

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2016

BAFM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Marriage (Film Portrait Collage) CXI, 2013 by John Stezaker © the artist, courtesy of The Approach, London.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

SUNLIGHT 2

NEW PAINTINGS BY ROBERT PERRY RBSA

The paintings for sale range from A3 to 1.2 x 1.8 metres and are mainly in oils or gouache

Venue: RBSA Gallery, (Galleries 1 & 2)
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Tel: 0121 236 4353

Exhibition Dates: 5th - 17th September 2016
Opening times: Monday-Friday 10.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10.30am - 5.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm



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TAKE A LONG VIEW

BY DAVID FOSTER

On 24 May, something happened which hasn't been possible for goodness-knows how long, probably over 40 years (certainly longer than I've been in Birmingham, which is only 15 years): You could see the 'Big Brum' clock from Centenary Square! And since then, the view has become even clearer.

The demolition works on the old Central Library have been going on since before Christmas – as the Friends Office and all the BMAG staff know only too well! And now the view between Chamberlain and Centenary Squares is wide open.

There are new building works going on all around in the city. It seems to be a feature of Birmingham life – not only outside BMAG, but also around Thinktank, where Birmingham City University is creating a totally new campus at Eastside. If you haven't been there for a while, it's well worth a visit. It feels much more welcoming, with the Eastside park area through the centre providing a pleasant pedestrian environment. The Conservatoire building is the latest of the new constructions adjoining Millennium Point.

Rebuilding works create all kinds of consequences for their neighbours, and Birmingham Museums are neighbours for both of these developments. The demolition teams outside BMAG operate under tight contracts to keep dust and vibration levels below prescribed levels. The Collections Care team at BMAG enforce the dust and vibration conditions assiduously.

During the design stages I've been impressed by the attention that the architects of the Chamberlain Square buildings have paid to the Edwardian frontages of the buildings that BMAG occupies.



They are listed, of course, which provides legal constraints, but the architects have recognised that their appearance sets a context that it is worth their while to maintain.

Now that we have a long view between the Squares again, this reminds me of the real value of taking a long view in other ways, too. The Friends Committee has been doing this over the last few months, in reviewing the Constitution which governs how our charity is run. There have been many detailed and in-depth discussions.

These have ranged from the simple mechanics of changing names – 'Friends of Birmingham Museums' instead of 'Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery' – to more fundamental changes. We haven't finished the process yet which is why, when you receive your copy of the AGM booklet in a couple of months' time, it will not ask for your agreement to changes at this year's meeting. However, we would welcome your views in the meantime.

There are the usual means for sending us your views. You can write to the Friends Office (see contact details on page 3) or send an email to committee.fbmag@gmail.com.

Keep an eye on the new Friends website – www.fbmt.org.uk. This includes an Events page which gives an immediate list of current events. It also gives early notice of events not yet published in *Artefacts*.

Have relaxing and refreshing holidays! ■



Herbert

Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

www.theherbert.org

Nature Notes

Wildlife through the changing seasons

1 July - 20 November 2016

FREE



Mander Hadley
Solicitors

Jesse Bruton

6 July - 11 September 2016

Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
www.ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
Tuesday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm, free entry

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892.
Exhibition supported by the Mill Dam Trust and David Owen.



IKON



EVENT APPLICATIONS

For members of the Friends, the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine. If you are not a member and would like to apply for one of our events, send a letter to the Friends' Office address on page 3 stating: the title of the event(s); and your name; address; telephone number; how many places you require; the cost; the pickup point for coach trips; and any other relevant information. Include a cheque for the total amount made out to 'FBMAG'. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.



'THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION OF 1910: HOW PORTUGAL BECAME A REPUBLIC AND HOW BRITAIN REACTED TO IT'

Daytime Talk

Date: Monday 22 August 2016

Speaker: David Johnson

Cost: £9/£12 non-members

(Includes entrance and refreshments)

Meeting point: The AV Room - Gas Hall at 2:00pm for a 2:30pm start

(NB. This event was advertised in the last edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.)

In the early years of the 20th Century the Portuguese monarchy had become increasingly unpopular with the political classes in Portugal. The Republican movement became stronger by the year despite opposition and repression by the Portuguese

government. Meanwhile, the Monarchist parties who monopolised the government were quite unable to solve the financial problems of the country. In the end, the state could only operate under authoritarian measures, including royal decrees, which directly involved King Carlos in the machinery of the state.

Under the surface revolutionary plans were made, exploding into violence in 1908 when the King and his eldest son were assassinated in Lisbon. A demoralised government was eventually overthrown in 1910, and Portugal became a republic.

How did Britain react to the turbulence in its oldest ally? What happened to the young King and his supporters after the Revolution? What effect did the new republic have on the relationship with Britain in the crisis-ridden atmosphere of the years leading to the First World War?



'BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY ~ A MASTER PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT'

Evening Event

Date: Tuesday 6 September 2016, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Speaker: Janine Eason, Director of Engagement, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza

Venue: Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk

Janine will talk about the future plans for Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG). Birmingham Museums Trust are working in partnership with Birmingham City

Far left: Birmingham Big Art Project – Brian Griffiths
Left: Birmingham Big Art Project – Keith Wilson

Council to redevelop BMAG in a way that reflects its historic significance while ensuring its long-term future as a museum and art gallery of international stature. This presentation covers the early stages of architectural and display master planning to create new visitor facilities and displays that attract and engage bigger, more diverse audiences with the collection. Anyone interested in the future of BMAG will not want to miss this.



HARDWICK HALL (NT) AND CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE

Outing

Date: Wednesday 7 September 2016

Cost: £29 (includes coach, entrance to Tramway Village and driver's tip)

NB. Entrance to Hardwick Hall is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you; non-members pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:45am; Edmund Street (close to BMAG) at 8:15am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 8:30am. The journey should take 1 hour 30 minutes including a comfort break.

(NB. This event was advertised in the last edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.)

10:00am: Hardwick Hall & Estate – until 12:30pm.

It was the formidable 'Bess of Hardwick' who first created Hardwick in the 1500s. This year visitors can take a closer look at the life of Duchess Evelyn Devonshire, the 'Last Lady of Hardwick' as her newly restored bedroom completes the family rooms on the middle floor. You can discover more about the life of the duchess, her pioneering conservation work and the dramatic changes she made to the east view landscape, in the East Court Rose Garden. Find out about Arbella Stuart, the granddaughter of 'Bess of Hardwick' and niece to Mary Queen of Scots. She had a strong royal lineage and a realistic claim to the throne after Elizabeth I died. Educated and raised as a princess, but whose desperate attempts

to seek freedom ended with her being imprisoned in the Tower of London. The Hardwick estate, which surrounds the magnificent Hall, covers around 2,500 acres of stunning parkland, woodland, wetland and farmland. Hardwick is also a working farm, so see if you can spot the rare-breed Longhorn cattle.

1:00pm: Crich Tramway Village – until 5:30pm

Nestling on the edge of the Peak District, this award winning museum takes you on a mile-long scenic journey through a period street to open countryside with panoramic views over the Derwent Valley. Enjoy unlimited vintage tram rides, and explore 30,000 sq ft of indoor attractions. The Exhibition Hall houses the largest collection of vintage electric trams in Britain. On arrival you will collect your old penny to pay the conductor your tram fare, and receive a ticket you can use all day. Trams depart regularly from Town End, calling at various stops along the mile long track. The National Museum is an Accredited Museum and is home to a world renowned vintage tram fleet as well as vast collections of photographs and archive materials. The Tramway Museum is also home to a collection of period street furniture, which includes a Post box, a Police Box and a stench pipe.



BIRMINGHAM'S YEAR OF ARTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Guided Tour

Date: Tuesday 13 September 2016

Speaker: Lynsey Rutter, Community Engagement Team Leader, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £9/£12 non-members

Meeting point: The Gas Hall Reception in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery at 2:00pm.

Take a tour of 'Inspire 16' with Community Engagement Team Leader, Lynsey Rutter. The exhibition is a celebration of young creativity in Birmingham and is part of Birmingham City Council's Year of Arts and Young People. It contains a number of different elements including the Birmingham Big Art Project, sculptural models/maquettes created by children from

Birmingham Schools in collaboration with this project to commission and install an iconic piece of new public art in Eastside Park. Young people also present *'Yesterday's Dreams'*, a personal and local heritage project developed with Friction Arts. Discover *'The Big Read'*, Wild in Art's citywide call to support the arts and literacy through uniquely designed book benches. Also on display are 70 selected works from the *'Inspire 16'* Youth Art Competition, BMT's first youth arts competition, open to 11-19 year olds living in Birmingham.



'LONG LIVE THE SUPPORTERS OF BIRMINGHAM'

Evening Event

Date: Wednesday 14 September 2016, 6:30pm

Speaker: Gavin Wade, CEO of Birmingham Big Art

Project's commissioning agents, Eastside Projects and

Glyn Pitchford, Chair of the Birmingham Big Art Project

Cost: £5/£7 non-members. Refreshments will be available, but are not included in the ticket price.

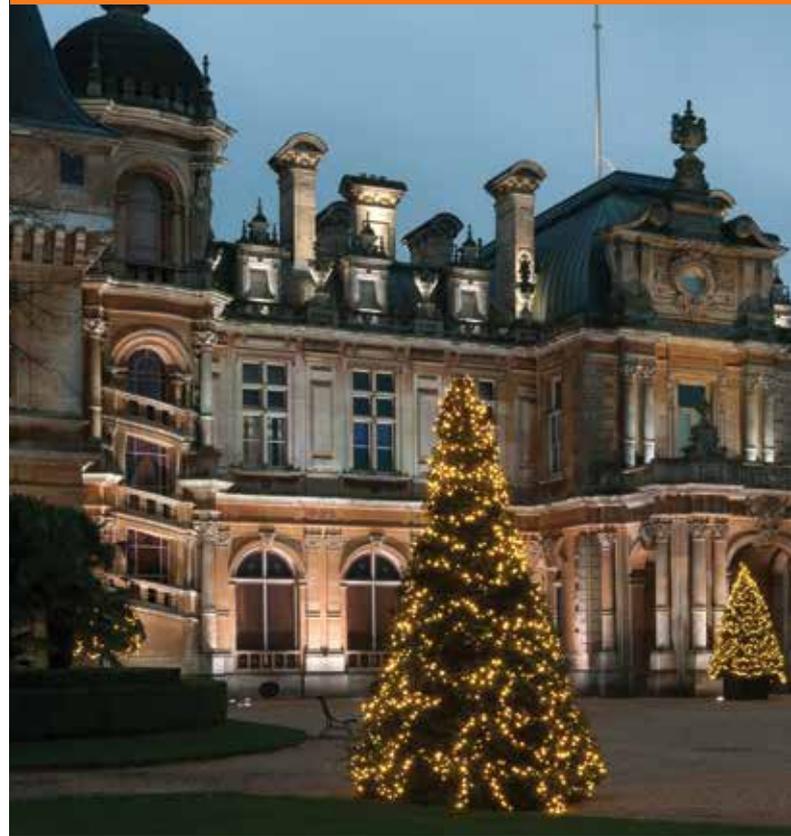
Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre, The Birmingham & Midland Institute

Birmingham Big Art Project (BBAP) is the most ambitious public art commission in Birmingham's long history. An exhibition presenting the five shortlisted artists' proposals commissioned by Birmingham Big Art Foundation to imagine a major new work of public art for the city of Birmingham to be completed in 2018 is currently touring the city, and will be at Library of Birmingham from September until November.

BBAP is calling on the public of Birmingham to share opinions on these proposals. What will make a difference to our city, what reflects Birmingham as an exciting and challenging environment for people to live and work in, which do you feel a connection to, and why?

BBAP believes that art is a vital part of our city's past, present and future and the aim is to commission a new public artwork that can support and expand the idea of a twenty first century city.

The five artists have been invited to develop new myths and to propose an artwork that could perform an iconic function within Birmingham. BBAP want an artist to engage with the many layers of Birmingham, translating them into objects, scenarios or events



that can produce new histories and possible futures. Come and find out more!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual Event

Date: Tuesday 20 September 2016, 7:30pm

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre, The Birmingham & Midland Institute

The AGM will commence at 7:30pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre and we anticipate that it will conclude by 8:30 - 9:00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the Lecture Theatre before the AGM from 7pm until 7:30pm at no cost. Light meals and snacks will be available from the BMI coffee shop prior to the lecture at 6pm, or between 7-7:30pm (these can be pre-ordered before the lecture). These will be chargeable.

As in previous years, if you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event, then please indicate the amount you are donating on the booking form, and include it in the amount you are paying for events bookings. Donation plates will also be available on the night. It is important that we know how

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



above: Christmas at Waddesdon Manor © National Trust

many will be attending for catering purposes, so please complete the Application Form which is included in this mailing and return it as soon as possible.

This year, the AGM will follow the third of our new quarterly series of Science Shorts which are being held in conjunction with the BMI. Professor David Williams, an engineering professor at Loughborough University, will talk about the story of gunmaking in Birmingham and the Black Country from the 17th Century to today (see page 12 for more details). The lecture will be held from 6-7pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre in the BMI and will cost £3. If you wish to attend, please fill in a booking slip if you have not already booked.



A PREVIEW OF 'NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM'

Evening Event

Date: Tuesday 4 October 2016, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Speaker: Katie Hall, Exhibitions Officer, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza

Venue: Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk

Join Exhibitions Officer Katie Hall for a preview of 'Night in the Museum', the first exhibition as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partners programme.

Leading British artist, Ryan Gander, has selected works from the Arts Council Collection's world class collection of modern and contemporary British art. Gander's innovative approach will provide an entirely fresh view of the Arts Council Collection and his show will challenge traditional methods of selection, prompting us to rethink the role of the curator, the art object and the spectator.

The exhibition will represent the work of over thirty artists, including Reg Butler, Patrick Caulfield, Jacob Epstein, Roger Hiorns, Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Kerry Stewart, Wolfgang Tillmans and Rebecca Warren. Also included are major loans of work by artists including Angela Bulloch, Matthew Darbyshire, Don Brown, Mario García Torres and Thomas Houseago.



THE GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM AND SNOWHILL MANOR ~ (NT)

Outing

Date: Friday 21 October 2016

Cost: £33.00 (includes coach, refreshments on arrival, guided tour of the Gordon Russell Design Museum and driver's tip) NB. Entrance to Snowhill Manor is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you; non-members pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park, (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8:00am; Edmund Street (close to BMAG) at 8:30am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 8:45am. We will board the coach for our return journey to Birmingham at 5pm. The journey should take approximately 1 hour 10mins. There will not be a comfort break.

We will make our way to Broadway in time to visit the Lygon Arms for tea/coffee/biscuits. This beautiful hotel has been welcoming travellers since the 16th Century. Built of mellow Cotswold stone, the hotel has been lovingly restored while retaining many of the hotel's original features. We will meet at The Gordon Russell Museum at 11:00am. Gordon Russell came under

Far right: Garth Evans 'Blue No. 30' (1964) and Kerry Stewart 'Untitled (Lucy)' (1996), Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artists 2016. Photo: Anna Arca.
Right: 1920s beaded dress. Photo: Sally Hoban

the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement from 1904 after his father had moved to Broadway in the Cotswolds. Following service as an officer in World War I, for which he was awarded the Military Cross in 1918, he became a furniture maker and designer. In 1925, Russell won a Gold Medal at the Paris Exhibition for a cabinet with internal drawers lined with boxwood, ebony and laburnum. In 2013 it was valued at £50,000-£60,000.

During World War II, Russell was instrumental in developing utility furniture as Chairman of the Government's Utility Furniture Design Panel. In 1943, Russell became Chairman of the Utility Design Panel and then, in 1947 he became director of the Council of Industrial Design (COID) (later renamed the Design Council). Notable designs by Russell include chairs for the re-built Coventry Cathedral. His brother, Richard Drew Russell, was also a designer. He was awarded a knighthood in 1955 for services to design. At 12:45pm the coach will take us to Snowhill Manor.

Snowhill Manor was the property of Winchcombe Abbey from 821 until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 when the Abbey was confiscated by King Henry VIII. Between 1539 and 1919 it had a number of tenants and owners until it was purchased by Charles Paget Wade, an architect, artist-craftsman, collector, poet and heir to the family fortune. He restored the property, living in the small cottage in the garden and using the Manor House as a home for his collection of objects. He gave the property and his collection to the National Trust in 1951. The house contains thousands of objects, collated by Charles Paget Wade, whose motto was "Let nothing perish". From 1900 until 1951, when he gave the Manor to the National Trust, Wade amassed an enormous and eclectic collection of objects reflecting his interest in craftsmanship. The objects in the collection include 26 suits of Japanese samurai armour dating from the 17th and 19th centuries; bicycles; toys; musical instruments and more. On 5 October 2003, the house was closed and its entire contents removed in order to effect a number of repairs. In particular, the

electrical wiring needed updating, new fire, security and environmental monitoring systems were installed, and the existing lighting was improved. The house reopened on 25 March 2005.

The garden at Snowhill was laid out by Wade between 1920 and 1923, in collaboration with Arts and Crafts movement architect, M. H. Baillie Scott. The design formed a series of outside rooms, seen as an extension to the house. Features included terraces and ponds.



'THE AGE OF JAZZ! ART DECO FASHION AND STYLE'

Daytime Talk

Date: Friday 11 November 2016

Speaker: Dr Sally Hoban

Cost: £9/£12 non-members (includes refreshments)

Meeting point: The AV Room – Gas Hall at 10.30am for an 11.00am start

Art Deco swept across Europe and America in the 1920s, bringing with it a transformation in design. From coloured, geometric patterns on fabrics and wallpapers and in book illustrations to the soaring, elegant lines of New York skyscrapers, Art Deco helped to introduce Modernism to a mass audience. Fashion design too was affected by the new style, bringing with it beaded 'flapper dresses', fabulous handbags and bias cut dresses. Hollywood was quick to reflect the new style, perhaps best epitomised in the films of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. This lecture gives an overview of Art Deco style and design and also looks at the movement's legacy today.



WINTER LIGHTS AND CHRISTMAS FAIR AT WADDESdon MANOR ~ (NT)

Outing

Date: Thursday 1 December 2016

Cost: £29.00 (includes coach, refreshments on arrival, introductory talk and driver's tip.)

NB. Entrance to Waddesdon is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you;

**EVENT
KEY**



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



non-members pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 9:00am; Edmund Street (close to BMAG) at 9:30am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 9:45am. The journey should take approximately 1 hour 30mins. There will not be a comfort break. We board the coach at 5:30pm arriving back in Birmingham at approximately 7:00pm.

On arrival at Waddesdon Village we will make our way to the Five Arrows Hotel for coffee and mince pies with brandy butter. The coach will then take us into the grounds and will drop us off a short walk from the Manor. Entry to the Manor House will be 3.00pm. (Not a guided tour). High heels are not allowed in the house.

In 2016, Waddesdon Manor will celebrate 'Winter Light at Waddesdon' with a light installation in the gardens and an imaginative son et lumière on the façade of the House. Inside, the famous Christmas decorations are inspired by the Collection, themed around Magical Materials from earth and sea. In the Stables, extraordinary bakers – the Biscuiteers – will show Waddesdon as it has never been seen before. As always at Waddesdon, beautiful decorations, events, food and gifts come together in a seasonal celebration that is not to be missed.

The Christmas Fair 2016: the hugely popular Christmas Fair will once again be held in the Manor gardens,

against the floodlit backdrop of the House, a stunning location overlooking the Parterre and the Vale of Aylesbury. With the cream of local artisan producers alongside some of the best loved independent traders from around the country, the Fair offers a great selection of unusual Christmas gifts and festive foods.



FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BARCELONA

Annual Event

Date: Monday 24 – Saturday 29 April 2017

Cost: £1,199 (Includes flights (from Birmingham), transfers, 5 nights half board, all coach tours, entrance fees and a tour guide throughout the holiday). Single room supplement £249. If you would like to share a twin room with another same sex member, saving the single supplement, please contact Barbara to see if this might be possible.

Day 1: We meet at Birmingham Airport for our direct scheduled Monarch Airlines flight to Barcelona. On arrival we are met by our tour manager and transfer to the 4* Hotel Pere IV in Barcelona for a five night stay on half board basis.

Day 2: In the morning we enjoy an included guided coach tour of Barcelona. Our first stop is Gaudi's Parc Guell. Built between 1910 and 1914 and commissioned by Eusebi Güell, who wanted to >

create a stylish park for Barcelona aristocracy, the park is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and, although many of the original plans did not come to fruition, the park remains one of the most popular visitor attractions of the city. We will visit Gaudi's home within Park Guell and then travel on to the church of La Sagrada Familia, Gaudi's great unfinished masterpiece. Our afternoon guided tour at the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya introduces us to one of the most important art collections in the city, including one of the greatest displays of Romanesque items and a Gothic collection from the whole of Spain and particularly Catalonia.

Day 3: Today we head to Figueres, the home town of Salvador Dali. On arrival we have a guided tour of the Museo Teatro, founded in 1974 and now the most visited museum in Spain. As well as housing works by the great artist, it is also the site of his mausoleum. In the afternoon, on arrival back in Barcelona, we visit Museu Picasso. The collection, which includes more than 3,500 works, is strongest on Picasso's earliest years, up until 1904, which is apt considering that the artist spent his formative creative years in Barcelona.

Day 4: We enjoy a guided tour of the elegant Eixample Quarter of Barcelona today. Designed during the middle of the 19th Century by Ildefons Cerdà, the Quarter is full of highly original buildings in the style of art and architecture known in Catalonia as 'Modernisme'. During our tour we visit Casa Milà. Built between 1906 and 1910 and usually called 'La

Pedrerà', Casa Milà is Gaudi's greatest contribution to Barcelona's civic architecture. Casa Milà completely departed from the established construction principles of the time, and as a result, was ridiculed and strongly attacked by Barcelona's intellectuals. We then visit the stunning Casa Batlló on the prestigious Passeig de Gràcia. Designed by Gaudi for Josep Batlló, a wealthy aristocrat, this extraordinary building was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005.

Day 5: Today we have a beautiful drive to Montserrat. Clinging to craggy mountains that rise to over 1,000 metres, Montserrat's Benedictine monastery affords dramatic views over Catalonia. The rest of the day is at leisure in Barcelona.

Day 6: We travel to Barcelona Airport for our direct scheduled Monarch Airlines flight back to Birmingham.

Brochures are available from The Events Coordinator, Barbara Preece. Telephone 0121 308 3427 or email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com

Full details of the tour are also available on the Tailored Travel website by clicking on the 'View Your Tour' tab at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote 'FRBM171'. ■

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 19 November 2016: 'Beyond Caravaggio' at The National Gallery (To be confirmed)

SCIENCE SHORTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THINKTANK AND THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Our series of quarterly short science talks are based on Thinktank's collection. They will be held from 6-7pm in the John Lee Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI).

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and BMI; and £5 for non-members (NB. Refreshments are not provided).

A HISTORY OF GUNMAKING IN BIRMINGHAM IN 10 OBJECTS

Professor David Williams OBE FREng. Tuesday 20 September 2016, 6-7pm. This talk by David Williams will use objects and images from Birmingham Museums alongside other collections to tell the story of gunmaking in Birmingham and the Black Country from the 17th Century to today. It will show how Birmingham gunmaking contributed to the economic prosperity and precision manufacturing heritage of our region and explore

its influence both nationally and internationally. David is an engineering professor at Loughborough University and was born and brought up in Birmingham.

SPITFIRE: FIGHTING TO PRESERVE BIRMINGHAM'S HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE

Lizzie Miller, Conservator, Birmingham Museums Trust. Tuesday 6 December 2016, 6-7pm. The Spitfire Gallery at Thinktank represents a small window into the history of the people, the places and the plane itself through the artefacts that were involved in Birmingham's wartime manufacture. The conservation team at BMT were a fundamental part in enabling these artefacts to be on public display. This talk will look at the role of the conservator within BMT, and how they participated in the planning, preparation, installation and long term care of the Spitfire Gallery. ■



ABOVE: Viv Wilkes, Volunteer of the Year 2016 with Janine Eason, Director of Engagement

What a fabulous summer our volunteer team have had this year! As always, the team have been achieving all sorts of things and I wish I had pages and pages on which to list them.

In June, we celebrated National Volunteers Week 2016, an annual national celebration to mark the amazing work of volunteers across the country. Over 23 million people volunteer in the United Kingdom and we are so lucky that over 700 people choose to volunteer with Birmingham Museums Trust and with the Friends each year.

During this celebration we held our annual Summer Picnic at Aston Hall to say a huge 'thank you' to all our volunteers. Unfortunately we picked one of this summer's wet days - so we had an indoor

picnic instead! The event was a busy one with our annual quiz, lots of tasty food and people having their caricature drawn, not to mention a fascinating tour of the Hall. This event was also an opportunity to present our Volunteer of the Year Award. This year, the award went to Viv Wilkes, who volunteers as a gardener at Sarehole Mill and has done so for over 6 years. It is down to Viv and the other gardeners' hard work that the grounds at the Mill look so beautiful. Congratulations to Viv!

We also had two Runners-Up this year. The first was Gillian who has been volunteering at Soho House for nearly three years and the second Runners-Up were our Asian Women's Textile Group volunteers. Of course, all of our volunteers are winners in my eyes and we need to extend an especially huge thanks to all the Friends volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes.

And here is just a taster of the activities which have been taking place so far this summer: our hard-working Heritage Interpreters have been out and about at the sites engaging with visitors; the wonderful gardening teams have been working hard to keep our grounds looking beautiful; our Silver Project volunteers have been busy helping us to conserve our silver collection; and the Friends volunteers have been working hard engaging people who visit Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery... this list, as always, could go on. Thanks to everyone for a fabulous summer!

So another great few months for all things volunteering. If you would like to join the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or other projects for the Trust then take a look at www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering. ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY BECKY FLETCHER, BMT VOLUNTEER
DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall
- Free entry to all Birmingham Museums' Heritage Sites
- *Artefacts* magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings
- 10% discount at Opus Restaurant (Cornwall Street) on production of a valid Friends membership card. Available for lunch or dinner, 7 days a week.

Plus discounts at the following venues (T&Cs apply):

- BMAG and Heritage Site shops
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices): www.shakespeare.org.uk
- Ironbridge Gorge Trust: www.ironbridge.org.uk
- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/cafés: www.museums.stoke.gov.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded from: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form in this magazine. Complete the form with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr TJ Bailey, Prof. RJ Ward, Ms P Franklin, Mr A Harris, Cllr JEC Alden. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

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Where did you pick up this copy of <i>Artefacts</i> ?:

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

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(Please tick)

SINGLE £32

DOUBLE £48
(full rate Includes 2 children under 16)

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STUDENT £15

I enclose a cheque for £ or I have transferred £ to SORT CODE 30-00-06
A/C NO 00248432

Please sign below and send to: Friends' Office, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH, together with your cheque (if applicable) to be made payable to 'FBMAG'

giftaid it

Boost your membership subscription/donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick this box: I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Friends of Birmingham Museums (trading as FBMAG). I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Date:

As we move into Autumn, Birmingham Museums' Director, Dr Ellen McAdam, picks out some key highlights for the remaining months of the year.

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

BY DR ELLEN McADAM

The first of our BMAG exhibitions as one of four Arts Council Collection National Partners opens in the Gas Hall on 26 November. The artist Ryan Gander is curating *Night in the Museum*, featuring his new and recent work. This will be a high-profile launch for the three-year Arts Council Collection project, which is supported by the Friends. I hope you will enjoy visiting it.

The *Faith in Birmingham* Gallery at BMAG sees the first of a series of planned changes with a new loan from the British Museum. From 24 September we will be displaying a 13th Century schist sculpture of Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu god (see page 31). Ganesha is revered as a remover of obstacles, the patron of arts and sciences and a figure associated with learning and wisdom. Here he is shown as a delightfully chubby figure, holding a bowl of his favourite sweets. Throughout October and November we will be celebrating Diwali and the Hindu faith in the Faith gallery.

From Thursday 8 September to Sunday 18 September we are coordinating *Birmingham Heritage Week* (BHW). BMT is organising events at all our Heritage Sites,

and 60 other organisations across the city are taking part. The aim of the week is to encourage people to celebrate and take pride in the city's extraordinary history, exploring historic sites and buildings and taking part in all sorts of activities. This is the BHW's second year, and we plan to bid for funding in partnership with other heritage groups to develop it as a major element of Birmingham's festival scene.

Other events coming up at the Heritage Sites include: Aston Hall's *Halloween Fright Nights*; the *Battle of the Somme* screening at Blakesley Hall on 11 September; and the *Middle Earth Weekend* for Tolkien lovers at Sarehole Mill and beyond on 3-4 September.

Finally, we won 3 awards in the first *What's On Readers' Awards 2016*:

- Best Museum and Art Gallery
- Best Exhibition (for the Staffordshire Hoard)
- Best Visitor Attraction in Birmingham – beating Cadbury World and the Sealife Centre.

The awards were announced following 25,000 public votes.

Thank you again for all your support. ■

NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM

RYAN GANDER CURATES
THE ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION

BY KATIE HALL, EXHIBITIONS OFFICER,
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST

Night in the Museum (Gas Hall, 26 November 2016 – 12 February 2017), curated by artist Ryan Gander, will be the first exhibition at BMAG as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partners programme.

The Friends' generous contribution of £45,000 ensured that we were eligible to apply to be part of this exciting partnership, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Arts Council Collection. This exhibition sees the beginning of an innovative three year programme showcasing the very best in modern and contemporary British art.

Ryan Gander is one of the most creative and interesting artists working in Britain today. He has achieved international recognition for a prolific and diverse body of work embracing a vast range of media. Gander deliberately avoids a signature style, preferring instead to remain open to limitless possibilities. Through his work he unpicks myths and creates new associations, all with a mischievous and deadpan wit and a fascination for storytelling.

Night in the Museum is a playful exploration of the idea that sculptures are not static, lifeless things, but are in fact living and constantly observing their

surroundings, from the artworks around them to the visitors in the museum. It prompts us to rethink approaches to curating and the role of the spectator in the gallery. The thinking behind this exhibition is the culmination of an ongoing line of investigation for Gander. Some years ago he was captivated by one of Degas' ballerina sculptures in the Carnegie Museum of Art. Gander says: *"There was something madly melancholic about her; despite her youthful agility, in her physicality she was immovable, heavy, sluggish...the plinth on which she stood had become an institutional ball and chain."* As time went by, he began to imagine her leaving her plinth and exploring the museum at night - *"Bored of her own setting, she would wander into the contemporary galleries... She would look for things made up of bright colours, angles and clean lines, exploring a world that she was neither from nor understood."*

Gander went on to create a series of sculptural pieces which explored this idea. A bronze ballerina wearing a modern leotard is posed as if in the act of exploring the museum. In every realisation, she is accompanied by a white plinth and an ultramarine-

blue cube. The plinth suggests the institution of the art gallery. The colour blue is important in Gander's work, and for him represents the abstract ideas often found in modern and contemporary art. The latest work in this series has been created as a commission for the Arts Council Collection 70th anniversary and is included in *Night in the Museum*.

When Gander first arrived to view the Arts Council Collection, he was struck by the quantity, diversity and quality of sculptural works of the human form in the collection. A scenario formed in his mind where these human forms might come to life at night and explore other works in the Collection. For *Night in the Museum*, Gander has selected artworks which appear to be involved in the act of looking. He has presented these sculptures so that they gaze at works featuring the colour blue. The sculptures have loosened

themselves from their confines in the institution and have become the spectators.

Night in the Museum opens in the Gas Hall on 26 November and runs until 12 February 2017. The exhibition will represent the work of over thirty major British artists, including Reg Butler, Patrick Caulfield, Jacob Epstein, Roger Hiorns, David Hockney, Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Kerry Stewart, Wolfgang Tillmans and Rebecca Warren. Also featured are major loaned works by artists including Angela Bulloch, Don Brown, Matthew Darbyshire and Liam Gillick. ■

Katie Hall will be giving an evening talk for the Friends about *Night in the Museum* on Tuesday 4 October - see page 9 for more information.



ABOVE: David Batchelor 'I Love King's Cross and King's Cross Loves Me, 5' (2001) and Uli Nimitsch 'Seated Figure' (1951), Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artists 2016. Photo: Anna Arca



Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH
Open Sat - Thu 10am-5pm and Fri 10.30am-5pm
Tel: 0121 348 8000. FREE ENTRY.

From Renaissance masterpieces and cutting edge contemporary art to Egyptian mummies and the iconic HP factory sign, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery showcases a world class collection and offers fascinating glimpses into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past.

Highlights include the finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in the world and the largest find of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered - the Staffordshire Hoard.

Don't miss the Birmingham History Galleries – packed with artefacts, local treasures and interactive displays that reveal captivating stories of Birmingham from

the last 500 years.

Turning to See: From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud

Until 4 September 2016. FREE entry. Acquired for the nation in 2014, Sir Anthony van Dyck's last self-portrait takes centre stage in this striking exhibition exploring the concepts of physical and metaphorical turning in portraiture.

This is the first ever exhibition curated by West Midlands born and internationally renowned artist, John Stezaker, who takes Van Dyck's dramatic turned pose as his starting point to create a spectacle of turning in the gallery.

From Rembrandt to Picasso, *'Turning to See'* showcases major loans from the National Portrait Gallery alongside highlights from Birmingham's collection and new work by Stezaker.

Van Dyck's *Self-portrait* was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery following a major public appeal with the Art Fund and thanks to the generous support of

Below: Ryan Gander, *'As old as time itself, slept alone'* (2016). A 70th Anniversary Commission for the Arts Council Collection ©the artist 2016. Photo: Anna Arca.



the Heritage Lottery Fund and others.

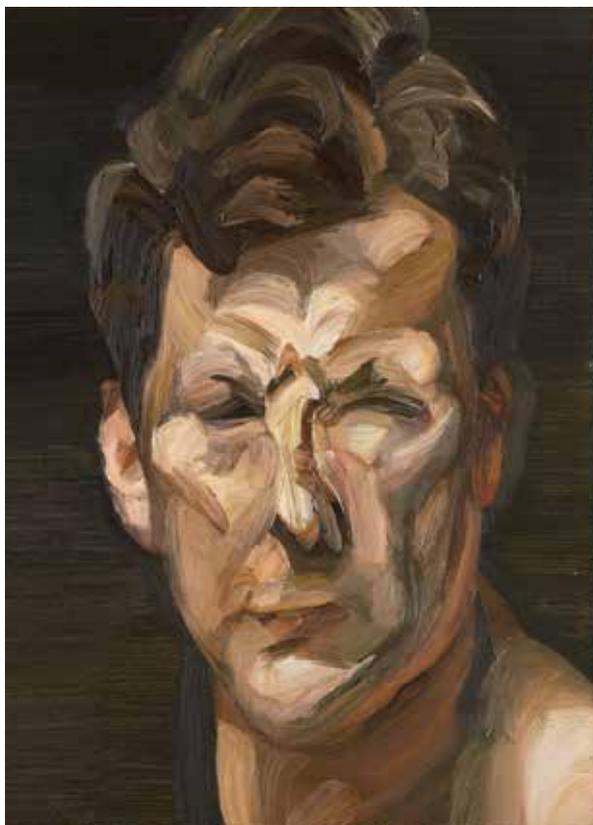
Night in the Museum: Ryan Gander curates the Arts Council Collection

26 November 2016 - 12 February 2017. *FREE entry.* Leading British artist, Ryan Gander, curates an exhibition from this world class national collection of modern and contemporary British art, as part of the celebrations for the Arts Council Collection's 70th anniversary.

Gander has selected artworks which appear to be involved in the act of looking and presents them so they gaze at works featuring the colour blue; a colour integral to Gander's work and which, for him, represents the abstract ideas often found in modern and contemporary art.

Gander's approach provides a fresh view of the Arts Council Collection and challenges traditional methods of selection, prompting us to rethink the role of the curator, the art object and the spectator.

The exhibition includes work by Patrick Caulfield, Jacob Epstein, Roger Hiorns, Henry Moore and Ben Nicholson.



Summer Talk: 'Birmingham in the Lead: The Rise of Art Galleries in Victorian Britain'

Thursday 15 September 2016. 6pm-8pm. £10 per person. *Booking essential online or at 0121 348 8038.*

The number of public art museums in Scotland and England exploded from the 1860s to 1914. In many cities and towns, a new type of gallery was built, aimed at broad general audiences, intended to entertain and instruct. Birmingham was outstanding in its creation of a highly professional and well housed collection.

Giles Waterfield is the author of *The People's Galleries: Art Museums and Exhibitions in Britain 1800-1914* (Yale University Press, 2015). In this talk, he considers the whole complex history in terms of founders, buildings, collections, temporary exhibitions and the public.

- 5.30pm The Edwardian Tearooms open for drinks
- 6pm Talk by Giles Waterfield
- 7pm Book signing/for sale and meet the author
- 8pm Close



75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA.
Open all year round. Tuesday-Saturday 10.30am-5pm. Closed Sunday and Monday except Bank Holidays. Free entry for Friends. Tour charges apply to non-members.

Step back in time to a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop. When the owners of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory decided to retire after 80 years of trading, they simply locked the door leaving a time capsule for future generations.

Enjoy a lively factory tour (available all year round) that includes demonstrations of traditional jewellery making and offers a unique glimpse into working life in Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter.



Left: Lucian Freud, 'Self-Portrait', 1963
© National Portrait Gallery



framed Tudor houses. Built in 1590 for Richard Smalbroke, a Birmingham merchant, Blakesley Hall is a peaceful haven set in an urban location. Discover the fascinating history of the Hall and enjoy the herb garden, orchard and beautiful grounds. With its spacious gardens, family trails and activities programme, Blakesley Hall is the ideal location for a family day out.



SAREHOLE MILL

*Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD.
Open until 30 October. Wednesday-Sunday 12-4pm.
Closed Monday and Tuesday except Bank Holidays and in school holidays. Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.*

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Sarehole Mill is one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and provides a unique insight into the lives of the millers who once worked here. On Wednesdays and Sundays, our volunteer millers demonstrate the mill in action.

Find out about J.R.R Tolkien's early life in Birmingham. Both the mill, and nearby Moseley Bog, were inspirations for his classic works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Today, the mill retains its tranquil atmosphere and the millpond provides a haven for kingfishers, moorhens, newts and herons.



ASTON HALL

*Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD. Open until 30 October. Tuesday-Sunday 11am-4pm.
Closed Monday except Bank Holidays.*

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion. Explore majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens. Uncover captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War.

The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN.

Open until 30 October. Tuesday-Sunday 11am-4pm.

Closed Monday except Bank Holidays.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB.

Open until 30 October. Wednesday-Sunday 11-3pm.

Closed Monday and Tuesday except Bank Holidays and in school holidays.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton. Get a glimpse into Boulton's world, including the family and servants' rooms as well as the lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests -

Far Left: 'Mask' (Film Portrait Collage) CLXXXV, 2015 by John Stezaker
© the artist, courtesy of The Approach, London.

the leading 18th-century intellectuals of the Lunar Society.

Don't miss the visitor centre displays which explore Boulton's output from button making and coin minting to silverware and steam engines.



WEOLEY CASTLE

Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ.

The ruins at Weoley Castle are over 700 years old and are the remains of a moated medieval manor. The site has been inhabited from the 12th century and, according to the Domesday Book, was part of the estates of William Fitz Ansculf. Weoley changed hands several times between 1485 and 1531 when it began to fall into disrepair. In the centuries that followed, stone from the castle was removed to build a nearby farm and the Dudley no.2 canal.

Today the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument of national importance. The ruins can be viewed from a viewing platform. Direct access to the ruins is only available on special event days or for groups and schools by a pre-booked guided tour. Please call 0121 348 8120 for further information.

Summer Talk: 'Finding History'

Thursday 11 August 2016. 6pm-8pm. £10 per person. Booking essential online or at 0121 348 8038. Hear Angie Boulton from the Portable Antiquities Scheme talk about her team's work liaising with metal detector users, archaeologists and the museum to record finds from across the region. Angie will highlight some of the key finds of her career and talk more broadly about the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme team.

6pm Café open for coffee and tea and an optional pre-talk tour of the castle ruins
7pm Talk by Angie Boulton in the Visitor Centre at Weoley Castle
8pm Close



Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG.

Open daily 10am-5pm.

50% entrance discount for Friends.

Charges apply to non-members.

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to a talking robot, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology.

This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Now Open! Thinktank Ichthyosaur and Marine Worlds Gallery

New research has allowed us to display the Thinktank Ichthyosaur skeleton in full for the first time. This amazingly preserved skeleton is over 3.5 metres long and is nearly 200 million years old! Find out about this giant swimming reptile and other creatures who live in the sea in the new Marine Worlds Gallery.



25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ.

The Museum Collections Centre is where 80% of Birmingham's collections are stored. There are free open afternoons from 1.30pm-3.30pm on the last Friday of every month. These must be booked in advance. Guided tours are also available by arrangement on other days. Please call 0121 348 8231 for more information or to book. ■

For more information on all events, exhibitions and other activities, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

IN THE AREA

BARBER INSTITUTE

*University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS.
Tel: 0121 414 7333. www.barber.org.uk*

Curious Beauty

Until Sunday 4 September 2016. Playful putti, nude nymphs and sinister satyrs adorn the intricate and imaginative 'Suite de Vases' by Ennemond-Alexandre Petitot (1727 - 1801).

This display showcases eleven of his beautifully eccentric, neoclassical drawings for ornamental vases, engraved by Benigno Bossi (1727 - 1792). First published as a set of 31 plates in 1764, they combine Petitot's architectural training and a decorative French aesthetic to create some of the most innovative and attractive vase designs of the 18th century.

All the World's a Stage

Until Sunday 25 September 2016. Marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, this exhibition, the Barber's first ever exploring Elizabethan and Jacobean art, focuses on the Bard's chief patrons at court, and on other leading writers - rivals and associates.

Organised in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery, London, it features major paintings, sculpture, miniatures and prints from the period 1590 - 1620, including outstanding portraits of Anne of Denmark, the Earls of Essex and Derby, Ben Jonson, John Fletcher and others, as well as iconic images of Shakespeare himself. A rare first Folio and other richly ornamented books of the time have also been lent by the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Research Library. Co-curated by the Masters' students from the University's Department of History of Art, Curating and Visual Studies, the show explores how artists construct character through portraiture, while delving into the lively world of the court during a golden age of British cultural history.

Tales of the City

Until Sunday 2 October 2016. From bustling alleys and intricate architectural detail, to sweeping panoramas of grand public celebrations and towering monuments, this display of prints and drawings captures the vibrancy and expansion of European cities from the 17th to the 19th century.

Curated to mark the recent acquisition of two views of Paris after Thomas Girtin, it includes works by outstanding artists such as Piranesi, Charles Meryon and James Abott McNeill Whistler.

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

*Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
West Midlands B15 3TR. Tel: 0121 454 1860.
www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk*

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Thursday 1 September 2016. Chapterhouse Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's best-loved romantic comedy. Let yourself be whisked away on a thrilling journey to the most magical of forests and meet star-crossed lovers, playful fairies and hilarious travelling players.

Beautifully designed Elizabethan costumes, a wonderful new musical score and enchanting woodland creatures go to make this an evening of unmissable summer garden theatre.

IKON GALLERY

*1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS
Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org*

Jesse Bruton

Until Sunday 11 September 2016. Jesse Bruton is one of the founding artists of Ikon. This exhibition tells the fascinating story of his artistic development, starting in the 1950s and ending in 1972 when Bruton stopped painting for painting conservation.



APPLE STORE GALLERY



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Unknown artist, Henry Stanley, 16th Earl of Derby.
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BIRMINGHAM
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Like many of his contemporaries, Bruton developed an artistic proposition inspired by landscape. Many of his early paintings were of the Welsh mountains and the Pembrokeshire coast. Alive to the aesthetic possibilities of places he visited, he made vivid painterly translations based on a stringent palette of black and white.

Rather than depicting the landscape destinations of a car journey, these works constitute Bruton's strong desire to embody the experience of the journey itself, their aesthetic restraint more appropriate for the artist's attempt to convey something essential derived from personal experience.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, including text by Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Director. The exhibition is supported by the Mill Dam Trust and David Owen.

Kan Xuan

Until Sunday 11 September 2016. Ikon presents the first UK exhibition by renowned Chinese artist Kan Xuan (born 1972, Anhui province). It will comprise a wide selection of single screen video pieces made since the late 1990s. Refreshingly unpretentious and economical in style, with familiar subject matter, they exemplify a profoundly philosophical approach to human existence.

Kan's work is often based on personal experience, and



she herself sometimes features, as in the early video *Kanxuan! Ai!* (1999) in which she is seen dashing through subway tunnels shouting her own name, as if searching for herself, and then answering in the affirmative, "Ai!". She is moving against a tide of heaving humanity, at once anxious, funny, romantic, whilst making a clear political statement, exemplifying the plight of an individual in the face of a totalitarian mass.

A happy girl (2002) on the other hand is wonderfully straightforward. Made soon after Kan Xuan arrived in Amsterdam, it shows an empty sculpture pedestal in a pleasant leafy garden, suddenly occupied by the artist, naked and dancing. The playful freedom of her movement suggests sheer joy, found both in herself and in her circumstances. Kan Xuan made a number of works during her time in Europe that similarly convey feelings of liberation and an exciting voyage of discovery. At the same time, she was becoming increasingly preoccupied by the effects of globalisation and its economic impact, both in China and the West, in particular for those who do not enjoy political power. She saw the widening gap between rich and poor as symptomatic of notions of true value becoming lost – reflected in works such as *Garbage* (1999) and *Island* (2006-2009).

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, including text by Shanghai-based writer Leiping Lu. The exhibition is supported by Galleria Continua, San Gimignano/Beijing/Les Moulins/Habana and W. Wing Yip and Brothers Foundation.

THE HERBERT

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

Tel: 024 7623 7521. www.theherbert.org

Korabra by Gavin Jantjes

Until Sunday 21 August 2016. In partnership with the Black Artists and Modernism project, the Herbert >

JESSE BRUTON

Until Sunday 11 September 2016

Ikon Gallery

Jesse Bruton in his studio (c.1969), Photo by Peter Cox, courtesy of the artist

Sculpture Trail



1st September – 4th October 2016
 at Jinney Ring Craft Centre
 Hanbury, Worcestershire B60 4BU
 01527 821272 www.jinneyring.co.uk

THE ART GALLERY
 artgallery.co.uk

Shine by Paul Burgess. Oil on canvas 38" x 38", £2,750.

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 f artgallery.co.uk art_gallery_uk

own art Member Gallery

SELLY MANOR MUSEUM

George Cadbury moved into Bournville village.
 The museum is home to the outstanding Laurence Cadbury Collection of oak furniture and surrounded by an authentic Tudor garden.

Open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm

www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk
 0121 472 0199

PHA paul holman associates

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will present paintings from the 'Korabra' series by Gavin Jantjes. Created in 1986 at the West Indian Association Club in Coventry, the paintings explore the transatlantic slave trade.

Up until the nineteenth century, around 300 million people from Africa were seized from their homes, and exported to become slaves. This series of paintings explores the issues surrounding this trade of people, and the suffering of those involved. The word 'Korabra' comes from Ghana and means 'to go and come back'. It is also a name for a funeral drum sounded for the dead. Many people died on the transatlantic crossings because of the terrible conditions in which they were held.

This exhibition is one of a series of interventions around public art collections in the UK carried out as part of the Black Artists and Modernism project.

Nature Notes

Until Sunday 20 November 2016. A multi-sensory exhibition, explore local wildlife like never before. Uncover the brilliance of the natural world and investigate how wildlife adapts and changes through the seasons. Discover things to touch and smell, exciting interactive activities, beautiful artworks and real natural history specimens that will change the way you look at the world around you!

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Until Sunday 25 September 2016

Barber Institute of Fine Arts

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2016

Until Sunday 18 September 2016. Now in its fifty-first year, the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' competition provides a showcase for the world's very best nature photography. The exhibition is brought to Wolverhampton as part of a worldwide tour. Take in some of the world's most astonishing sights and see nature at its most staggering in this blockbuster show put together by the world-renowned and trusted British institution, The Natural History Museum. ■



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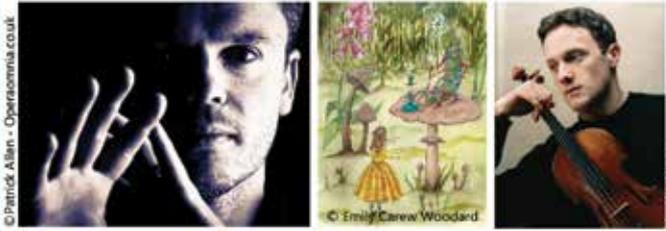
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Bewdley October festival 7th - 16th



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Full programme details: www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk

Tickets available from Worcester Live Box Office
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm Tel: 01905 611427
Please mention Artefacts when purchasing tickets.



OPEN DAY

on Saturday 10 September // 10am to 4pm

Join us for

- 'The History of the Institute': Talk & Guided Tour (at 10am and 1pm)
- Family Tree workshop with the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry
- Meet and greet the Society for the History of Astronomy
- Self-guided tours
- Vintage book, cake and stitch sale

To book for the Talk and Guided Tour email connie@bmi.org.uk or telephone 0121 2363591. All other sessions are drop-in.

THE BIRMINGHAM
& MIDLAND INSTITUTE
9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS
www.bmi.org.uk 0121 2363591



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DISCOVER ART MADE IN WORCESTERSHIRE

People can discover a wide range of art and craft created in Worcestershire this August bank holiday weekend when artists open their doors for the second Worcestershire Open Studios.



Above: Paintings by Becky Newell – Origin Arts Limited

Over four days, from Friday 26 to Monday 29 August, the public are invited into artists' studios, homes and shared spaces at 45 different locations across the county. Entry to all venues is free.

A diverse range of work by over 100 Worcestershire artists will be on show including painting, printmaking, glasswork, photography, pottery, jewellery and textiles. Visitors will have a chance to talk to artists about the inspiration behind their creations and watch some of them at work.

Abstract painter, Cherrie Mansfield, who is one of the event organisers, said, "Worcestershire Open Studios is a great opportunity to meet local artists and see a wide range of the fantastic artistic talent right here in our county. Whether you're an art lover or have never set foot in a gallery, you'll receive a warm welcome."

Sally Anne Morgan is showcasing a selection of her pastel paintings and linocut prints at her Worcester home. She says, "Pastels allow me to respond spontaneously to an inspiration and lino printing



Top left: Photograph taken by Richard Nicholls

Top right: Blowing in the Breeze - Linocut Print by Sally Anne Morgan

enables me to interpret the world in lines, shapes and blocks of colour. I love both!"

Also in Worcester, mother and daughter, Nicola and Francesca Currie, will share a selection of their contemporary still life paintings. And a stone's throw



away you can see a series of photographs taken by Richard Nicholls whilst out walking his dog.

There's plenty to see across the county's villages too. At Offenham's Art Pad a myriad of colour and texture in beautiful glass work awaits. While in Crowle, bird-lovers will enjoy seeing some feathered friends featured in John Horton's landscapes and panoramas. Visitors to Birlingham's Tigley Textiles will be treated to demonstrations of various techniques using textiles.

Tutors at Malvern School of Art are joining together at one of 12 venues in the town to put on a large exhibition featuring over 200 pieces of artwork produced using a variety of different approaches alongside a variety of traditional crafts including bookbinding, stained glass, silver jewellery and printmaking.

Galleries taking part include Malvern' Lyttleton Framing Gallery in The Kestrel Gallery and Studio, Origin Arts Limited and The Kings and Mangojuice Galleries, which are all based in Worcester. ■

A full list of participating artists and galleries can be found at www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk.

Left: Fused and stained glasswork flower at The Art Pad in Offenham

FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM

AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

BY JILL WARREN

A new gallery exploring how the different faiths that make up Birmingham's rich and diverse community have influenced and shaped the city. Lynsey Rutter, Community Team Leader, talks about her role at the Museum and in the development of the Faith Gallery.

Lynsey and her team are responsible for engaging the wider community in the activities and exhibitions that happen at the museum. Some exhibitions are about a certain section of the community while others cover a wider spectrum. The team's role is to make the museum experience relevant to visitors so they become more involved. Other ways the team do this is through the Health and Wellbeing programme and the Youth Forum.

The 'Faith in Birmingham' Gallery started as a blank space and an idea and took around 12 months to develop with a working group formed from the various religions across the city. They met once a month and worked in partnership with staff to develop the design, themes, exhibits and interpretation within the Gallery. The groups and individuals identified objects in the museum's collection, and from further afield, to enable them to tell stories about their beliefs to other people. The exhibition focuses on the six main faith groups in Birmingham; Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. Over the next two years the displays will evolve to incorporate more voices and faith communities into the gallery. Visitors

are invited to share their thoughts and contribute to an evolving dialogue around faith practice.

The Gallery includes sacred objects used in religious practice and explores the role of faith in places of worship, at home and within our journey through life. One of the earliest surviving copies of the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an, is on display in the Faith in Birmingham Gallery until early August and has attracted many of the Muslim faith to visit. Known as the Birmingham Qur'an, it is a globally important manuscript. The animal skin, or parchment, on which the text is written, has been dated to the period between AD 568 and 645.

From 24th September a statue of Ganesh, on loan from the British Museum, will be installed and the focus will be on the Hindu religion. Other Hindu artefacts will be shown and in October Diwali will be celebrated. The Gallery already features the iconic Sultanganj Buddha, a large bronze statue belonging to the museum plus 60-70 other artefacts. One of the main threads of the Gallery is to understand the way in which these artefacts are used in religious practice and how each religion manifests itself in everyday life. By including the



ABOVE: Schist figure of Ganesha, Orissa, 13th century © The Trustees of the British Museum

specialist knowledge of those practising the religion, it helps others to understand what an object means to a person and how they relate to it in their practice.

The museum is running a series of events tying in closely with the different calendars of each religion and more can be learnt from blogs, marketing and by word of mouth as different groups visit and engage with the artefacts and information. Some events focus on a particular faith while others are multi-faith including the recent 'Women in Faith' event for International Women's Day which drew a wider audience.

Faith in Birmingham has been developed by working in partnership with the British Museum and is an ideal place to learn more about the different religions within our community and to gain a better understanding of them and those that practice a faith. ■

Faith in Birmingham

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Telephone: 0121 348 8038

Website: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

General admission is free

THE BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE

BY JILL WARREN

Housed in an attractive Grade II* listed building, conveniently located in the centre of Birmingham, the Institute, founded by an Act of Parliament in 1854, for “the Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and the Midland Counties,” continues to pursue these aims. Dr Connie Wan, Deputy Administrator and Programme Development Manager, discusses the BMI’s role in the 21st century.

Conveniently located in the centre of Birmingham where the city’s business and commercial quarter meets the city’s cultural centre, the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI) offers its own cultural and educational activities, including a wide-ranging programme of Arts and Science Lectures, exhibitions and concerts for its members and others.

After completing her Masters and PhD in Birmingham, Connie Wan has made the city her home. She curated contemporary fine craft at the RBSA Gallery before moving on to several curatorial projects at Wolverhampton Art Gallery including an exhibition on Black Country artist Edwin Butler Bayliss. This was followed by a period reviewing the Pop Art collection at Wolverhampton with a focus on Pop Art in Europe. Her role at the BMI is a natural progression into programme management

with a brief to encourage more people to access the facilities of the BMI.

With no external funding the Institute relies on its membership fees and the hire of the numerous rooms within the building. Several societies with similar interests are affiliated to the Institute including the Birmingham Philatelic Society, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society, Midland Painting Group, Dickens Fellowship, Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry and the Victorian Society. The Institute is also home to the original Birmingham Library founded by local button maker John Lee in 1779. The Library was originally set up as a lending facility and the existing members of the BMI can borrow from the extensive collection of over 100,000 books and from the classical music collection which

TOP RIGHT: The Birmingham & Midland Institute
RIGHT: A glimpse of the extensive Birmingham Library
FAR RIGHT: The Lyttelton Lecture Theatre



features both LP's and CD's. One of Connie's future projects is to acquire funds to digitise the Library catalogue to improve access to the many historical documents currently in the archives.

With an extensive programme of lectures, concerts and visits, the Institute tends to cater for today's 'leisure learners' who are interested in more informal learning activities. However, the younger generation are encouraged to participate in events such as Flatpack Festival who return each year. Connie also recently invited the Birmingham Instagrammers to visit with the resulting publicity leading to an upturn in membership. With the appointment of Dean Kelland as the BMI's new artist in residence, Connie has also promoted the use of the more unusual areas of the building as site-specific performance spaces.



Future events include an Open Day, running as part of Heritage Open Days and Birmingham Heritage Week, on Saturday 10 September when the building will be open to the public between 10am and 4pm. Connie will be hosting Talks and Guided Tours and the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry will be running Family Tree Workshops. The original Birmingham Library is the 'must see' destination for those who prefer to take a self-guided tour. There will also be a cake and stitch sale, as well as a vintage book sale with all proceeds going towards the Library.

Tuesday 20 September sees the BMI hosting the third in a new series of lectures entitled 'Science Shorts' in conjunction with the Friends of Birmingham Museums and Thinktank, focussing on objects from their collection. In this case Professor David Williams, an engineering professor at Loughborough University, will talk about the story of gunmaking in Birmingham and the Black Country from the 17th Century to today.

On Monday 3 October, the current president of the Institute, Julian Lloyd Webber, will be giving his Presidential Address. The subject of his lecture is as yet unannounced, but details will be available on the website in due course. Details of membership of the Institute are also on the site. Perhaps it is time to visit the BMI and discover one of Birmingham's hidden gems. ■

**The Birmingham and Midland Institute,
Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS**

Telephone: 0121 236 3591

Website: www.bmi.org.uk



FRIENDS' CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Firearm missile (6)
4. (& 18. down) BMT property showing missile damage from the English Civil War (5, 4)
8. Well known local "character" involved in rural plots (3, 6)
10. Defined period, usually academic or administrative (4)
11. "Friends" activity. Entertaining and informative travel (4)
13. Star performer or leader of the pack (3)
14. Of the eye (5)
16. This is certainly wrong (6)
17. Sporting trophy fired many years ago (5)
19. Copy a person's behaviour (3)
20. Calmer or quieter period (4)
22. Photosynthesis area (4)
25. Warwick hospital which carries a peer's name (9)
28. These units now billed in thousands owe their name to an energy conscious innovator (5)
29. Seat for a king (6)

CLUES DOWN

1. Sir Jesse from Nottingham. We must all have taken his medicine at some time (4)
2. River giving its name to a local spa town. (4)
3. On home territory. Room just beyond the Mini Museum (3)
5. Episcopal area of responsibility and commitment (3)
6. Number of lives for a cat? (4)
7. Family name for the Maple tree (4)
8. Accepted abbreviation for most medical practitioners (2)
9. Floating platform (4)
11. Starters for golfers (4)
12. Defines a period of time, usually extensive and in the past (3)
14. Of the mouth (4)
15. Artist born in Deritend in 1783 and famed for his depiction of natural elements such as rain (3)
18. See 4 across (4)
20. Nottingham was famed for this product (4)
21. Cotswold town famed for annual Horse Fairs (4)
22. He wrote a lot of nonsense for the Earl of Derby's grandchildren (4)
23. Acceptable written abbreviation for the Queen (2)
24. A lady meeting this description could once be seen riding though a north Oxfordshire town (4)
26. We all do this to replace our energy reserves (3)
27. Occasionally even Monarchs get up to this on their thrones (3)

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ANSWERS Across: 1. Bullet 4. Aston 8. Dan Archer 10. Term 11. Tour 13. Ace 14. Optic 16. Error 17. Ashes 19. Ape 20. Lull 22. Leaf 25. Leicester 28. Watts 29. Throne Down: 1. Boot 2. Leam 3. Tea 5. See 6. Nine 7. Acer 8. Dr 9. Raft 11. Tees 12. Era 14. Oral 15. Cox 18. Hall 20. Lace 21. Stow 22. Lear 23. ER 24. Fyne 26. Eat 27. Sit

AUGUST 2016

 Monday 22 # *The Portuguese Revolution of 1910' – David Johnson*

SEPTEMBER 2016

 Tuesday 6 * *'Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery – a master plan for redevelopment' – Janine Eason*

 Wednesday 7 # *Hardwick Hall and Crich Tramway Village*

 Tuesday 13 * *'Birmingham's Year Of Arts And Young People' - Lynsey Rutter*

 Wednesday 14 * *'Long Live The Supporters of Birmingham' – Gavin Wade and Glyn Pitchford*

 Tuesday 20 # *Science Short: 'A History of Gunmaking in Birmingham in 10 Objects' – Professor David Williams*

 Tuesday 20 * *Friends AGM*

 Friday 30 - ** *Weekend Away in Chichester*

Monday 3 October

OCTOBER 2016

 Tuesday 4 * *'A preview of 'Night in the Museum' – Katie Hall*

 Friday 21 * *The Gordon Russell Design Museum and Snowhill Manor*

NOVEMBER 2016

 Friday 11 * *'The Age Of Jazz! Art Deco Fashion and Style' – Dr Sally Hoban*

 Saturday 19 ++ *'Beyond Caravaggio' at The National Gallery (TBC)*

 Thursday 24 \$ *Private View of 'Night in the Museum'*

DECEMBER 2016

 Thursday 1 * *Winter Lights and Christmas Fair at Waddesdon Manor*

 Tuesday 6 * *Science Short: 'Spitfire: Fighting to Preserve Birmingham's Heritage for the Future' – Lizzie Miller*

APRIL 2017

 Monday 24 - + *Friends International Holiday to Barcelona*

Sunday 29

* Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).

** Fully booked, sorry!

Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine.

+ No application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara Preece to book your place.

++ Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing.

\$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included.

EVENT KEY

ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR

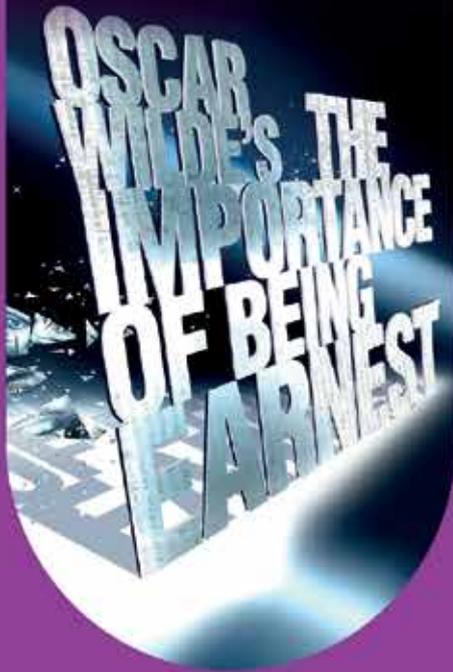


OUTING

THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARTEFACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2016

9 - 24 SEPTEMBER

Birmingham Repertory Theatre
and Curve present



6 - 15 OCTOBER

Kneehigh, in association with
Birmingham Repertory Theatre and
Berkeley Repertory Theatre, presents

**946:
THE AMAZING STORY
OF ADOLPHUS TIPS**

Adapted by Emma Rice and
Michael Morpurgo



**21 OCTOBER
- 5 NOVEMBER**

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, in
association with Bill Kenwright, presents

THE EXORCIST

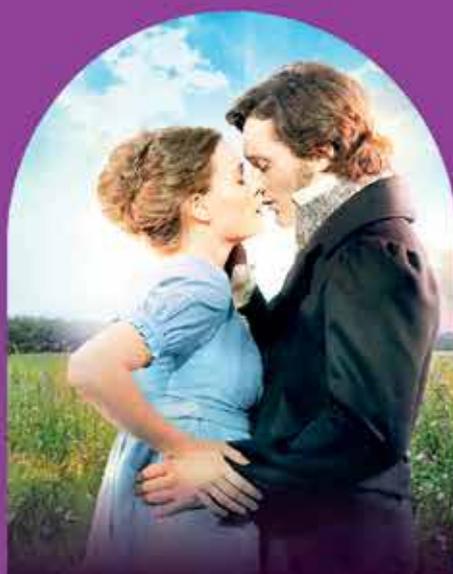
A play by John Pielmeier
Based on the novel by William
Peter Blatty



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ISLAND**

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novel by Robert Louis Stevenson