



## A Feast for the Eyes: An exhibition of art with food at its heart

[Shaftesbury, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026] Shaftesbury Food Festival and The Kitchen Table Dorset proudly present *A Feast for the Eyes*, a vibrant new art exhibition bringing together painting, ceramics, and three-dimensional creations, all inspired by the universal language of food.

This one-off exhibition explores food not simply as sustenance, but as culture, memory, ritual, and visual delight. From richly detailed still-life paintings and expressive contemporary canvases to handcrafted ceramics and imaginative sculptural installations, *A Feast for the Eyes* invites visitors to experience food in an entirely new way.

Featuring a diverse group of artists, the exhibition celebrates the textures, colours, and connections created through food, and forms part of the wider celebrations surrounding the Shaftesbury Food Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

“Food brings people together, sparks conversation, and tells stories across generations,” says Sarah Rudder, founder of The Kitchen Table Dorset. “With *A Feast for the Eyes*, we wanted to create an exhibition that captures that same sense of warmth, creativity, and connection, only through art.”

As sponsor of the exhibition, The Kitchen Table Dorset continues its commitment to creating experiences with food at their heart. Known for its dedication to quality, innovation, and a love of food culture, the shop is a natural partner for an exhibition that blends culinary inspiration with artistic expression.



### Exhibition Details

**Location:** Shaftesbury Art Centre, 11–13 Bell Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8AR

**Dates:** 29<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Admission:** FREE entry

### Featured Artists

#### Maja Barker

<https://www.artpal.com/majabarker>

@maja.barker.art

Maja Barker’s paintings burst with bold colour, confident patterning, and a joyful sense of abundance. Drawing on her Sarajevo roots, extensive travels, and the sun-drenched light of the Croatian coast, she paints fruit and vegetables against richly patterned fabrics and pottery. Her acrylics are vibrant, uplifting, and unapologetically celebratory of everyday beauty.



**Joanne Rutter**

<https://www.joannerutterceramics.co.uk>

@joannerutterceramics

Joanne Rutter creates timeless, handcrafted stoneware rooted in traditional techniques and a deep respect for clay. Her work ranges from functional mugs and jugs to coil-built vessels and sculptural wall panels, each piece carrying the quiet rhythm of hand-building and the individuality of small-batch craft. Her style is earthy, tactile, and grounded in Dorset's ceramic heritage.

**Kate Toms**

<http://www.katetoms.co.uk>

@katetoms.mixedmedia

Kate Toms works in mixed-media character creation, crafting whimsical figures with strong narrative presence. Her practice blends needle-felting, textiles, and sculptural elements to build expressive, story-rich characters that feel both playful and emotionally resonant. Each piece suggests a world beyond the frame: gentle, humorous, and full of personality.

**Alison Turner**

<https://www.alisonturnermosaics.co.uk/>

@alisonjaneturner99

Alison Turner's mosaics are bright, intricate, and joyfully detailed, built from countless tiny tiles that form vibrant scenes and patterns. Her work spans exhibitions, public installations, and private commissions, characterised by meticulous craftsmanship and a desire to "brighten up the world one tiny tile at a time."

**Becca Perl**

<https://www.beccaperl.com>

@becca\_perl\_illustration

Becca Perl blends illustration, writing, and food storytelling into a warm, expressive visual language. Her drawings are gentle, characterful, and often narrative-led, reflecting her background in children's books and editorial illustration. Her style is inviting, approachable, and rooted in everyday observation.

**Lucy Bentley**

@bentleybluestudio

Lucy Bentley works in a contemporary, often abstracted visual style, exploring colour, texture, and atmosphere. Her practice leans towards expressive mark-making and layered surfaces, with a palette that moves between coastal softness and bold, intuitive contrasts.

**Charlotte Lorimer**

<https://dorsetvisualarts.org/artist-details/charlotte-lorimer>

@charlottelorimerart

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Charlotte Lorimer's work reflects a thoughtful, observational practice, often inspired by nature and a strong sense of place. Her pieces are intimate in scale, with a quiet sensitivity to detail and atmosphere.

Guests are invited to come hungry for inspiration and leave with a renewed appreciation for the artistry of food.

ENDS

[593 words]

For more information, media enquiries, or interview requests, please contact:

**Sarah Rudder**

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[www.thekitchentabledorset.co.uk](http://www.thekitchentabledorset.co.uk)

### **About The Kitchen Table Dorset**

The Kitchen Table Dorset is a Dorset-based shop celebrating food, craftsmanship, and community. With a passion for quality kitchenware and a love of gathering around the table, it champions local makers and creative talent.

### **About Shaftesbury Food Festival**

Shaftesbury Food Festival has become one of Dorset's most vibrant annual celebrations, transforming the hilltop town into a lively showcase of local flavour, creativity and community spirit. Each Spring, the High Street fills with artisan producers, street-food stalls, cookery demonstrations and the famously eccentric Gold Hill Cheese Race, drawing thousands of visitors to sample the best of the Blackmore Vale. Rooted in Shaftesbury's long agricultural heritage yet unmistakably contemporary in its energy, the festival champions independent makers, regional ingredients and the joy of sharing good food together and making it the perfect backdrop for an exhibition where art and appetite meet.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.shaftesbury-food-festival.co.uk/feast-for-the-eyes>