

Artist Spotlight:

Kawaii Art & Culture Exhibition

The Kawaii Art & Culture Exhibition brings together a diverse group of contemporary artists exploring kawaii culture through sculpture, installation, ceramics, painting, illustration, fashion, digital art and mixed-media practice.

Curated by Wolverhampton-based artist Tamla Pearce, the exhibition explores kawaii as more than an aesthetic of cuteness, instead presenting it as a creative language connected to nostalgia, identity, imagination, memory and self-expression. Featuring artists from Wolverhampton and across the UK, this spotlight introduces the artists behind the exhibition and explores the different ways they interpret kawaii culture through their creative practices.

Tamla Pearce — Wolverhampton

Tamla Pearce is a multidisciplinary artist, curator and creative producer whose practice explores kawaii culture through ceramics, glass, sculpture, installation and immersive environments.

For the Kawaii Art & Culture Exhibition, Pearce is both curator and exhibiting artist, presenting her own artwork alongside designing and building the exhibition's immersive installation elements and photo zones. Her practice explores how objects, spaces and visual storytelling can create environments centred around joy, nostalgia, play and audience connection.

The exhibition reflects Pearce's wider interest in independent curation and community-led creative experiences, bringing together artists who explore contemporary interpretations of kawaii culture.

Tiegan Pearce — Wolverhampton

Tiegan Pearce is a visual designer and artist whose practice explores playful illustration and graphic communication.

Inspired by the expressive qualities of animals, Pearce creates designs that capture softness, personality and character through colour and visual storytelling.

For the Kawaii Art & Culture Exhibition, Pearce takes on both roles as an exhibiting artist and the designer behind the exhibition's visual identity. Alongside presenting her own artwork, she created the official exhibition posters and promotional materials, translating the themes of cuteness, creativity and accessibility into a cohesive visual style.

Sanne Chiza Blanco — Wolverhampton / Yorkshire

Sanne Chiza Blanco creates digital works exploring memory, relationships, identity and storytelling.

Her work for the exhibition explores girlhood in the digital age, examining how personal spaces, online culture, music, gaming and pop imagery shape identity and self-expression. Through soft, nostalgic imagery influenced by kawaii aesthetics, comics and internet culture, Blanco creates visual snapshots of contemporary experiences and emotional landscapes.

Zachary Boachie-Barrance — Wolverhampton

Zachary Boachie-Barrance is a self-taught artist whose painting practice explores imaginative worlds, gaming culture and virtual identity.

Inspired by manga, character creation and digital environments, his work examines how people construct identities through fictional worlds and online spaces. His paintings combine kawaii-inspired character design with themes of fantasy, technology and alternative realities.

Abigail Brodie — Wolverhampton

Abigail Brodie's interdisciplinary practice explores memory, subconscious imagery and the relationship between childhood, objects and identity.

Working across collage, sculpture and writing, Brodie explores transitional objects and personal symbolism, using kawaii aesthetics to examine ideas of comfort, nostalgia and emotional processing. Her work considers how cuteness can become a way of exploring deeper psychological experiences.

Abbey and Bear — Tunbridge Wells

Abbey and Bear is a digital illustration practice creating whimsical food-inspired artworks and fictional café worlds.

Inspired by Japanese character cafés, sweet treats and storytelling, their work combines cute characters with imaginative menus and playful designs, creating colourful environments that celebrate the joy and nostalgia of kawaii culture

.

ANGELDOONIES (by Erin) — London

ANGELDOONIES is the character-based art practice of Erin Bullimore, creating original creatures through art dolls, painting, fashion and illustration.

Each Angeldoonie exists within its own fictional world, combining cute aesthetics with storytelling and emotional themes. Through colourful characters and imaginative designs, the work explores friendship, individuality and creating comfort through fantasy.

Beth Iles — Bristol

Beth Iles is the creator behind Bubble B, an apparel and accessories practice inspired by J-fashion, anime and nostalgic alternative subcultures.

Her work explores wearable art, childhood memories and personal expression through textiles, clothing and mixed-media creations. Combining playful design with emotional storytelling, Bubble B celebrates the idea of bringing more joy, colour and individuality into everyday life.

Claud Booth — Manchester

Claud Booth is a painter and designer exploring nostalgia, gaming culture and childhood memories.

Her practice transforms familiar objects from early 2000s gaming culture into large-scale artworks, recreating Nintendo DS cartridges through detailed painting and sculptural techniques. Her work explores the emotional connection between objects, memories and personal identity.

Daisy Rutherford — Manchester

Daisy Rutherford creates colourful paintings inspired by imagination, nostalgia and the desire to reconnect audiences with childhood joy.

Her work combines playful imagery, including sweets, characters, animals and familiar objects, creating immersive worlds filled with colour and positivity. Through her paintings, Rutherford explores the emotional power of cute imagery and visual comfort.

Liz Johnson — London / Surrey

Liz Johnson creates textile and sculptural works exploring girlhood, fantasy, play and identity.

Her practice examines the relationship between childhood imagination and adulthood, using dolls, soft materials and kawaii-inspired aesthetics to explore themes of nostalgia, comfort and emotional experience.

Mari Spiliotopoulou — Cheshire

Mari Spiliotopoulou is a digital illustrator inspired by childhood nostalgia, anime and kawaii pop culture.

Her work creates colourful character-driven worlds influenced by early internet culture, games and childhood media. Through playful illustration, she explores themes of joy, familiarity and the emotional connections people form with fictional worlds.

Mengwei Chen – London

Mengwei Chen's practice explores folklore, memory and symbolic imagery through mixed-media painting and installation.

Drawing from East Asian traditions, ritual imagery and contemporary visual culture, Chen examines how symbols transform over time. Her work explores the relationship between history, fantasy, anime-inspired aesthetics and kawaii culture.

Natasha Raidl – Oxford

Natasha Raidl creates mixed-media paintings exploring memory, identity and personal experiences.

Inspired by magical girl anime, J-fashion, nostalgia and childhood interests, her work uses soft colours and playful imagery to explore emotional wellbeing and reconnecting with aspects of self-expression.

Paul Raymond – Gateshead

Paul Raymond's practice explores nostalgia, surrealism and grotesque cuteness through sculpture, collage and mixed media.

His work examines the contrast between comfort and unease, exploring how cute visual languages can both attract and challenge audiences. Through playful yet unsettling forms, Raymond investigates the emotional impact of contemporary visual culture.

Rebecca Dyer – London

Rebecca Dyer explores fantasy, surrealism and emotional experiences through painting, digital illustration and handmade accessories.

Her practice uses kawaii aesthetics as a way of exploring comfort, escapism and personal storytelling. Combining cute imagery with surreal and sometimes darker themes, her work examines the relationship between imagination and reality.

Zahra (6eejelly) – London

Zahra (6eejelly) is a mixed-media illustrator exploring memory, storytelling and everyday experiences.

Her work combines illustration, text and nostalgic references to anime, technology and childhood memories. Through dreamy visuals and personal narratives, Zahra creates artwork that reflects the connection between past experiences and present identity.