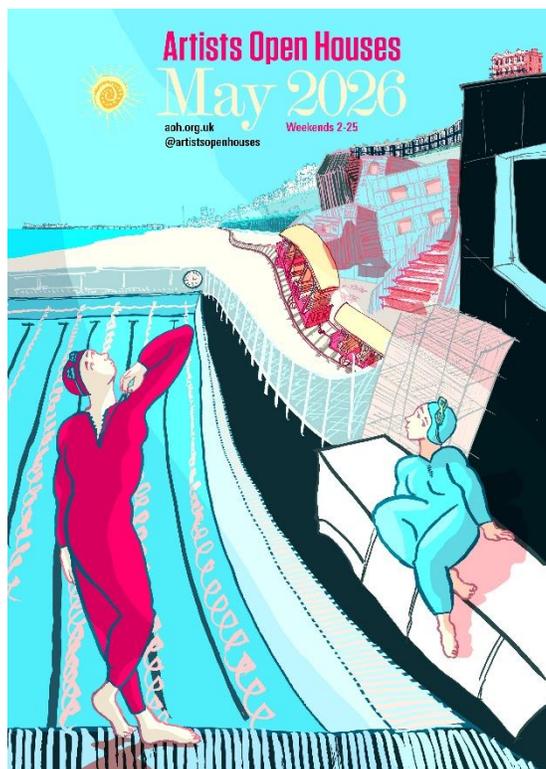


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IMAGES can be found [here](#)



Brighton Artists Open Houses Reveals a Brilliantly Brighton Brochure Cover for Its 45th Year



Now celebrating its **45th year**, with **197 houses taking part**, **Brighton Open Houses** returns for its spectacular celebration of creativity across the **first four weekends in May** (May 2–4, May 9–10, May 16–17 and May 23–25).

Artists Open Houses takes place across **Brighton & Hove**, extending to Rottingdean and Ditchling. Discover artworks in an extraordinary range of spaces, from houses and artists' studios to unusual locations including a hayloft, village hall, iconic seafront studios, coffee roasters, a tennis club, and even a garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

This year's programme is packed with highlights, with houses showcasing work across a plethora of traditional and experimental media, including **bacteria and DNA, inflatable sculpture, talking ceramics, sculpture, textiles, painting, craft** and much more.

Artists Open Houses are delighted to present this year's cover, a brilliant celebration of Brighton by **Alej Ez**, showcasing the city's rich historic building fabric and its setting by the sea.

Alej Ez says: "When my name was announced as the 2026 AOH Brochure Cover artist, it felt electric. Having participated in AOH for over twenty years, I understand the recognition and the potential that this award has."

This year's brochure cover image, **Modern Bathers**, is rooted in Alej's personal experience, art history, and Brighton's layered identity. It weaves together personal ritual, local history, Modernist influence, and Brighton's built and maritime landscape into one layered composition.

Alej Ez says: "I wanted to reference the tradition of bathing by one of Brighton's most famous historical characters, Martha Gunn, who is buried in St Nicholas churchyard. I am also a passionate swimmer, in the sea during the summer and year-round in the pool, training for competitions with my swimming club. And then what do you think of the technologies of swimsuits? This is without doubt a modern invention that takes us to this word in my title. *Modern Bathers*, which has taken me half a year to complete, sits within my series of prints, *People and Places, Revelations of Love*, which reflects on the Norfolk anchoress Julian of Norwich's book *Revelations of Divine Love*."

Throughout the festival, you can see *Modern Bathers* and other new prints in this series at Alej Ez's own Open House, his beautiful classic landscapes will be at **The Old Market**, and at **The Flamingo House**. Plus, Alej Ez will be showing his new *Dragons* series at the **Royal Pavilion**.



Boogaloo Stu - Fragrant Follies

Further highlights include:

- Nine ground-breaking artists are hosted at **Art of Pepita x Fatboy Slim**. Plus, visitors can join a visit from **Fatboy Slim** as **Pepita Coffee** launches contemporary artist **TBOY's** new coffee tin designs, and catch one of Brighton's most famous street artists, **The Postman**
- Art and science meet in **BioArt Transformations at Regency Town House**, a cutting-edge exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist **Anna Dumitriu**. A pioneer of the BioArt movement, Dumitriu works with living bacteria, DNA and technology to create intricate sculptures, installations and textiles, connecting the history of science and medicine with cutting-edge research in synthetic biology, genomics and AI.
- **Inflatable sculptures** make their Artists Open Houses debut this year with **Mandeep Dillon** at Harrington Road, showing photographic, digital and collage works that explore the transient physicality of more-than-human beings. Her inflatable installations are intentionally short-lived, with photographs and moving image as their only lasting record.
- **Flash tattoo events** at **The DOG SHOW**, Brighton's only Artists Open House, completely dedicated to dog-inspired artworks, on **2nd and 3rd May** are another first for the festival.
- Visitors can discover **Sculpture at The Secret Garden** and enjoy sundowners in this beautiful setting, presented in collaboration with Surrey Sculpture Society and curated and managed by two Shoreham-based sculptors, **Abby Martin** and **Teresa Martin**
- Experience a creative cacophony of spectacular art and design at **Sarah Arnett's Picture Palace**, from Artists Open Houses' 2024 brochure cover designer.
- Ceramics are celebrated indoors and outdoors across several houses. **The Great Pottery Throwdown finalist Adam Johnson** returns with **Make It, 11 Rugby Road** with Dan (and Egg the pug). Meanwhile, **Boogaloo Stu** offers a twist on traditional ceramics at **Wild Iris Perfumerie**, bringing gloriously colourful ceramics and playful dioramas, where characterful vases chat, ooze personality, and even receive their own perfectly matched spritz of fragrance.
- **Family creativity** shines throughout the festival. Three houses showcase **mothers and daughters** exhibiting together across two or even three generations. **LAND, SEA AND SKY** presents a three-generation collaboration with paintings by **Emma Christopherson**, her mother **Katie Christopherson** and her grandmother **Sue Letts**. After Sue's dementia diagnosis, the family began painting together regularly, discovering the powerful benefits of creative expression and connection.

- This year is also the **last chance to visit AfricArt at their final Open House**, featuring Nigerian modernist works from the renowned **Osogbo School** alongside contemporary **Zimbabwean stone sculpture**.
- Plus, creative knitting takes centre-stage at **Karla Courtney's Lobster Show**, where visitors can pick their own lobster featuring hand-knitted crustaceans and sea critters.

Artists Open Houses offers a unique chance to meet local artists and makers and discover their work in venues across the city. Every purchase directly supports both emerging and established creatives, while giving visitors a fresh way to **explore Brighton and Hove beyond the usual tourist routes**.

Judy Stevens, AOH Festival Director, says: *"We're delighted by the fantastic response to this year's call for Open Houses, with many much-loved venues returning alongside plenty of new ones to discover. There really is something for everyone this May. Huge thanks to Alej for the truly Brighton brochure cover, and to all the artists and makers who make Artists Open Houses so special by taking part."*

– ENDS–

Notes to Editors:

Download images [here](#).

For further images and information and interview request contact:

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Artists Open Houses

Artists Open Houses (AOH) helps artists connect with audiences in self-curated, non-traditional art spaces, which means usually (but not exclusively) artists' own homes. To this end they coordinate and promote open house festivals, during May alongside the Brighton and Fringe Festivals, and a Winter festival in November/ December. Involvement in AOH festivals is open to anyone living within the BN postcode area. The ethos is inclusive rather than selective, encouraging participation from artists and makers of all ages, at all stages of their careers and from all parts of the community, including school and college students and artists who might otherwise be excluded or marginalised from the art world mainstream.

Visit: <https://aoh.org.uk> **Instagram:** [@artistsopenhouses](https://www.instagram.com/artistsopenhouses) **Facebook:** [@artistshouses](https://www.facebook.com/artistshouses)

About Alej EZ

Alej is an artist and architect, originally from Seville and based in Brighton since 2007. Drawing is his passion. He creates work using a combination of pen, ink, lino, litho and collagraph printmaking, alongside digital tools. His motto is "Love life, love art!" Through his work, he depicts the physical, cultural and emotional world that surrounds us, with craftsmanship shaped by his architectural training, evoking emotional responses and delight in treasured memory.

Visit: <https://alejez.com> **Instagram:** [:alejezart](https://www.instagram.com/alejezart)