



## Art's at the heart of M.A.D



Our artists have always been a vital part of Modern Art Distillery - without them, we simply wouldn't be where we are.

And now we're strengthening our ties with the art world through a number of collaborations with prestigious organisations that will bring us even closer to the creatives at the heart of our unique spirits concept.

Firstly, we're partnering with the one of the UK's longest-running and most renowned contemporary craft and design fairs, Handmade Chelsea, for their VIP preview on November 5 which launches a three-day event at Chelsea Town Hall from November 6-8.

The fair features more than 100 exceptional British designer-makers, spanning jewellery, fashion, textiles, ceramics, glass, metal, prints, furniture, wood and mixed media.

Handmade in Britain was founded by engineer-turned-designer Piyush Suri in 2007 to champion the finest designer-makers in the UK. It hosts fairs, events and pop-ups and has a dedicated online marketplace for makers.

Among the UK's leading designers exhibiting at Handmade Chelsea are award-winning jeweller [Emma Calvert](#); willowweaver [Julie Gurr](#); and ceramic artist [Joelle Davis](#).

Handmade Chelsea is open on:

Thursday 6 November, 12pm-7pm

Friday 7 November, 11am-6pm

Saturday 8 November, 11am-6pm

Tickets available from their [website](#).



Kas Williams (c)

We've also been invited to [The Society of Designer Craftsmen's](#) launch event of its exhibition *Designer Craft - Tales in the Making* at the Oxmarket [Contemporary](#) gallery in Chichester on the evening of November 11.

The show, which runs from November 11-23, is an invitation to peep inside the creative world of the makers - every work shown will carry a story: a memory, an influence, a spark of inspiration, a material choice or intricacies of the making process.

Over 40 talented members of the SDC will be showcasing work across a wide range of disciplines – ceramics, feltmaking, glassmaking, furniture, mosaics,

jewellery, metalwork, printmaking, textiles, paper, weaving and woodcarving & turning - with artist demonstrations taking place.

Among them are multimedia artist [Kas Williams](#), whose artwork is pictured above; printmaker [Alexandra Motiu](#); and furniture maker [Sean Evelegh](#).

The exhibition is free to visit and open from:

Tuesdays-Saturdays 12-4.30pm

Sundays 12-4pm.



And finally, we've again sponsored a prize at the [South West Academy](#)'s annual open exhibition at Kennaway House in Sidmouth, open daily until November 8 from 10.30am-4.30pm.

We chose the painting *Speak to Me of Beltane* by [Diane Coates-Sinclair](#) as our winner - we loved the detail and the intriguing nature of the artwork.

## The spirit of Christmas



We can't quite believe it's that time of year... again! But here we are with Christmas 2025 round the corner and we have a busy schedule of events ahead of us, where you can stock up on gifts for the big day. Here's where we'll be:

November 16: [The Sherborne Market](#)

November 21: [Felicity's Farm Shop](#), Morecombe Lake, Dorset

November 21-23: [Make Merry at Making Space](#), Havant

November 23: [Dorchester Artisan Market](#)

November 28: [Wincanton Christmas Market](#), Somerset

November 29-30: [Mapperton House Christmas Market](#), Dorset  
December 3: [Bridport Christmas Cheer](#)  
December 4-7: [Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute Christmas Fair](#)  
December 11-14: [Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute Christmas Fair](#)  
December 19: [Felicity's Farm Shop](#), Morecombe lake, Dorset  
December 20: [The Darty Market](#), Old Market Square, Dartmouth  
December 21: [The Sherborne Market](#)

Remember, you can also buy our spirits at our online [M.A.D store](#) - from stocking fillers to statement gifts, we have 70cl, 50cl, 10cl and 5cl bottles plus gift packs available to suit any budget.

Not forgetting our [art prints and originals](#) and our [other products](#), including bottle top planters, sunglasses, aprons and diffuser bottles - or buy a [gift card](#) and let the recipient choose for themselves!

## Tom "Welly" Wells



We were lucky enough to bump into Exmouth-based artist [Tom "Welly" Wells](#) on our recent visit to the Powderham Castle Food Festival - and now he's agreed to do a piece of his distinctive artwork for our spirits labels!

Tom is a self-taught spraypaint artist who has developed a unique style combining freehand techniques, textured effects, stencils and traditional brushwork.

His diverse creations range from classic street spray art to intricate multi-layered stencils and custom murals for homes and commercial spaces. Beyond creating

art, Tom has also built a vibrant community of artists and enthusiasts through his social media platforms - @tomwellywells on Instagram, Tik Tok and [YouTube](#).

Tom is currently working on his design for Modern Art Distillery - we can't wait to see it and will be unveiling his artwork soon - watch this space!

## Artist news: Hugh Dunford Wood



We were very saddened to learn about the death of one of our artists, Hugh Dunford Wood, after a short illness.

Bridport-based Hugh worked with Modern Art Distillery when we commissioned him to design a linoprint of the Cobb at Lyme Regis.

He was a highly accomplished and versatile artist, working in many mediums.



These included painting portraits, designing murals, engraving on wood and metal, making linocuts and hand-printing cushions and wallpapers. He also shared his skills through a wide programme of teaching.

Hugh was a joy to work with and we will always cherish his beautiful *Spirit of Lyme Regis* linoprint, which has become a firm favourite among M.A.D customers.

We send our condolences to his wife, Candida, and family.

## Artist news: Emily Duffin



Emily Duffin, the country illustration artist behind our charming *Follow the Fergie* label, has launched her new Christmas collection.

It includes four Christmas card designs, wooden decorations with hand-painted illustrations, a new Christmas print and original Christmas artwork.

Visit [Emily's website](#) to find out more about her work and festive collection.



## Impeccable taste...

We're thrilled to have been accepted as a member of [The Guild of Fine Food](#) - an organisation that celebrates great tasting food and drink.

The Guild hosts regular markets across the country, has an online directory of products, producers and retailers, and runs the internationally renowned [Great Taste Awards](#).

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