

Paint Pots and Coffee Cups

An illustrated guide to Oxford's cafés and creatives

“I love this project – it’s creative, beautifully illustrated, builds a community of local artists and gets their work better known, and provides a fabulous reason to visit cafés in Oxford and drink coffee and eat cake! What’s not to love?”

Jonny Baker – Pioneer, Artist & Tutor

After some time living in Oxford from 2012, editor Hannah Davis found that there were lots of really interesting artists dotted around the city, with beautifully diverse styles and levels of experience, but that there wasn't an obvious sense of an Oxford collective, and only small circles of artists seemed to know of each other.

With a background in publishing, illustration and creative writing, and a love for books and cafés, Hannah started dreaming about a book that would draw artists together by having their work – illustrations of the exterior and interior of a café of their choice – published in a book together and by being involved in a really accessible and non-intimidating project. The aim was to create something different to the ‘10 best cafés in...’ blog posts or trendy photography-based and wordy reviews in café guide books. Instead, the artists’ work does the talking.

The book is a full-colour 210mm square 120-page paperback book, published by Likeness Press. At the back, after pages of beautiful illustrations, is an index of all of the cafés with a short description for each, and a ‘What’s the Occasion?’ section, offering recommendations on occasions that certain cafés are best suited to, for example: working, holding a meeting, staying late, outing with a young child.

Hannah Davis invited each artist by email to get involved in this project, and some got in touch with her when they heard about it from another of the artists involved. In the mix, we’ve got Oxford Brookes University architecture students, full-time artists, attendees of the Oxford Urban Sketchers group, and generally keen creatives. Have a look at the list of contributors and get a sense of their style here: <http://likenesspress.org/the-book/the-artists/>. A recently successful Kickstarter campaign helped to fund the project, the page details [here](#). The book is available to buy for £12 from likenesspress.org and a few businesses in Oxford, including The Chester.

“I can’t wait to show off the beautiful artwork in this book to everyone, and get more visitors and locals excited about Oxford’s world of creativity and cafés.”

Hannah Davis