10 TOP GALLERIES — AND WHAT YOU CAN BUY AT THEM

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON, THE TIMES, APRIL 5, 2021

Lucy Sparrow *Felt Aid Kit.* Courtesy Sew Your Soul / Lyndsey Ingram

Next Monday, shops and commercial galleries reopen. Rachel Campbell-Johnston picks the best from round the country — and gives you a fantasy shopping list

On-screen looking is simply not on a par with the living encounter. From next Monday our commercial galleries will be reopening. Don't wait another month for the public museums to do the same (on May 17). Britain's independent art spaces frequently put on top-quality shows. What's more, being smaller and more intimate, they can offer a more intense experience than the massive block-buster. Better yet, if you find yourself falling in love with an artwork you won't have to make do with the gift shop postcard.

The Bourdon Street Chemist by Lucy Sparrow at Lyndsey Ingram Gallery, London W1 *from April 19 to May 8*

A trip to the high street chemist need no longer be concerning. Lucy Sparrow came to fame in 2014 when, with the help of a Kickstarter campaign, she created an entire corner shop — news-papers, baked bean tins and cat litter included — out of hand-stitched felt. Now, for her seventh big installation, she invites us into a faux-reality felt pharmacy. Browse the shelves for anything from antacids to shampoo. Will you play safe with a packet of Panadol or opt for something more embarrassingly personal? Every hand-stitched artwork is picked off the felted shelf to be sold to you by the artist in an immersive performance.

Buy *Felt Aid Kit,* £2,000. At times of cultural crisis, open this emergency kit and examine the 18 individually sewn first aid art works inside.