

Guildford Festival of the Arts

Weekend Itinerary — Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 October 2026

Key

● Exhibition ● Workshop ● Event 🎨 = Art Trail venue (TBC) = still to be confirmed

Underlined titles link to the event's page on the festival website • [RSVP / tickets](#) = separate booking link (where one exists)

Thursday 1 October

Exhibitions & drop-in (all day)

9am–5pm [Festival Information Hub](#) 🎨 Pick up a brochure, ask questions and get help planning your festival experience.

Guildhall • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Abbots Hospital • Free

9am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

New House Art Space • Free

10am–5pm [Sidney H. Sime: Theatre in Caricature](#) 🎨 The fascinating theatrical caricatures of Surrey artist Sidney Sime.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

9am–5pm [John Walmsley Photography Exhibition](#) 🎨 Guildford Arts presents decades of extraordinary documentary photography.

Guildford Institute • Free

8am–5pm [Picture This! Painting Challenge Exhibition](#) 🎨 A celebratory group exhibition of pieces created during the 'Picture This!' painting challenge.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–4pm [Evoking Connections – 5th Edition](#) 🎨 Catalyst Art exhibition celebrating the power of art and neurodiversity.

GLive • Free

8am–5pm [Art & Grind's Exhibition of Local Artists](#) 🎨 A showcase of work by local and regional artists.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–8pm [4 Paintings in 4 Days](#) 🎨 Plein-air painting and exhibition.

The Pocket • Free

11am–4pm [Serenity Art Exhibition](#) 🎨 Featuring 'Threshold', an immersive sculpture exploring loss, alongside work by three local artists and a flower wall.

The Lighthouse • Free

11am - 4pm Exhibition at St Mary's Church 🎨 Presenting artwork created by women at HMP Send, developed through an 18-year partnership supporting creativity, artistic talent and hope.

St Mary's Church • Free

10am - 4pm Exhibition at the Matrix Trust Cafe 🎨 Artwork by the resident artists based in the creative quarter and community groups based in the Easel Studio at Lockwood Studios.

Matrix Trust Cafe • Free

10am - 5pm The Bike Project 🎨 Local students, artists and charities are transforming donated bicycles into unique works of art, celebrating creativity, sustainability

Arch and Bloom Sales and Marketing Suite • Free

10am–6pm Art Book Display 🎨 Browse a curated selection of art books.

Paper Moon Bookshop • Free

12–5pm Painting a Mural 🎨 Members of the public are welcome to help paint a mural alongside local artist Nathalie Scott.

Friary Passage • Free

8am–5pm Art & Grind's Swap Shop 🎨 Swap art materials for free.

Art and Grind • Free

11am–3pm Sam B. Kennedy: Artist in the Window 🎨 Watch Sam use the window space as her live studio.

Art and Grind • Free

11am–4pm Autumn Crafts 🎨 Colourful craft activities for all ages, with Art Venture.

GLive • Free

In the window Guildford Art Society: Selected Works A selection of artworks by talented society members.

The Frame Centre • Free

Workshops & Events

10:30am–3:30pm Pottery with Watts Gallery 🎨 A relaxed drop-in workshop to create your own clay tile or pot. Runs Thu–Sat.

Guildhall • £10 drop-in

10:30am–1pm Collage Workshop with Kirsty McNay: Autumn Landscapes 🎨 Create beautiful autumn landscapes using a selection of different papers.

Art and Grind [RSVP / tickets](#) • £25

10–11:30am Sashiko Workshop 🎨 Sashiko embroidery for beginners.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

12–1:30pm Visible Darning Workshop 🎨 Repair medium-sized holes, or just add fun and colour to your garments.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

1–3pm Introduction to Paper Flowers Workshop 🎨 Learn to make 3 small flowers from Italian crepe paper.

Guildford Institute kate.alger.art@gmail.com • £30

2–3:30pm Visible Mending Patches Workshop 🎨 Patch holes using patterned fabrics and sashiko-style stitches.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

6–8pm Screenprinting on Paper Have a go at hand-pulling a screenprint on paper.

6–8:30pm [The Creative Social – A Unique Art Experience](#) 🎨 Paint, sip and create a unique piece of framed art – no drawing required.

Art and Grind [RSVP / tickets](#) • £35

6:30–9:30pm [Emma \(2020\) Film Screening and Craft Event](#) 🎨 A ‘watch and craft’ screening of Autumn de Wilde's adaptation.

New House Art Space [RSVP / tickets](#) • £7.50

8–10pm [Arts and Culture Quiz Night](#) Know your Monet from your Manet? Put your knowledge to the test.

The Star Inn [RSVP / tickets](#) • £3

Friday 2 October

Exhibitions & drop-in (all day)

9am–5pm [Festival Information Hub](#) 🎨 Pick up a brochure, ask questions and get help planning your festival experience.

Guildhall • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Abbots Hospital • Free

9am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

New House Art Space • Free

10am–5pm [Sidney H. Sime: Theatre in Caricature](#) 🎨 The fascinating theatrical caricatures of Surrey artist Sidney Sime.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

9am–5pm [John Walmsley Photography Exhibition](#) 🎨 Guildford Arts presents decades of extraordinary documentary photography.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • Free

8am–5pm [Picture This! Painting Challenge Exhibition](#) 🎨 A celebratory group exhibition of pieces created during the ‘Picture This!’ painting challenge.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–4pm [Evoking Connections – 5th Edition](#) 🎨 Catalyst Art exhibition celebrating the power of art and neurodiversity.

GLive • Free

8am–5pm [Art & Grind's Exhibition of Local Artists](#) 🎨 A showcase of work by local and regional artists.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–8pm [4 Paintings in 4 Days](#) 🎨 Plein-air painting and exhibition.

The Pocket • Free

11am–4pm [Serenity Art Exhibition](#) 🎨 Featuring ‘Threshold’, an immersive sculpture exploring loss, alongside work by three local artists and a flower wall.

10am–5pm Guildford Pottery Sales 🎨 Dig through beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade pottery pieces.
New House Art Space • Free

11am - 4pm Exhibition at St Mary's Church 🎨 Presenting artwork created by women at HMP Send, developed through an 18-year partnership supporting creativity, artistic talent and hope.
St Mary's Church • Free

10am - 4pm Exhibition at the Matrix Trust Cafe 🎨 Artwork by the resident artists based in the creative quarter and community groups based in the Easel Studio at Lockwood Studios.
Matrix Trust Cafe • Free

10am - 5pm The Bike Project 🎨 Local students, artists and charities are transforming donated bicycles into unique works of art, celebrating creativity, sustainability
Arch and Bloom Sales and Marketing Suite • Free

10am–6pm Art Book Display 🎨 Browse a curated selection of art books.
Paper Moon Bookshop • Free

12–5pm Painting a Mural 🎨 Members of the public are welcome to help paint a mural alongside local artist Nathalie Scott.
Friary Passage • Free

8am–5pm Art & Grind's Swap Shop 🎨 Swap art materials for free.
Art and Grind • Free

11am–3pm Sam B. Kennedy: Artist in the Window 🎨 Watch Sam use the window space as her live studio.
Art and Grind • Free

11am–4pm Autumn Crafts 🎨 Colourful craft activities for all ages, with Art Venture.
GLive • Free

In the window Guildford Art Society: Selected Works A selection of artworks by talented society members.
The Frame Centre • Free

Workshops & Events

9–11am Coffee, Catch Up and Create 🎨 Informal drawing-based art-for-wellbeing, suitable for all abilities.
Art and Grind kate.alger.art@gmail.com • £15

10am–5pm Guildford Pottery Sales 🎨 Informal drawing-based art-for-wellbeing, suitable for all abilities.
New House Art Space

1–2pm In Conversation With Gus Casely-Hayford 🎨 An inspiring conversation with the Director of V&A East on culture, creativity and the future of the arts.
Yvonne Arnaud [RSVP / tickets](#) • £10

1:30–4pm Impressionist Revolutions 🎨 An art history lecture exploring how Impressionism became a 'doorway' to a new way of painting.
Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £28

2–4pm Schoolgirl Stitches: A Hundred Years of Teaching Needlework A short illustrated talk paired with a hands-on stitching session.

6–8:30pm [Photography – A Little Bit About Everything](#) 🎨 An evening workshop on the history of photography and how to take a good image.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £23

6–8pm [Magical Moths Sip and Paint Workshop](#) A guided step-by-step acrylic painting workshop; buy a drink at the bar.

SoulSpace [RSVP / tickets](#) • £22.50

6–8pm [Picture This! Open House & Meet the Artists](#) 🎨 Meet the artists and celebrate the work created during the 'Picture This!' challenge.

Art and Grind • Free drop-in

6:30–7:30pm [The Art of Illustration](#) 🎨 Award-winning children's author and illustrator Emma Dodd talks about her 30-year career.

Paper Moon Bookshop [RSVP / tickets](#) • £3

7 - 8:30pm [Candle Making Workshop](#) 🎨 Create your own hand-poured candle, inspired by the rich, comforting scents of autumn.

New House Art Space [RSVP / tickets](#) • £50

7–9:30pm [Emin and Kahlo: The Pleasure and the Pain](#) 🎨 An art history talk on the lives of two incredible female artists.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £23

7–8:30pm [Tales of a Celebrity Snapper](#) 🎨 A visual talk on photographer Andy Newbold's career, including 13 Royal Variety Performances.

GLive [RSVP / tickets](#) • £15

Saturday 3 October

Exhibitions & drop-in (all day)

9am–5pm [Festival Information Hub](#) 🎨 Pick up a brochure, ask questions and get help planning your festival experience.

Guildhall • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

10am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

Abbots Hospital • Free

9am–5pm [Open Call Exhibition](#) 🎨 Open-submission exhibition.

New House Art Space • Free

10am–5pm [Sidney H. Sime: Theatre in Caricature](#) 🎨 The fascinating theatrical caricatures of Surrey artist Sidney Sime.

Yvonne Arnaud • Free

9am–5pm [John Walmsley Photography Exhibition](#) 🎨 Guildford Arts presents decades of extraordinary documentary photography.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • Free

8am–5pm [Picture This! Painting Challenge Exhibition](#) 🎨 A celebratory group exhibition of pieces created during the 'Picture This!' painting challenge.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–4pm [Evoking Connections – 5th Edition](#) 🎨 Catalyst Art exhibition celebrating the power of art and neurodiversity.

GLive • Free

8am–5pm [Art & Grind's Exhibition of Local Artists](#) 🎨 A showcase of work by local and regional artists.

Art and Grind • Free

10am–8pm [4 Paintings in 4 Days](#) 🎨 Plein-air painting and exhibition.

The Pocket • Free

11am–4pm [Serenity Art Exhibition](#) 🎨 Featuring 'Threshold', an immersive sculpture exploring loss, alongside work by three local artists and a flower wall.

The Lighthouse • Free

10am–5pm [Guildford Pottery Sales](#) 🎨 Dig through beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade pottery pieces.

New House Art Space • Free

11am - 4pm [Exhibition at St Mary's Church](#) 🎨 Presenting artwork created by women at HMP Send, developed through an 18-year partnership supporting creativity, artistic talent and hope.

St Mary's Church • Free

10am - 4pm [Exhibition at the Matrix Trust Cafe](#) 🎨 Artwork by the resident artists based in the creative quarter and community groups based in the Easel Studio at Lockwood Studios.

Matrix Trust Cafe • Free

10am - 5pm [The Bike Project](#) 🎨 Local students, artists and charities are transforming donated bicycles into unique works of art, celebrating creativity, sustainability

Arch and Bloom Sales and Marketing Suite • Free

10am–6pm [Art Book Display](#) 🎨 Browse a curated selection of art books.

Paper Moon Bookshop • Free

12–5pm [Painting a Mural](#) 🎨 Members of the public are welcome to help paint a mural alongside local artist Nathalie Scott.

Friary Passage • Free

8am–5pm [Art & Grind's Swap Shop](#) 🎨 Swap art materials for free.

Art and Grind • Free

11am–3pm [Sam B. Kennedy: Artist in the Window](#) 🎨 Watch Sam use the window space as her live studio.

Art and Grind • Free

11am–4pm [Autumn Crafts](#) 🎨 Colourful craft activities for all ages, with Art Venture.

GLive • Free

In the window [Guildford Art Society: Selected Works](#) A selection of artworks by talented society members.

The Frame Centre • Free

Workshops & Events

10am–5pm [Guildford Pottery Sales](#) 🎨 Informal drawing-based art-for-wellbeing, suitable for all abilities.
New House Art Space

10am–4pm [Guildford Festival Community Showcase](#) 🎨 Discover an exciting range of local businesses, charities and community organisations showcasing the fantastic work they do across our community.
GLive • Free

10am–12:30pm [Pottery Wheel Workshop](#) 🎨 Join a group of 5 other clay adventurers to learn the basics of the wheel.
New House Art Space [RSVP / tickets](#) • £80

10am–1pm [Portrait Drawing from Life: The Fundamentals](#) Create a portrait from a live model.
Carmine Crimson Studios [RSVP / tickets](#) • £15

10am–2pm [Photography Walk & Workshop](#) 🎨 An immersive walk and workshop through the heart of the town with documentary photographer John Walmsley. Starts at New House Art Space, ends at the Guildford Institute.
Multiple Venues [RSVP / tickets](#) • £45 – SOLD OUT

10am–12pm [Lino Print for Beginners](#) 🎨 Learn to create your own print from start to finish.
Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £16

10:30am–12:30pm [Drawing with Ink and Bleach](#) Experiment with ink and bleach to create expressive marks.
Soulspace jule.mallett@btinternet.com • £25

12:30–2pm [An Introduction to Japanese Calligraphy](#) 🎨 A gentle introduction using traditional materials.
Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £40

12:30–1:30pm [Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop](#) 🎨 Channel responses to paintings and photos through poetry and prose.
Guildford Institute rhymesnrosespoetry@gmail.com • Free

2–4pm [Watercolour and Mixed Media Butterflies](#) 🎨 A relaxed introduction to watercolours and mixed media with artist Sarah Rawlins.
Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £15

2–4:30pm [Pottery Wheel Workshop](#) 🎨 A second session – learn the basics of the wheel.
New House Art Space [RSVP / tickets](#) • £80

2:30–4:30pm [Botanical Monoprints with Kate Alger](#) 🎨 Discover botanical printmaking with a local artist and printmaker.
Guildford Institute kate.alger.art@gmail.com • £65

2:30–4:30pm [A Gentle Introduction to Screenprinting on Paper](#) Learn to manage a squeegee, pull prints, layer imagery and clean the silkscreen.
Soulspace jule.mallett@btinternet.com • £25

3–4pm [Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop](#) 🎨 A second session channelling responses to paintings and photos through poetry and prose.
Guildford Institute rhymesnrosespoetry@gmail.com • Free

3–5pm [Unpacking Art: Women in Art II](#) 🎨 A look at three iconic 20th-century women artists, and how women could shape art's future.
Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £19.50

7–8pm Hotch Potch 🎨 A cheering jumble of duologues and short stories.

New House Art Space • [RSVP / tickets](#) • £10

Time TBC Guildford Arts & Lockwood Workshops at the Matrix 🎨 (TBC) Approximately 2 workshops – details to be confirmed.

Matrix Trust Cafe • TBC

Sunday 4 October

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Workshops & Events

10am–5pm Guildford Pottery Sales 🎨 Informal drawing-based art-for-wellbeing, suitable for all abilities.

New House Art Space

10–11am Read and Draw with Emma Dodd 🎨 A workshop for young children and their parents.

Paper Moon Bookshop [RSVP / tickets](#) • Free

10–11:30am Embroidery Workshop – Outline Stitches 🎨 Suitable for beginners or those looking for variations on these stitches.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

10am–12pm Painting with Sticks and Sponges 🎨 No pressure to get it 'right' – a great way to explore colour and mark-making.

Guildford Institute kate.alger.art@gmail.com • £35

10am–1pm Portrait Drawing from Life: The Fundamentals A morning of portrait drawing from a live model.

Carminie Crimson Studios [RSVP / tickets](#) • £15

10:30am–3:30pm Leaf Crowns and Community Canvas Workshop 🎨 Create autumn leaf crowns, add your face to the community canvas, and chill out at the nature mandala station.

Guildhall • £2 drop-in

12–1:30pm Embroidery Workshop – Knots and Wheels 🎨 Learn French Knots, Bullion Knots and Woven Wheels. Suitable for beginners.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

12–1:10pm Shorts Screening #1 – Curiously Captivating A collection of powerful short stories of people and planet.
The Star Inn • Free drop-in

1–6pm Have a Go at Screenprinting No experience necessary; suitable for all ages.

Britannia Pub • £1 drop-in

1–6pm Slow Stitch Meditation No experience necessary; suitable for all ages.

Britannia Pub • £1 drop-in

1:10–2:30pm Shorts Screening #2 – A World of Stories A collection of powerful short stories of people and planet.
The Star Inn • Free drop-in

1:30–3:30pm Lino Print for Beginners 🎨 Discover the satisfying art of lino printing in this relaxed, beginner-friendly workshop.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £16

2–5pm Drawing Music Live 🎨 An immersive event where music and drawing come together, in collaboration with Guildford Jazz.

Yvonne Arnaud [RSVP / tickets](#) • £21

2–3:30pm Creative Couching 🎨 Explore creative ways to use the beautiful couching stitch.

Guildford Institute [RSVP / tickets](#) • £20

2:30–3:30pm Shorts Screening #3 – Hope and Home A collection of powerful short stories of people and planet.
The Star Inn • Free drop-in

3:30–5pm Sustain Filmmaker Q&A, Cocktails and Conversation Exclusive additional screenings and talks by the filmmakers. 18+ event.

The Star Inn • Free drop-in
