



## Artists Announced for Jane Austen Project

### Twenty-one Artists' Designs Commissioned for the Sitting With Project

After consultation with sponsors, Destination Basingstoke has revealed the names of the artists that will be painting the BookBenches to form the Sitting With Jane public art trail this summer.

The artists' designs will be painted onto a template 'BookBench', that acts as a 3D canvas – making the finished piece, not only a work of art, but an attractive piece of street furniture that will be accessible for all to see and sit on, to contemplate the artist, Jane Austen or the scene and landscape where it is located. It will form part of a worldwide celebration of Jane Austen's life, and the 'Jane Austen 200 - A life in Hampshire' event spearheaded by Hampshire Cultural Trust, and is one of many exciting and creative projects in Basingstoke and the surrounding area planned for 2017.

The twenty-one artists including some local artists and others from all over the UK, that have been selected from an overwhelming response to the call for designs, some are painting more than one BookBench.

Next week the first of a number of the artists will be painting in a shop unit in Festival Place (opposite Laura Ashley) so members of the public can see what is going on. First to paint will be Lois Cordelia Bulow-Osborne, from Ipswich and local artist Sian Storey – who is painting two BookBenches.

***“I love the idea of a BookBench, and am delighted to have had a design chosen for inclusion in the Sitting With Jane trail. My design "Look Upon Verdure" incorporates two quotations of Jane Austen, illustrating her love of Nature. Jane invites us to pause in our hectic modern lifestyles, sit with her on a bench and rest our eyes on nature, gardens and greenery:***

***“To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure, is the most perfect refreshment.”  
(Jane Austen, Mansfield Park)***

***I will paint my design onto the blank BookBench during a two day live speed-painting demonstration at [Festival Place](#) in Basingstoke town centre on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 1st March 2017. I welcome a live audience while I paint, so don't be shy: drop by, ask questions, and be inspired!”*** said Lois.

Complete list of artists commissioned:

They are:

[Sian Storey](#) - Basingstoke

Katy Stevens - Tadley

[Jane Callan](#) - Bath

David Graham - Liverpool

The Royal Mint - South Wales

[Jonathan Chapman](#) - Winchester

[Jenny Leonard](#) - Essex

[Laura Fearn Baker](#) - Bath

[Deven Bhurke](#) - Eastleigh

[Fatima Pantoja](#) - Fleet

[Michelle Heron](#) - London

[Julia Brooker](#) - Cardiff

[Nick Murley](#) - Birmingham

[Corrine Marsh](#) - Overton

[Mik Richardson](#) - Norfolk

[Traci Moss](#) - Littlehampton

[Caroline Fairbairn](#) - Southampton

[Lynsey Brecknell](#) and [Kieron Reilly](#) - Birmingham

[Lois Cordelia Bulow-Osborne](#) - Ipswich

[Treloar's College Art Students](#) - Alton

[Amy Goodman](#) - Winchester

The 'Wild in Art' event, delivered by Destination Basingstoke and in association with Festival Place, is a public art trail that will be staged in the summer of 2017.

- ENDS -

For more details contact Felicity Edwards [felicity.edwards@destinationbasingstoke.co.uk](mailto:felicity.edwards@destinationbasingstoke.co.uk) or on 07921765354. The artists will be painting in unit 56 Queen Anne's Walk, Festival Place Basingstoke between 28<sup>th</sup> February and mid April.

[www.sittingwithjane.com](http://www.sittingwithjane.com)

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Sitting With Jane is a Wild In Art event brought to you by Destination Basingstoke in association with Festival Place, who are headline sponsors.



**JANE AUSTEN 200**  
A life in Hampshire