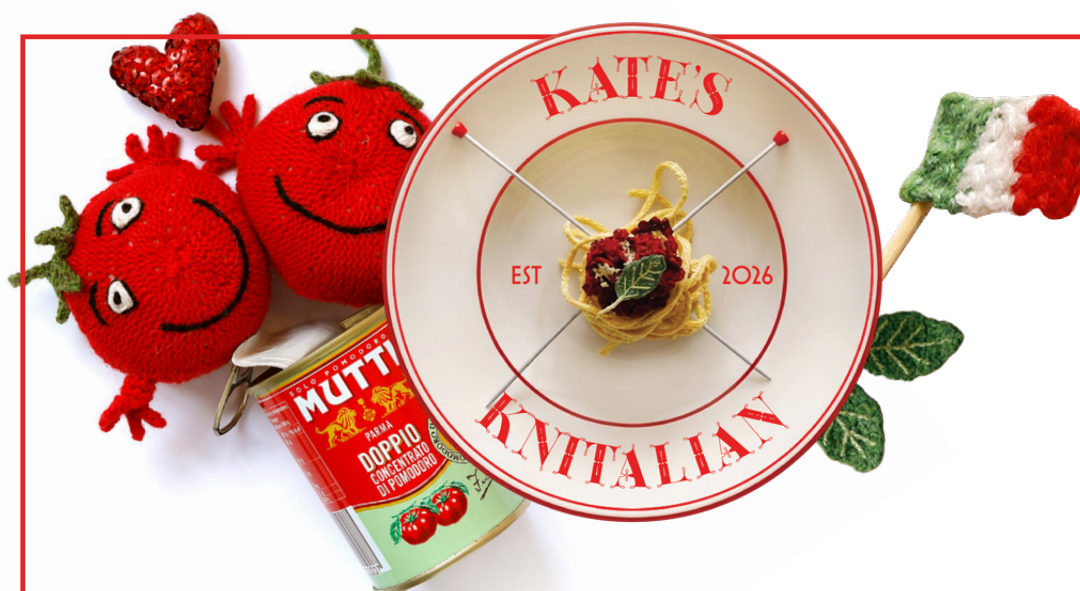




KATE JENKINS

KATE'S KNITALIAN

PRIVATE VIEW

THURSDAY
29 OCTOBER
2026

SITTING ONE 4 - 6 PM

SITTING TWO 7 - 9 PM

EXHIBITION DATES

30 OCTOBER - 5 DECEMBER 2026

In keeping with the spirit of the show, the Private View will take place over two sittings. Attendance is by reservation only, with guests invited to “book a table” at the restaurant by contacting info@air-contemporary.com to register their interest.

Air Contemporary is delighted to present *Kate's Knitalian*, a new solo exhibition by celebrated British textile artist Kate Jenkins, opening from 30 October to 5 December 2026. Transforming the gallery into a playful Italian delicatessen and restaurant, the exhibition will bring together a mouth-watering new collection of knitted, crocheted and embroidered artworks inspired by Italy's much-loved culinary culture.

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All artworks in the exhibition will be available to purchase

From strings of salami and wheels of cheese to tangled spaghetti, plump ravioli, farfalle, tins, desserts and generously laden plates, Jenkins recreates the familiar sights of the Italian deli entirely in yarn. Rich in colour, texture and meticulous detail, each work combines extraordinary craftsmanship with the artist's unmistakable warmth and wit. The result is an immersive celebration of food, design and the everyday rituals that bring people together.

Larger statement works alongside smaller collectible pieces, the installation blurs the boundaries between gallery and theatre, encouraging visitors to look closely, take part and enjoy the playful possibilities of Jenkins' meticulously constructed world.

For more than thirty years, Jenkins has pushed knitting and crochet beyond their traditional boundaries, transforming everyday objects and familiar foods into highly distinctive works of contemporary art. After graduating in Fashion and Textiles from the University of Brighton, she worked as a knitwear designer for leading international fashion houses before establishing her independent artistic practice.

Most recently, Jenkins was commissioned by Hermès to create the opening windows for its new flagship Maison at 166 New Bond Street, London. Entitled *The Rocabarn*, the theatrical installation reimagines an equestrian grooming salon for Hermès' first client: the horse. Created in crochet, knit and embroidery, the windows feature a knitted carrot chandelier, crocheted bridles and tiger lilies, framed hairstyles for horses and a colourful "hooficure" bar. The commission brings together Jenkins' exceptional technical skill, irreverent humour and ability to construct an entire world through textiles.

Food has long been Jenkins' enduring subject and visual language. Her first solo exhibition, *Comfort Food*, launched from her Brighton studio before travelling to London and New York, and her immersive installations have subsequently been exhibited internationally. Her work has also featured in commissions and collaborations with leading fashion, retail and lifestyle brands, including Royal Mail, Anthropologie and Viking Cruises, while her intricately crafted pieces are held in private collections around the world. In 2027, Jenkins will present a major solo exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, marking an important new chapter in her practice.

Beneath the humour and visual abundance of Jenkins' work lies a deep understanding of materials and an exceptional command of technique. Sequins suggest the glisten of oil or salt; carefully selected yarns capture the folds of pasta, the crumb of a pastry or the delicate leaves of a garnish. Objects that appear instantly recognisable reveal increasingly intricate details on closer inspection, rewarding both an immediate response and prolonged looking.

With *Kate's Knitalian*, Jenkins brings her signature combination of craftsmanship, nostalgia and irreverence to the flavours of Italy. Joyful, theatrical and made with extraordinary precision, the exhibition invites visitors to step inside a world where everything looks good enough to eat...but nothing is quite what it seems.

VIEW EXHIBITION INFO HERE >

CONTACT



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