

Amazing artwork at Chelmsford station

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A stunning array of art, recreating the famous Chappel Viaduct in Essex, is being showcased along a platform at Chelmsford station.

Local artist, Wladyslaw Mirecki, painted separate watercolours for every arch of the Viaduct's eastern façade – 32 in total – in a project that ran from 2019 to 2021.

The Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership has worked with him to bring prints of the paintings to Chelmsford rail station's platform where they have been placed along the railings to show the entire Viaduct.

The Community Rail Partnership hopes that the display at Chelmsford will encourage people to explore the area by train.

Jayne Sumner, rail engagement officer for the Essex & South Suffolk CRP, said: "Travelling on the Gainsborough Line to Chappel & Wakes Colne is really worth doing – not only to see the Chappel Galleries, the Viaduct and the East Anglian Railway Museum but also the beautiful countryside around the line and the lovely market town of Sudbury, birthplace of the 18th century artist Thomas Gainsborough."

The Chappel Viaduct is an important part of the area's history. Built in the late 1800s by Peter Bruff to span the River Colne, the 320m long bridge is considered one of the largest brick-built structures in Great Britain.

Seven million bricks, made from clay excavated from the nearby village of Bures, were used in its construction.

Wladyslaw Mirecki is a local self-taught artist who has painted all his life including during his science degree, as an industrial designer and as a co-proprietor of Chappel Galleries since 1986. His work has recently been acquired by the National Railway Museum, York, and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, as part of their permanent collections.