



M.A.D's enterprising spirit



We're delighted to have been named as the Most Creative Spirits brand (South West England) in the [2025 UK Enterprise Awards](#)!

We've also scooped the Most Innovative Flavoured Vodka award for our [Watermelon & Thyme Vodka](#) - the second accolade in a year, after it won a gold medal in the London Spirits Competition.

The Enterprise Awards are run by [SME News](#), a UK digital publishing house, and celebrate the achievements of small and medium-sized companies across the UK - shining a spotlight on those that push the boundaries of business, regardless of their size.

Awards coordinator Laura O'Carroll said: "SME News is very proud to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our winners.

"It's not just their success in our awards programme but it's also their growth over the months, years and decades which speak volumes for their dedication as leading lights in the UK. Congratulations, it's well deserved."

Flying high at Bristol Balloon Fiesta



To mark the recent [International Bristol Balloon Fiesta](#) we asked local artist [Jenny Urquhart](#) for some label artwork for our Blueberry & Bergamot Gin and Strawberry & Honey Spiced Rum bottles.

We love her 'Bristol Harbour Festival' design featuring the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the SS Great Britain and, of course, the colourful balloons that fly across the city during the fiesta - the largest event of its type in Europe.

An estimated 300,000 people packed into the fiesta this August to witness more than 300 hot air flights take off in mass ascents over the weekend and watch the iconic night glows in the evening.

For visitors to the fiesta, our M.A.D bottles were the perfect souvenir to take home and keep as a memento of the weekend. The labels were produced as a limited edition of 50 for the 50cl flavoured gin and rum bottles, making them highly collectable.

We have a handful left that will be available soon from our [online shop](#). Follow us on Instagram @modernartdistillery - we'll post when we add any of this summer's special limited editions to our store.



Jenny Urquhart is a self-taught artist, who mainly paints landscapes. She is part of the [Gromit Unleashed 3](#) arts trail in Bristol, which raises money for the [Grand Appeal](#) - the official Bristol Children's Hospital charity.

The trail features 53 giant sculptures of Aardman animation company's Wallace and Gromit characters, and runs until August 31.

Jenny's Gromit is an Alpine-inspired sculpture called [Edelweiss](#), located at Cross Fit Gym in Henleaze, Bristol.

More show stoppers



Josephine Chisholm

Winchester-based [Josephine Chisholm](#) is known for her love of colour and vibrant artworks. Her painting 'Singing in the High Street' was featured on a limited edition M.A.D. label at Winchester Foodies Festival back in July.



Jill Rosser

We'll be at the [Deal Food & Drink Festival](#) in Kent from August 27-31, and we asked local artist [Jill Rosser](#) for an artwork that captured the seaside town's essence.

Her striking watercolour 'Beyond the Stormy Skies' depicts a scene from the perspective of Deal Pier - a well known local landmark - and is a perfect fit with our Blueberry & Bergamot Gin and Strawberry & Honey Spiced Rum.

We're in the Money!

We were very flattered to have been asked by journalist Joe Phelan to do a Q&A with [money.co.uk](https://www.money.co.uk) for the site's business case studies section.

Joe regularly speaks to owners across the UK to hear their stories, with in-depth examples of how small companies overcome challenges, achieve goals and drive growth.

Read all about us at [money.co.uk!](https://www.money.co.uk)

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Personal Finance Insurance Travel Business Guides

Business > Business case studies > Meet Catharine and Caroline: the duo behind a distillery where every bottle is a canvas

Written by Joe Phelan, Business finance editor 25 July 2025

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Old friends Catharine Russell and Caroline Harrison founded Modern Art Distillery to pair award-winning spirits with original artwork from emerging UK artists.



Catharine (left) and Caroline (right) are the masterminds behind Modern Art Distillery, where bold spirits and contemporary design go hand in hand.

Autumn is calling



With the nights drawing in and summer coming to an end, we're looking ahead to our autumn schedule - here's where we'll be from August to October:

August 15: [Dunster Show](#)

August 16: [Honiton Street Market](#)

August 17: [Mid-Somerset Show](#)

August 21: [Melpplash Show](#)

August 23: [Felicity's Farm Shop, Dorset](#)

August 24: [Dorchester Artisan Market](#)

August 27-31: [Deal Food & Drink Festival](#)

September 5-7: [Pub in the Park St Albans](#)

September 13: [Frome Agricultural & Cheese Show](#)

September 21: [The Sherborne Market](#)

September 26-28: [Malvern Autumn Show](#)

October 4-5: [Powderham Castle Food Festival](#)

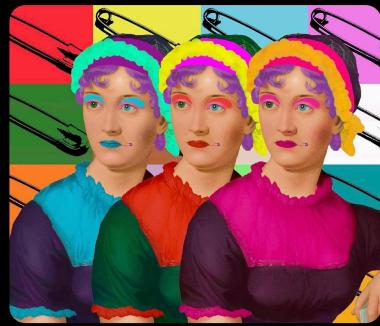
October 13: [Pack Monday Fair, Sherborne](#)

October 19: [The Sherborne Market](#)

October 26: [Dorchester Artisan Market](#)

Look out for us if you're nearby - and keep an eye on Instagram @modernartdistillery for updates on additional events.

Artist news: JET Pictures



Multi-talented [JET Pictures](#) duo [Emma Taylor](#) and [Jason Dorley Brown](#) - whose imposing artwork 'Segregation and Amalgamation' appears on our [London Dry Gin](#) 'City' bottle - have been having a busy few months.

Together, they collaborated on a series of colourful and eye-catching vinyls for 4 George Street, Bath - an empty shop in the city centre. Their amazing artwork certainly brings beauty, fun, conversation and colour to what would otherwise be a dreary store front - and brings smiles to the faces of locals and tourists alike.

Separately, Emma undertook the mammoth task of designing a four-panel 'live mural' at the [Henley Royal Regatta](#) in early July, while Jason has turned his extraordinary pop art skills to reimagining Jane Austen in what is her 250th birthday year.

Artist news - Yasmin Davidson



[Yasmin Davidson](#), the artist behind the lovely landscape 'Machair Stripes' featured on our London Dry Gin bottle label, has paintings on display in an exhibition titled 'Then and Now' in the cafe gallery at the [Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum & Arts Centre](#) on the Isle of North Uist.

Yasmin found inspiration from old film still images juxtaposed alongside her modern-day life images, resulting in a series of captivating oil paintings representing Scottish islands' ongoing sense of community.

The exhibition runs until October 4, with all works available for sale.

Artist news: Ivan Maxwell Jones



Malvern artist [Ivan Maxwell Jones](#) hosts his Open Studios exhibition at [Malvern Cube Arts & Community Centre](#) until August 25. His latest artwork - 'Spring Morning - Looking South from Worcestershire Beacon' (above) will be among the many landscapes and abstract paintings on show.

Ivan's spectacular artwork 'Walking the Malverns' appeared as a limited edition label on our flavoured gin and rum 50cl bottles at the Malvern Spring Show and Three Counties Show earlier this year - proving a big hit with visitors.

The last remaining bottles will be available at the [Malvern Autumn Show](#) from September 26-28th.



Stirred not shaken...

To celebrate our win in the UK Enterprise Awards, try out our unique Tangy Vodka Martini recipe - here's how to make it:

15ml Dry Vermouth
60ml M.A.D Watermelon & Thyme Vodka
10ml Ginger Ale
Stir it all up - don't shake
Add some ice
Finally, garnish with some tangy cornichons
Sit back and enjoy!

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