

Stephen Friedman Gallery

British Vogue
Christmas Jumper Haters, Rejoice! David Shrigley Has The Answer
Alice Newbold
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VOGUE

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There are Christmas jumpers, and there are David Shrigley Christmas jumpers. The British visual artist, who is known for his brilliantly sarcastic illustrations of the mundane aspects of life, has lent Sunspel his witty social commentary for a winter capsule edit. The highlight of which is Shrigley's take on the traditional Christmas knit: a lambswool jacquard jumper and a cotton loopback sweatshirt featuring three graphics in pride of place.

"If anyone else had asked me to make one I'd probably have said no, but as it was Sunspel I agreed," Shrigley, who is partial to the simplicity and quality of the UK heritage brand's knitwear, tells British Vogue. "I figured that if anyone would make a good job of it, it would be them. In the end, I think it turned out well."



Image: David Shrigley x Sunspel lambswool jacquard jumper, £235, [Sunspel.com](https://www.sunspel.com).

Shrigley's Arctic-inspired designs – which read "Yes to icebergs, no to zoos", "Save the ice, we need ice" and "Protect the cold places, and the other places" – actually fall into the anti-festive knit category. The Leicester-born, Glasgow-trained artist is not a fan of classic Christmas jumpers for two reasons: "They always seem to incorporate red and green which just never work together," he explains. "Secondly, and more importantly, they only get worn for a few days a year. For this reason, I wanted to make a winter sweater. That way people might want to wear it all season long. The winter

imagery got me thinking about the Arctic/Antarctic and inevitably, the climate crisis. So the pieces have ended up with a positive message that hopefully people will respond to."



Image: David Shrigley x Sunspel cotton loopback sweatshirt, £125, [Sunspel.com](https://www.sunspel.com).

There's no doubt people will support Shrigley's sideline in caustic knits. During the ongoing anxiety-inducing pandemic and the recent presidential election, his drawings have been a tonic for a nation that greatly appreciates his sardonic wit. "It's gratifying that people seem to respond so well to my work, particularly during the challenging times we are living through," says a modest Shrigley. "Making art for me is a means of catharsis; it's a helpful thing for me emotionally. I believe art and the arts in general are good for our health and wellbeing, whether we are making art or experiencing it. I

hope that's why my art is popular."

Shrigley fans can feel comfort and joy promoting the responsible message of his Sunspel sweaters – socks, boxers and tees are also available for men – but also in knowing that 10 per cent of profits goes

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to Stump Up For Trees. The community-based charity, which enhances biodiversity in the Brecon Beacons, is Shrigley's choice of non-profit. While he doesn't think his sustainably-minded capsule will change the world, he does believe "the more the climate crisis is front and centre of all the messages that people receive, the easier it will be for changes to be made."

Ditch the polyblend jumpers and embrace Shrigley's huddle of Polar creatures on a mission instead.