

June 9/01

Forum



catchthis

The Stroud Valley in Gloucestershire claims to be home to more artists than St Ives. To prove the point, artists from towns and villages throughout the area will welcome the public into their workshops for the fifth annual Open Studios Festival, which starts next Saturday.

Visitors to the festival can view work in progress and buy exhibits from the more than 90 artists who are taking part, including sculptors, painters, textile designers and furniture makers. Highlights include the exhibition of papier-mâché objects by Sybil Edwards – on display at Bisley Old Vicarage. Oils by Anthony Hodge can be seen on the Nallsworth Valley Trail and stone carvings and large-scale sculptures by Sebastian Brook and Jamie Vans will be displayed at Painswick and Haresfield respectively.

Among the exhibits at Stroud Valleys Artspace, in the centre of Stroud, will be paintings by Shelly Campbell (above), whose recent commissions

have included grass clothing that was worn by National Trust staff at the Chelsea Flower Show this year.

A *Taster Exhibition* at Bank House, Stroud High Street, contains one exhibit from each of the artists taking part and is helpful for planning tours. A minibus will leave Stroud Valleys Artspace at 10am and 2pm on June 16, 17, 23 and 24, to ferry visitors around the village studios.

Emma Shotton

● *The Stroud Valleys Open Studios: a Festival for Visual Arts runs from June 9 to 24, although the working studios are open only on June 16, 17, 23 and 24, or by appointment. Further information and a free colour catalogue from Stroud Tourist Information Centre (01453 760960) or Stroud Valleys Artspace (01453 751440).*