

Grass is greener for artist

NEARLY 100 artists are taking part in this year's Stroud Valleys Open Studios festival.

The Stroud valley boasts one of the largest collections of professional artists and craftsmen in the country, and visitors to this year's exhibition can expect to find a diverse range of styles from artists working in a wide range of materials.

Video art, ceramics, abstract painting, still life, photography, stained glass and textiles are just a few of the attractions.

One exhibitor, Shelley Campbell, who has a workshop in Stroud's Artspace studios, is displaying her 'grass' clothing and sculpture.

Shelley has covered clothing and furniture in grass, creating a body of eye-catching, abstract work.

"The idea is to combine things that don't normally go together. The result is surreal

and has shock value," said the Canadian-born artist, who came to Stroud in 1996.

"People really respond to it, there is a simply beauty about it, a luminescent green quality," she added.

The National Trust used some of her grass clothing at the Chelsea Flower Show to publicise environmentally-friendly gardening.

Also taking part is Angela Findlay, who uses mud gathered from the River Severn to create abstract, figurative and landscape paintings.

The Open Exhibition runs from June 9 to 24. Free brochures with full details are available from local Visitor Information Centres and libraries.

● **RIGHT: Going green...artist Shelley Campbell wearing one of her grass dresses**



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