



## The best art exhibitions to see in the South East of England during 2015

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Preview

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**Get your diary out - it's Culture24's constantly updated guide to the best exhibitions to see in the south east in 2015**

**Ox, Bucks, Berks**



*Bernardo Strozzi (1581–1644), Head of a Young Man*

© *Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi, Florence*

What better place could there possibly be than a museum of art and archaeology? Step forward the Ashmolean in Oxford, whose strapline is exactly that but whose autumn show sees the accent firmly on the art with **Titian to Canaletto: Drawing in Venice (October 15 2015 – January 10 2016)**.

Developed with the Uffizi in Florence the show traces the role of drawing in Venice and its importance over three centuries. The Ashmolean is promising to dispel the myth that Venetian artists, including their greatest painter, Titian, had no interest in drawing.

While you're there, take a look at the display **Homage to Ganesha (until January 24 2016)** which explores the various representations of the popular, Elephant headed, Hindu deity.

**Modern Art Oxford** turn over the gallery to a series of landscapes constructed from wood, concrete, carpet and all manner of detritus. **FIELD (November 2015 - January 10 2016)** is an exhibition of major new work by acclaimed British artist **Anne Hardy** (b. 1970) who makes environments which incorporate sculptural installation, photography and audio.

One of the south's most adventurous galleries, **MKG** in Milton Keynes, is currently revamping and expanding, but you can still catch some art this autumn in its project space with **Flashback (until January 7 2016)**, which is a series of archival exhibitions reflecting on the Gallery's history by reviewing its exhibitions, events and projects of the past 16 years.

And if you have never visited the **Stanley Spencer Gallery**, in Cookham, perhaps Autumn will be the time to catch their ongoing Spencer overview, **The Creative Genius of Stanley Spencer (until March 2016)**, which displays an unprecedented combination of fine Spencer paintings, including the full permanent Spencer collections of Aberdeen City Art Gallery and Leeds City Art Gallery.

### **Sussex by the sea**



*Evelyn Dunbar, Men Stooking and Girls Learning to Stook (1940). Oil on canvas*

© The Artist's Estate, courtesy of Liss Llewellyn Fine Art

In Chichester, there's still time to see a string of excellent exhibitions at **Pallant House** with **(until October 25)** and **(until November 20)** providing ample reason to head to West Sussex.

But the autumn/winter highlight is **David Jones: Vision and Memory (October 24 2015 — February 1 2016)** - a welcome re-assessment of an elusive but fascinating literary and visual artist.

Pallant have collected together some 80 works from throughout his creative life, ranging from early sketches from the trenches of the Western Front to his late, great chalice paintings and inscriptions; a set of artworks that the gallery says "will surely be a revelation when seen together here".

Alongside, **Evelyn Dunbar: The Lost Works (until February 14 2016)** includes some of her famous 'Women during wartime' artworks and a range of highlights from an extraordinary hoard of previously unrecorded work recently discovered in the attic of a house on the Kent Coast.

The beautiful **Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft** has created a companion piece to Pallant's David Jones show with **The Animals of David Jones (October 24 2015 – March 6 2016)**. There's also the chance to catch **David Wolske: Abstract Letterpress (until January 3 2016)** in which the American uses traditional letterpress tools and materials to create stunning, and purely abstract, compositions.

Journeying coastward across the Downs, autumn at the **Jerwood Gallery**, in Hastings, offers the perfect opportunity to catch outgoing sea-themed show **Lowry by the Sea (until November 1)**.

**Horizons: Kettle's Yard at Jerwood Gallery (until January 3 2016)** sees three-quarters of the gallery given over to the touring collection from Kettle's Yard with the mid-20th century art treasures on loan, while the former house of Jim and Helen Ede undergoes a major redevelopment in Cambridge.



*Alfred Wallis, Sailing Ship and Orchard (circa 1935-37)*

© Copyright Angela Verren Taunt

In Bexhill **De La Warr Pavilion** has a major evolving installation with live studio called **In the Realm of Others (September 26 – November 29)** which showcases the work of artists from the pioneering Project Art Works, who help people with profound intellectual impairment to create artworks, installations, happenings and actions.

At **Towner Art Gallery**, in Eastbourne, the big autumn show is a feast of 19th and 20th century painting: **North to South: Highlights from the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Towner Art Gallery Collections (until January 24 2016)** brings paintings from one of the UK's most northerly galleries (currently refurbishing) to one of the most southerly with works by artists such as George Clausen, Paul Nash, Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden, Duncan Grant, Christopher Wood, Charles Conder, Joan Eardley and Alexander Nasmyth.

There's an intriguing show in store in the shape of **John Napier: Stages, Beyond the Fourth Wall (November 29 2015 - January 31 2016)**, which brings the world of theatre design and art together and into the gallery for an unlikely-sounding immersive installation that draws on the skills of artist/designer/sculptor Napier who has worked on theatre productions ranging from Miss Saigon to Starlight Express.

While you're there, also check **Julian Germain: The Future is Ours, Classroom Portraits 2004-2015, (October 10 2015 - January 10 2016)**, which explores the universal themes of school and childhood through film and photography, showing portraits of school children from 19 countries around the world.

And if you're in Brighton, the exhibitions at **Brighton Museum and Art Gallery** worth catching are Simon Roberts' photographic paean to the British pier, **Peirdom (until February 21 2016)** and the strange films of Ben Rivers, which are showing as part of **Cinecity (November 12-29)**.

## Kent



*Julian Perry, When Yellow Leaves*

© Julian Perry

In Margate, **Turner Contemporary**'s season of Mexican artworks continues with **Pedro Reyes: Disarm (Mechanized) (until January 10 2016)** in which Reyes makes automatic music from crushed revolvers, shot-guns and machine-guns.

The major autumn show is **Risk (October 10 2015 – January 17 2016)** which will be the first major UK exhibition exploring the world of creative risk-taking.

But as the autumn nights draw in, how's this for a paeon to indoor conviviality? **The Beane Art Museum and Library** in Canterbury is the proud owner of the archives of the Canterbury Catch Club, which met from 1779 to 1865 for jovial evenings of music, food, drink and tobacco, followed by the witty ballads and songs (catches) that were popular in England for centuries.

**Canterbury Catch Club: its music and musicians (until November 8)** celebrates these wonderful people via new audio recordings, video, and visuals.

There's another autumnal/winter offering at **The Historic Dockyard Chatham** who are concluding their diverse 2015 exhibition season in **No. 1 Smithery: The Gallery** with a selection of English landscapes in winter from **Rowland Hilder OBE (October 10 - November 29)**.

And at the wonderful **Mascalls Gallery at Paddock Wood**, **Julian Perry: When Yellow Leaves** (until December 12) seems at first glance to be an autumnally inspired exhibition of beautiful leaf paintings, but is actually about the pathogens and changing weather patterns that threaten Britain's woodland.

Despite the worrying subtext, Perry's paintings effuse a beautiful radiance recalling the Ladybird book illustrations of the 1960s.

## Surrey



*Evelyn De Morgan, The Storm Spirits (1900). Oil on Canvas*

© De Morgan Foundation



The wonderful **Watts Gallery** in Compton near Guildford has **The Art of Bedlam: Richard Dadd (until November 1)**, which explores the haunting masterpieces of the troubled Victorian artist, and **William and Evelyn De Morgan (until April 13 2016)**, which explores the partnership of the famous Victorian artist couple alongside the partnership of GF and Mary Watts.

At **The Lightbox** in Woking, **Warhol and the World of Pop Art (until November 1)** takes the likes of Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Claes Oldenburg and sets them amid the fashions, graphic and interior designs, furniture, memorabilia and iconic posters of the 1960s.

They follow this up with **Quentin Blake: Inside Stories (October 10 - January 17)**, a landmark show of illustrations offering an insight into some of his most important creations.

### **Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**



*Ben Johnson putting the finishing touches to 'Room of the Revolutionary', 2014*

© Ben Johnson

**Southampton Art Gallery** is the place to check out the remarkable hyperrealist paintings of British artist Ben Johnson for **Spirit of Place (until January 23 2016)** - the first ever retrospective exhibition to examine his 54-year career and a rare opportunity to see many of his works together.

While you're in Southampton, the **John Hansard Gallery** has the improbably titled **Eyes For Blowing Up Bridges: Joining the dots from the Situationist International to Malcolm McLaren (until November 14 2015)**, which examines the creative interplay between the likes of William Burroughs, Guy Debord, Asger Jorn, Alexander Trocchi and King Mob and their collective influence on punk Svengali Malcolm McLaren.

Across the Solent there's an interesting show at **Quay Arts**, Newport Harbour, where they are exploring **The Drawing Process (October 10 2015 - January 9 2015)** via a show of over 40 drawings, prints and paintings by the likes of Frank Auerbach, David Hockney, Elizabeth Frink, Graham Sutherland and Gillian Ayres.

And finally, back in Hampshire, at **The Crafts Study Centre** in Farnham, **Some English Slipwares (until December 12 2015)** reflects on the development of slipware in English studio ceramics by journeying from its genesis in the works of Bernard Leach and Michael Cardew to work of the present day.