

WIN IT!

With all our favourite fashionistas being papped wearing a pair – Alexa Chung, Kaia Gerber, SJP – the ballet pump is officially summer's It shoe. If, like me, you love the look but hate the lack of support (so many ballet slippers have such slim soles, your foot slams the floor with every step), say hello to Vionic's new Alameda Woven Mary Jane Flat. As you'd expect from a footwear brand known for pairing on-trend design with podiatrist-designed technology, they are cute but also clever: the perforated upper and microfibre inner keep tootsies cool, while the biomechanically designed footbed hugs arches for maximum comfort. We've teamed up with Vionic to give away a pair of the Woven Mary Janes, which are £135 and come in a choice of cream, black, soft gold and denim blue.

For your chance to win, visit velvetmag.co.uk/entercomps and complete the simple online form using keyword 'MARY'. Entries should arrive no later than midnight on July 30 2026 and the usual Ts and Cs apply (see velvetmag.co.uk). One entry per person and one winner to be selected via randomiser.

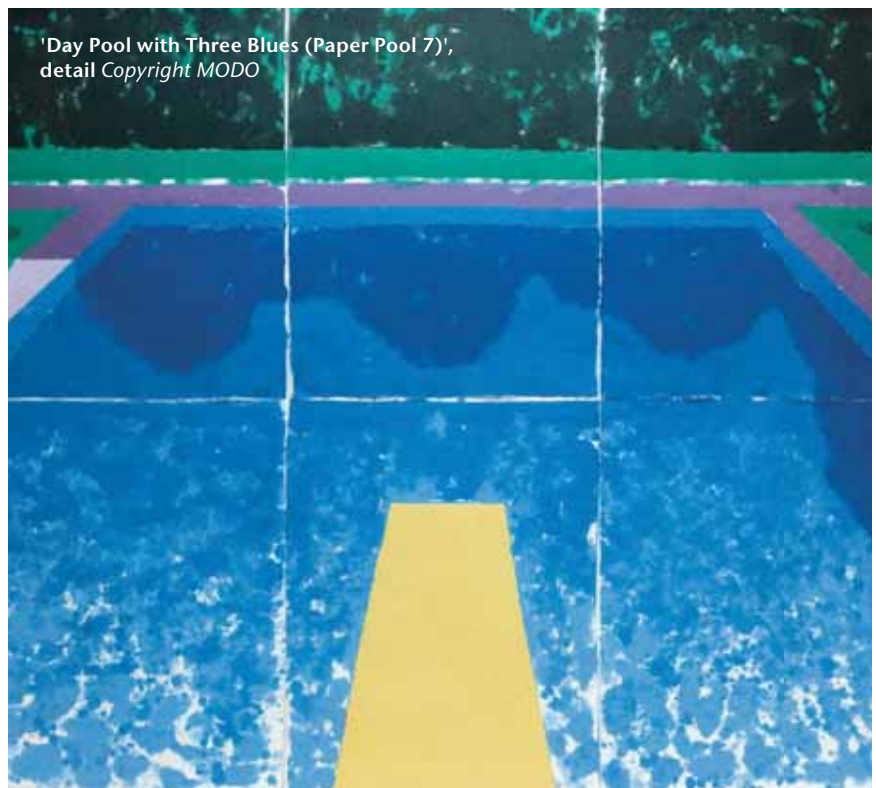
If Mary Janes aren't your style, you can choose another pair of Vionic shoes to the same value. Please note: the Mary Janes are subject to availability; if your size and colour is sold out, you'll be asked to choose an alternative. See the full Vionic collection at vionicshoes.co.uk



SEE IT

With his death aged 88 announced just as this issue went to press, David Hockney: Beneath the Surface brings iconic works by an iconic artist to Cambridge for the summer. Opening at city-central gallery MODO on July 1, it centres on his swimming pool pieces, bright with cerulean blue waters, and promises, say curators, "a playful and contemporary environment inspired by one of the most recognisable themes within the artist's practice". Having made his mark in the Pop Art era, Hockney has long been considered among the most influential British artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. The exhibition will be open for both free public access periods as well as timed and ticketed sessions, the latter held in support of Art and Culture Education CIC (ACE CIC), the organisation set up to challenge the systemic marginalisation of art within education.

Says Sally Clark, founder and director of The Hockney Gallery and MODO, the two-storey gallery space on Sidney Street: "David Hockney's work has always challenged the way we see, not just art, but the world around us. This exhibition is about creating an experience that feels alive, immersive, playful, and shared. We wanted to create something that feels exciting for Cambridge; something contemporary, unexpected, and open to everyone."



Find out more and book tickets at modoart.co.uk

BOOK IT

Love a good thriller? Bodies in the Bookshop, Cambridge's crime fiction specialist, is hosting the perfect pair of events this month.

On the afternoon of Saturday, July 18, author, screenwriter and director Tim Sullivan will demystify the crime-writing process at Wesley Methodist Church.

If you've ever wondered how seemingly ordinary people conjure foul situations in forensic detail – and parse out police investigations without ever being in the force – this is the talk for you. Tickets are £6 and include tea and cake.

Then, on the evening of Wednesday, July 22, Australian crime writer Garry Disher,



Image: Poppet Pics

author of the bestselling standalone Sanctuary, will speak about his latest novel Mischance Creek – the fifth book in his prize-winning Hirsch outback cop series. Again, tickets are £6.

Book now at timsullivan.eventbrite.co.uk and mischancecreek.eventbrite.co.uk