practice. In North Norfolk, 75 artists and nine groups will be taking part.

As well as the hundreds of artists taking part, numerous Norfolk schools will be exhibiting in the scheme.

Art Trails will also be in place across the county, allowing audiences to visit a number of artists in a particular area, stopping at studios and local attractions along the way.

In North Norfolk five school groups are taking part (Antingham & Southrepps Primary School, Hindringham C of E Primary School, Walsingham C of E Primary School, Kelling C of E Primary School and Blakeney C of E Primary School) and six art trails have been organised by artists participating in the scheme. These are the Cromer Art Trail, Happisburgh Art Trail, North Walsham to Southrepps Art Trail, The Smallburgh Small Art Trail, Wells-Next-the-Sea Art Trail and 10 artists, 7 locations.

Throughout the duration of Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios many of the artists will be holding additional events, demonstrations and workshops.

Artists taking part are working in a diverse range of art forms and techniques including mosaic, ceramics, printing, jewellery, textiles, painting, papercutting, glass work, sculpture and wood turning.

Internationally renowned artists as well as artists new to the scheme take part each year.

Alongside the Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios fortnight, North Norfolk artists will be hosting three taster exhibitions at The Old Workshop Gallery, Corpusty (11 May to 9 June), Cromer Library (2 – 30 May) and North Walsham Library (13 May – 10 June).

Ros Dixon, Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios Administrator, said: "It's wonderful to think that Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios will be in its 25th year in 2019. It goes to show that the scheme has a timeless appeal for both artists and visitors.

"It's not just about buying and selling work directly from the artist, which of course is one of the appeals, but it also offers artists the chance to meet and talk with people who are interested in their work.

"Many artists also enjoy being able to meet and work with other artists, which for some has resulted in long-term collaborations and friendships. Being able to see artists at work in unique working spaces will continue to fascinate and appeal to people, whether the artist has been taking part in Open Studios for 25 years or whether it's their first time."

Studios are free to visit and all details, including studio opening days, directions, art trails and additional events and demonstrations, can be found in the Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios brochure and on the scheme's website.

North Norfolk artist Robert Downie said: "I really look forward to Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios, as over the fortnight I have this once-a-year opportunity to meet with lots of old friends together with new visitors to my studio. It can be hectic but is always stimulating. I learn so much from just listening and chatting to visitors, it plays a significant role in inspiring the future direction of my work."

Brochures can be picked up from Tourist Information Centres, libraries, cafes and various art venues across Norfolk.

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios 2019 will take place between Saturday 25 May and Sunday 9 June 2019.

For more information please visit www.nnopenstudios.org.uk

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Notes for Editors

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios is a 16-day county-wide celebration of the arts and a key event in Norfolk's visual arts calendar. Artists across the region take part each year, inviting the public into their

private studios to reveal where and how they work. The event attracts thousands of visitors and in 2018 an estimated 36,000 people visited studios across the county. Art lovers and curious first timers alike tour the county enjoying this special opportunity to find out more about where and how artists work as well as buy artwork directly from the artist. Artists have the opportunity to promote their work and meet their audience, and visitors see artwork as it happens, away from traditional gallery spaces. Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios is run by Norfolk & Norwich Festival as one of its initiatives. The Festival manages Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios in partnership with and for the benefit of Norfolk artists and makers.

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios 2019 – celebrating 25 years

Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios has evolved and grown from its beginnings back in 1994, when it started as a new art initiative run by the already established Norfolk & Norwich Festival. In the beginning it was called a 'Visual Arts Week' and during that first Visual Arts Week 49 studios and 15 galleries took part. Over the following 25 years this celebration of Norfolk's Visual Arts and Artists has grown, with open studios becoming it's defining feature.

North Norfolk Artist Profiles

Shauna Richardson (CROCHETDERMY®)

Overstrand

Having attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, also called ADHD or ADD, I knew very early on that my career was never going to fall into the academic category. I had always loved art and was seldom without a pencil in my hand, and so when I left school I began travelling and painting and hosting exhibitions on my return. Sales from these exhibitions enabled the funding of the next painting trip and exhibition. Later in life I studied for a BA and began exploring ideas through different mediums. In 2008 I created Crochetdermy®, a way of working that I still use today.

Crochetdermy® pieces are realistic life-size animal sculptures created using my own freestyle crochet technique. The first piece I made was a 7ft brown bear. Apart from relishing a challenge, it amuses me to witness people's preconceived images of crochet toys being shattered when confronted by realistic taxidermy-like pieces.

I have worked in various studios and locations over the years and where I work is generally dictated by the size of animal I am working on. At present I am working on a polar bear. An understanding husband and dog mean that I can accomplish this from the comfort of my own home.

I have recently moved to Overstrand in North Norfolk and it's my first year taking part in Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios. I'm taking part as I see the scheme as a good way to get to know the area and other local artists, as well as a nice way to meet people interested in my work.



Robert Downie

Northrepps

Mine is a working studio where visitors can not only see and talk about work in progress but also view a range of originals and prints in my unmistakable pen, ink and gouache style. I love the beach and coast of North Norfolk and my simple, very graphic images seek to reflect the beauty and magic of the area.

I really look forward to Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios as over the fortnight I have this once a year opportunity to meet with lots of old friends together with new visitors to my studio. It can be hectic but is always stimulating. I learn so much from just listening and chatting to visitors, it plays a significant role in inspiring the future direction of my work.



Work in progress by Robert Downie

Berni Marfleet

North Walsham

Scrap metal is my main source material to weld and bend into abstract sculptures and surreal creatures but I'll use anything that is recyclable or found in farms, garages and scrap yards in the local area. Scavenging for pieces is part of the pleasure of my work and the sculptures reflect the local economic life around North Walsham - from farming to fishing and engineering to food processing.

I'm particularly keen on giving an illusion of lightness and flight to what is essentially a heavy substance. Many of the sculptures move in the breeze and that can be a challenge sometimes to get movement and stability in balance in the strong winds we enjoy at times up here in North Norfolk!

I leave the interpretation of my work very much to the viewer and I'm often intrigued and delighted by the unexpected reactions.

That is one of the great pleasures of participating in Norfolk & Norwich Open Studios; you do get to meet and talk to visitors and they get to see where and how you work. So it is a very personal experience for

visitor and artist alike. Commissions sometimes come out of visits and can challenge and lead one into new areas of work too.



North Norfolk Art Trails

10 Artists, 7 Locations

Trail area: Sheringham, High Kelling & Thornage

See each individual artist's opening times in the brochure and website.

Featuring: Mel Ashcroft, Keri Lowe, Ros Copping, Chris White, Henry Stephen, Steve Levitt, High Kelling Artists (Tricia Arnold, Barbara Robins, Annie Haynes, Lee King).

We will be giving 10% off any one piece of artwork, or 10% off one future commission, or 10% off any one available workshop for any visitor visiting all 10 artists. Trail map available from each studio.

Cromer Art Trail

Trail area: Cromer, Overstrand, Northrepps, Roughton

25 May - 9 June 2019

Featuring: Robert Downie, Bob Crook, Leslie Hawkes Nockels, Keith Nash, Paul Darley, GOSH (Open Studios in Garden House).

The trail has a Taster Exhibition at The Garden House Gallery starting on 4 May. Trail members will be giving demonstrations in The Garden House on 4,5,6 & 11 May. Refreshments are also available from five Trail partners (see brochure).

Happisburgh Art Trail

Trail area: Happisburgh

25 May - 9 June 2019 (see brochure and website for individual Artist's opening times)

Featuring: Johanne Couldrey, Lisa Saville, Margaret Rice.

Lovely art trail in the beautiful village of Happisburgh, by the sea, with four very different artists to visit. You can also view the lighthouse, visit the Medieval church, go to Burgers at the Beach, Small Sticks Cafe or the Hill House Pub and have a relaxing walk on the sand. We look forward to welcoming you to our studios.

North Walsham to Southrepps Art Trail

Trail area: North Walsham, Antingham, Thorpe Market, Southrepps

May 25, 26, 27 (Ruth Brumsby is not open this weekend), June 1, 2, & 8, 9, 10am - 5pm all days

Featuring: Ruth Brumby, Alice Cary, Berni Marfleet, Susan Rainsford, Sheila Robinson, Rebecca Thompson.

A warm welcome awaits you as the artists on our trail, all within a 5-mile radius, throw open their studio doors and invite you in to see their craft and skill. You will see a wide variety of contemporary art and design, scrap metal sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, papier-mache vessels, painting, drawing, bookbinding, fused glass and textiles.

Two taster exhibitions for the Trail can be found at North Walsham Library and The Vernon Arms, Southrepps (13 May -9 June), where you can also refresh yourselves before or after the trail! A meal for 2 at this lovely country pub is the prize for the free draw for all visitors to the trail during Open Studios.

The Smallburgh Art Trail

Trail area: Smallburgh

Chris Dean: May 25, 26, 19 & June 1, 2, 5, 8 & 9.

All Others May 25, 26, 27, 29, 31 & June 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 & 9.

Featuring: Christopher Dean, Friendship Through Art (Cherrill Edgington, Carol Evans, Gaynor Houlton and Heather Webster).

The studios are within 1/2 mile of each other and parking is available. The artists will be working on various projects and will be happy to discuss their methods of working. Cream teas available on the first two weekends with refreshments at other times.

Those who leave their details at the studios and obtain a stamp from each artist will be entered into a prize draw for a £25 voucher for the purpose of purchasing work from any of the five trail artists.

Wells-next-the-Sea

Trail area: Wells-next-the-Sea

May 25, 26, 27 & June 1, 2, 8 & 9 June. Also days in the week but check individual artist's opening times in the brochure and website.

Featuring: Joy Pitts, Hazel Ashley, Catherine Laura Ward, Toby Newman.

From a quaint studio on East Quay to an old shop front and private studios, this trail offers traditional painting, printmaking, and contemporary textile art. Trail cuts through the town including Wells harbour and shops, approx. 1 mile on foot.

Raffle ticket opportunity to win a limited edition print when you collect your trail map from Joy Pitts Studio, 12 High Street NR23 1EP.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival Principal Funders



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For all press enquiries and requests for additional images, comments or information,
please contact Kate Royall

07775 337201

hello@kateroyall.com