

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2016

BAfM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Self-portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck, c.1640 © National Portrait Gallery, London. www.npg.org.uk/vandyck

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



DEGAS' DANCERS

A Courtauld Masterpiece

11 March – 19 June 2016

Free

www.theherbert.org



CONTENTS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF LOCAL PRIDE!



PAGE 17

CHAIR'S REPORT	04
FRIENDS' EVENTS	06
EXHIBITIONS PREVIEW	12
NEWS FROM THE OFFICE	14
NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS	15
STORIES FROM THE VOLUNTEERS	16
THANK YOU - FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS	17
DIRECTOR'S REPORT	18
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS - WHAT'S ON	20
IN THE AREA	24
EXHIBITIONS FOCUS: BMAG'S MINI MUSEUM	30
FOCUS ON LOCAL CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS: RBSA	32
FRIENDS' DIARY	34

CONTACTS

JOHN POWNALL

Events Coordinator
Email: friends.of.bmag@googlemail.com
Tel: 0121 348 8332

BARBARA PREECE

Events Coordinator
Email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com
Tel: 0121 348 8332

MARY WHETNALL

Finance and Events Administration
Email: mary.whetnall@googlemail.com
Tel: 0121 348 8333

MARGARET BONIFACE

Archivist
Email: margaret.boniface.fbmag@googlemail.com

LYNDA PERRIN

Membership
Email: fbmagmembership@googlemail.com
Tel: 0121 348 8330

MELISSA PAGE

Administrator and Artefacts Editor
Email: melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com
Tel: 0121 348 8330

FRIENDS' OFFICE

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery,
Chamberlain Square,
Birmingham. B3 3DH
Tel: 0121 348 8330
Events: 0121 348 8332
Email: friends.of.bmag@googlemail.com
Website: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends
Reg. Charity No. 528895

DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY PW MEDIA & PUBLISHING LTD

GRAPHIC DESIGN PAUL BLYTH

PRINTED BY STEPHENS & GEORGE

ADVERTISING SALES

DIANE STINTON
Email: diane@pw-media.co.uk
Tel: 01905 727903



HELLO AND WELCOME

BY DAVID FOSTER

What a show Birmingham - and Birmingham Museums - has put on during 2015!

- The city finally got its new station – Grand Central – and will soon have its new tram service running through the city centre;

- The CBSO bade a fond farewell to another conductor who became world-famous while based here: Andris Nelsons after Sakari Oramo after Simon Rattle – what a track record!

- The city hosted a wonderful public art display of colourful owls with their accompanying visual and literal punning, some of which appeared at the Museums sites. The

steady stream of visitors following their own owl trails showed once again, should it need to be emphasised, that public art wins hearts, minds and smiles;

- Birmingham Museums again showed us the stunning *Holy Grail* tapestries that it holds in its collection. I hope you did see them because – my friends in Conservation tell me – they won't be on display again for a long time, perhaps a decade (They are very precious and easily damaged by too much exposure to light and humidity);

- And to top off the year, the current display of magical paintings by Edward Robert Hughes is a further instance of our museum's ability to attract a unique assembly of works never before shown together.

At a more modest level the Friends has had to show itself. Birmingham Museums Trust's decision to launch its own Membership Schemes during 2015 obliged us to articulate more distinctively what it is that the Friends has to offer. At a recent meeting of the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM), I discovered to my surprise that a growing number of Museums are



Photograph taken by W. J. Lane

also facing similar questions. There are likely to be more articles on the subject of 'Friends and Members' in future issues of *Artefacts*.

Our most public presence – the Friends desk in the Industrial Gallery – has had to move to accommodate the new Mini Museum, which the Friends helped to create. In moving to its new position, we have been able to smarten both its appearance and the presentation of information. To help attract more Friends we shall be designing a new recruiting leaflet in 2016. We may also try to

find simple ways for you to tell us what you think of the changes that have already happened and those which may be in prospect.

Your committee of Trustees is also keen to develop a more up-to-date digital presence for the Friends. Currently, our internet presence is limited to a single page on the Birmingham Museums website. We have taken the first step towards creating a greater online presence by acquiring our own identity - fbmt.org.uk. For the moment, this address will take you to our existing page on the BMT website. However, in the future, we will be adding more material, including the latest events.

A welcome change in 2016 would be to have more Friends becoming actively engaged with the organisation itself as well as with the Birmingham Museums sites. I'm not only pleading for more committee members (although new volunteers for this role are always welcome) but rather emphasising the rewards you could find from volunteering. The *News from the Friends Volunteers* article on page 15 of this issue describes the multitude of different ways that you could become more involved. ■



THROUGH THE SHOP WINDOW

30 JANUARY - 17 APRIL 2016

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

J.T. Southorn LTD on The Parade. c.1920

Opening Times

Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am - 5pm

(10.45am-5pm from April 2016)

Sunday 11am - 4pm

Monday closed (except Bank Holidays)

Admission Free



Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

Royal Pump Rooms,

The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa,

CV32 4AA

Tel: 01926 742700

www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms



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.



ORIGINS OF THE INSTITUTE: THE HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Event Type: Evening Event

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

Speaker: Dr Connie Wan, Deputy Administrator and Programme Development Manager at The Birmingham & Midland Institute.

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

Venue: We will meet at Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk for a talk; and then move on to the BMI for a tour.

This event is open to non-members – see note on page 6.

Join Dr Connie Wan for a talk, followed by an informal tour of the building and find out more about one of Birmingham's hidden gems. The Birmingham & Midland Institute has a rich and illustrious history; established 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'; it had Charles Dickens as one of its early Presidents. Located in a prominent Grade II listed building on Margaret Street, the Institute continues to promote science, literature and the arts through study days and lectures. It is also home to the original Birmingham Library, established in 1779.*



ERASMUS DARWIN HOUSE & LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Event Type: Outing

Date: Friday 11 March 2016

Cost: £20 (includes refreshments on arrival, a light lunch with hot drinks, a guided tour of the Cathedral Close and a guided tour of the Cathedral)

Meeting points: Lichfield Railway Station at 10:30am; or at Darwin House, Lichfield at 11:00am. There is a 10 minute walk from the station to Darwin House. The train journey from New Street Station is free with a senior bus pass until you reach Blake Street. The return journey from Blake Street to Lichfield is £3.70. Trains run every 10 minutes. There are several car parks in Lichfield.

At Darwin House we will have refreshments before going outside for a guided tour of the Cathedral Close. We will then return to the House for a light lunch (included). Time permitting, you may walk around the house; guides will be available to answer any questions you may have. Erasmus Darwin was the Grandfather of Charles Darwin. He moved into this house in 1758. He was a Doctor, a Scientist, an Inventor, a Poet and one of the founder members of the Lunar Society. Erasmus Darwin House have organised a programme of events throughout 2016 to celebrate The Society's 250th

Far left: Introducing the Mini Museum at BMAG

Left: The Birmingham & Midland Institute at 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham

anniversary. Luminaries, such as Matthew Boulton, William Small, Josiah Wedgwood and James Watt, visited the House and their discussions and influential ideas began to change society and the contributions of these talented Midlands men are still remembered today.

At 2:15pm we will walk to the Cathedral in time for our tour at 2:30pm. This tour will have an emphasis on the stained glass windows. The Lichfield Cathedral Tour carries you through 1300 years of History. You will encounter the important periods of History which have defined the Cathedral from the first Bishop of Mercia at Lichfield, St Chad's, through the Saxon Church, Norman and Gothic Cathedrals to the Reformation, the English Civil War and beyond.

We will make our way back to Lichfield Station at approximately 4:00pm.

'INTRODUCING A MINI MUSEUM'

Event Type: Evening Event

Date: Tuesday 22 March 2016, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Speaker: Andrew Fowles, Learning and Access Manager, 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.

This event is open to non-members – see note on page 6.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is home to the city's first 'Mini Museum' - a space devoted to early years children and their families, filled with story books, hands-on activities and new displays of natural history. Launched in autumn 2015, our Mini Museum is dedicated to the needs of very young children and marks a step change to how we respond to an ever growing need to develop family provisions across BMT. Andrew Fowles will explain the process, collaboration and considerations used to create a brand new space and discuss the challenges and opportunities that initiatives such as the Mini Museums can bring to our audiences and service.



FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM

Event Type: Guided Tour

Date: Wednesday 23 March 2016

Speaker: Lynsey Rutter Cost: £9

Meeting point: The Round Room in Birmingham

Museum & Art Gallery at 10:45am for an 11:00am start.

'Faith in Birmingham' is a new gallery exploring faith practice in the city through museum objects, community loans and personal stories. Join Community Engagement Team Leader, Lynsey Rutter, to hear how the gallery was developed in partnership with local faith communities and to find out more about specific objects on display.



THE ART, VILLAS & HISTORY OF ANCIENT ROME

Event Type: Outing

Date: Monday 11 to Sunday 17 April 2016

Cost: £1,099.00 (Include flights (from Birmingham), transfers, 1 night HB, 5 nights B&B, all coach tours, entrance fees and a tour guide throughout the holiday, drivers' and tour guides' tips). Single supplement £249.00. If you would like to share a twin room with another member, therefore saving the single supplement, please contact Barbara to see if this is possible.

This event is open to non-members – see note on page 6.

Day 1 We meet at Birmingham Airport for our direct scheduled Monarch Airlines flight to Rome. On arrival in Rome, we will be met by our local guide who will accompany us on all transfers and daily excursions. We then transfer to the centrally located 3* Hotel California for a six night stay. A set three course dinner without drinks is included in a restaurant close to our hotel on the second evening, and the remaining five nights are on a bed and breakfast basis. It will be possible to book dinner at this restaurant on all other evenings through the tour guide (several members have already requested this).

Day 2 We will enjoy a guided introductory tour of Rome, visiting the Forum and the Colosseum, Rome's greatest amphitheatre commissioned by Emperor Vespasian in AD 72. The Colosseum could hold up to 55,000 people, who were seated according to rank. This will be followed >

by a short time at leisure in the Piazza Navona area of Rome, with time for late afternoon tea and to admire the fountains of Neptune and Moro. Dinner is included at a restaurant close to our hotel this evening.

Day 3 In the early afternoon we will visit the fortress of Castel Sant' Angelo. The fortress takes its name from the vision of the Archangel Michael by Pope Gregory the Great in the 6th Century as he led a procession across the bridge, praying for the end of the plague. We then visit the Pantheon, the Roman temple of all the gods' which is the most extraordinary and best preserved ancient building in Rome.

Day 4 The Vatican Museums will be our destination. Home to the Sistine Chapel and the Raphael Rooms, as well as one of the world's most important art collections, the Vatican Museums are housed in palaces originally built for Renaissance popes such as Julius II, Innocent VIII and Sixtus IV. During our visit we see the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo frescoed the ceiling for Pope Julius II between 1508 and 1512. After a tour of St Peter's Square with its 284 colonnades, we visit St Peter's Basilica where you can see Michelangelo's magnificent 'Pieta' and the splendid tombs of the Popes.

Day 5 Today we will visit the church of Santa Maria del Popolo (Our Lady of the People), notable for its frescoes by Pinturicchio and Caravaggio's 'Crucifixion of St Peter' and 'Conversion of St Paul'. We continue to one of Rome's most important galleries and also one of its most beautiful, the Borghese Gallery. Our guided tour on arrival introduces us to a marvellous collection of paintings, sculptures and antiquities amassed by Cardinal Scipione Borghese in the early 17th Century, including Bernini's sculpture 'Apollo and Daphne' and paintings by Rubens, Caravaggio, Titian and Bassano.

Day 6 We visit the delightful hillside town of Tivoli. Here we will see Villa d'Este, commissioned and built by Cardinal Ippolito d'Este, and one of the most famous Renaissance residences in Europe. We then see the ruins of Hadrian's Villa, one of the largest and most spectacular villas ever built in the Roman Empire.

Day 7 A short time to take some last minute photographs or buy a souvenir before we return to the airport.



Above: The Orchard, 1890 by William Morris, John Henry D

NB - Please note we reserve the right to alter the above itinerary if required for operational reasons. Given the historic nature of the places visited, a certain degree of walking will be involved, and this holiday may not be suitable for those with mobility problems. There will be no application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara directly to book your place. Email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com or telephone 0121 308 3427.



ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE COLLEGE OF FOOD (UCB)

Event Type: Annual Event

Date: Thursday 21 April 2016 at 12 noon

Cost: The cost will be £23; this includes three courses, wine, coffee and service.

We have arranged our annual visit to the College of Food at UCB in Summer Row and have selected two starters, two main courses and two desserts. Please ensure your selections and any dietary requirements are clearly indicated on your applications.

Your choices of Starter:

- A. Crown Prince Risotto – Sage, Parmesan, Toasted Pumpkin Seeds, Pumpkin Oil
- B. Oeuf Meurette – Poached Egg, Burgundy Wine, Bacon Lardons, Button Onions, Bread Croute

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME EVENT



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



earle, Morris & Co © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Main Courses:

- C. Sole Caprice – Grilled Fillets of Lemon Sole, Banana, Creamed Potato, Pickled Yellow Mustard Seed, Sauce Robert
- D. Groombridge Pork – Slow Cooked Smoked Pork Belly, Compressed Apple, Celery Root, Pomegranate

Desserts:

- E. Baked Apple Streusel, Toffee Glaze, Custard Sauce
- F. Chocolate Fondant, Salted Caramel, Pistachio Ice Cream

We will meet in the Ground Floor Reception area at UCB, Summer Row at 12 noon for 12:15pm. Please bring your ticket with you.

TREASURES OF THE MUSEUM

Event Type: Guided Tour

Date: Thursday 28 April 2016

Speaker: Jane Howell Cost: £9

Meeting point: The Round Room in Birmingham

Museum & Art Gallery at 10:45am for an 11:00am start.

Visiting groups are often offered a tour entitled 'Treasures of the Museum'. However, on this tour we are going to examine exactly what this title means. What is 'a treasure'? Who has decided this? We shall look at some of the recognised treasures such as 'The Last of England' and see if we can answer some of the questions. Finally, we shall look at more recent

acquisitions and see if any of them are likely to become treasures of the future.



WESTONBURY MILL & WATER GARDENS & HERGEST CROFT GARDENS

Event Type: Outing

Date: Monday 16 May 2016

Cost: £29 (includes coach, entrance to both properties, guided tour of the gardens at Hergest Croft and driver's tip)

3 Pickup Points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 08:45am; Edmund Street (close to BMAG) 9:15am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 9:30am.

Fourteen years ago, the urge to use an old water wheel led Richard Pim to build a tower which people have enjoyed so much that it led to other follies, the latest being a giant water powered cuckoo clock. There is a large plant sale area which produces an unusual range of perennials for all types of soil but particularly specialising in moisture lovers, all potted from the garden. You may purchase refreshments upon arrival and will stay here for lunch. From May until August, the brilliant azaleas are a blaze of yellow, apricot, pink and orange. Huge hybrid rhododendrons over 9m (30ft) tall are completely covered in large pink, red and white blooms over carpets of bluebells in Park Wood.

At 2:00pm we go to Hergest Estate. Hergest Court dates from 1267, was built by Hwyl ap Meurig and subsequently occupied by the Clanvowe and Vaughan families. Hergest Croft was built in 1895 to a design by Richard Drew who did much work for the family and locally. The house was requisitioned during World War II in 1940 and used for a relocated school.



'BOTTICELLI REIMAGINED': VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Event Type: Outing

Date: Saturday 11 June 2016

Cost: £34 (includes ticket to exhibition, coach and driver's tip)

3 Pickup Points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8:00am; Edmund Street (close to BMAG) 8:30am; or Yateley Road,

Harborne at 8:45am. We will leave London at 5:00pm.

This innovative exhibition explores the variety of ways in which artists and designers, from the Pre-Raphaelites to the present day, have responded to the artistic legacy of Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510), assembling 150 works from around the world. Botticelli is now celebrated as one of the greatest artists of all time, but was largely forgotten after his death until his work was progressively rediscovered in the 19th Century.

'*Botticelli Reimagined*' is the largest Botticelli exhibition in Britain since 1930. It includes around 50 original works by Botticelli, from great collections across the world shown alongside more recent masterpieces of art and design including work by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, René Magritte, Elsa Schiaparelli, Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman.

The exhibition is organised by the V&A and the Gemäldegalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. ■



Above: The skull from the Ichthyosaur Skeleton © Birmingham Museums

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

 **Monday 27 June 2016: Houses of Parliament**

 **Tuesday 19 July 2016: Lyme Park House & Garden**

 **Friday 30 September - Monday 3 October 2016: Weekend Away in Chichester**

SCIENCE SHORTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THINKTANK AND THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Our new 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).

THINKTANK'S 'FISH LIZARD': THE ICHTHYOSAUR SKELETON
Tuesday 15 March 2016, 6-7pm. Luanne Meehitiya, Natural Science Curator, Birmingham Museums Trust. The first talk in this new series explains the conservation, research and re-display of Thinktank's ichthyosaur skeleton, a Jurassic marine reptile that lived at the time of the dinosaurs. Luanne Meehitiya is working on the re-display project of the ichthyosaur at Thinktank, which opens in February 2016. This project has revealed a fascinating insight into this exceptionally large, well-preserved and unusual Ichthyosaurus.

LOOKING AFTER THE WORLD'S OLDEST

WORKING STEAM ENGINE

Tuesday 21 June 2016, 6-7pm. Jim Andrew, Volunteer at Thinktank. Displayed in Thinktank, the Birmingham Science Museum, the Smethwick Engine designed by James Watt raised water on the Birmingham Canal from 1779 to 1891. It is the world's oldest

working steam engine, but once again needs some repairs and conservation. Jim will outline the engine's history with details of the work of repair and conservation carried out for its move to Thinktank as well as the current project.

A HISTORY OF GUNMAKING IN BIRMINGHAM IN 10 OBJECTS

Tuesday 20 September 2016, 6-7pm. Professor David Williams OBE FREng. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Tuesday 6 December 2016, 6-7pm. Ciarán Lavelle, Conservator, Birmingham Museums Trust.



Image: Richard Macdonald 'The landscape with windmill' 2014 © Bridget Macdonald, photograph by Nicky Taylor

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum THIS GREEN EARTH

Bridget Macdonald and the landscape tradition of
Claude Lorrain, Samuel Palmer and Peter Paul Rubens

13 February – 25 June 2016

Open Monday – Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm **FREE Entry**

See www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk for details of talks and tours
10% off exhibition catalogue with this advert

Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum
Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT. Tel: 01905 25371

Museums Worcestershire is grateful to CART for their sponsorship of the packing and transport of artworks for This Green Earth Exhibition.



For more information visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk



A WORLD OF STORIES BROUGHT TO LIFE AT THE REP

19 – 26 MARCH

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE, IN
ASSOCIATION WITH RAMPS ON THE MOON,
PRESENTS

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

BY NIKOLAI GOGOL
ADAPTED BY DAVID HARROWER



2 – 9 APRIL

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE
PRESENTS THE YOUNG REP IN

THE ROTTERS' CLUB

BY JONATHAN COE
ADAPTED BY RICHARD CAMERON



14 – 30 APRIL

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE,
HULL TRUCK THEATRE AND
WATFORD PALACE THEATRE PRESENT

FOLK

BY TOM WELLS



23 – 24 APRIL

BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE AND
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST PRESENT

A STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD DOUBLE BILL

ENJOY TWO PLAYS INSPIRED BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD
WITH A VIEWING OF ITEMS FROM THE HOARD



14 – 21 MAY

STAN'S CAFE AND
BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE
PRESENT

MADE UP



19 – 28 MAY

ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE AND
TALAWA THEATRE COMPANY,
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIRMINGHAM
REPERTORY THEATRE, PRESENT

KING LEAR

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
STARRING DON WARRINGTON



CHANCE ORDER CHANGE

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS

1939 - 89

11 FEBRUARY – 8 MAY 2016



© The Josef and Annl Albers Foundation/VO Bild-Kunst, Bonn and DACS, London 2015

THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

FREE ADMISSION
0121 414 7333
www.barber.org.uk

Visit by train: University station

f t i
@barberinstitute
#chocabstract
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Box Office
0121 236 4455
BIRMINGHAM-REP.CO.UK

Registered in England 296910
Charity No.229660





LEFT: Self-portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck, c.1640 © National Portrait Gallery, London. www.npg.org.uk/vandyck

VAN DYCK'S LAST SELF PORTRAIT COMES TO BMAG!

BY LISA BEAUCHAMP, CURATOR OF MODERN AND
CONTEMPORARY ART, BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST

A rare and beautiful self-portrait by Anthony van Dyck (c. 1640-41) will be the focus of a new portraiture display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery this summer.

Following a major fundraising campaign to raise £10 million, Van Dyck's self-portrait was successfully acquired by the National Portrait Gallery in 2014. The exquisite painting is now the focus of a national tour which will see six museums and public galleries in Margate, Manchester, Dulwich, Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh display the portrait in a variety of contexts.

Anthony van Dyck (1599 – 1641) was the most influential portrait painter to have ever worked in Britain. He depicted himself and others in an elegant and more informal manner than the approach previously taken by artists to portraiture. As court painter to King Charles I, Van Dyck is well known for his fluid and graceful portraits of Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria.

Van Dyck's last self-portrait is arguably the finest of the artist's seven self-portraits known to exist. Turned towards the viewer he looks over his right shoulder, the line of his shoulder and sleeve raised to show him apparently in the act of painting. It is this pose, showing the artist turned towards the viewer in a seemingly fleeting moment that has inspired the content and theme of the display in Birmingham.

Curated by Worcester born and internationally renowned artist John Stezaker (born 1949), Birmingham's display will create a spectacle of turning in the gallery and will mirror the way the viewer moves around the space. John Stezaker uses the medium of collage to explore various relationships with the photographic image. He is known for his use of found images such as vintage postcards and book illustrations to create new and unique works of art by cutting, adjusting and inverting these images to give them new meaning. He has been particularly inspired by the intriguing pose of Van Dyck in his last self-portrait. This has led him to re-consider the pose in portraiture and the theme of turning, as one that is both a physical act and an act of metamorphosis. He has taken inspiration from the tale of Lot and his fated turn towards the burning ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah leading his wife to turn to a pillar of salt, as well as stories from Greek mythology such as Perseus and Medusa, and Orpheus and Eurydice.

John Stezaker's thoughtful object selection contains many works from Birmingham's collection not normally on display, such as stunning etchings by Rembrandt, original sketches for *Pygmalion and the Image* by Edward Burne-Jones and striking portraits by David Bomberg, John Everett-Millais and Birmingham born artist Gillian Wearing. Key artworks from the National Portrait Gallery will further John's exploration of turning through rare photographs, paintings and drawings never shown before in Birmingham.

'Turning to See: From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud' is the first ever display curated by John Stezaker and it is being hotly anticipated by many. Also included in the display will be a few examples of John's own collages for which he is widely known.

This promises to be a visually stunning display which enables a new and exciting interpretation of portraiture, displayed in a way that will no doubt captivate and inspire everyone who sees it! ■

The exhibition - *'Turning to See: From Van Dyck to Lucian Freud'* - will take place in Gallery 15 between 28 May - 4 September 2016.



ABOVE: *The Enemy Sowing Tares* (St Matthew XIII, 24–25), John Everett Millais © Birmingham Museums Trust

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 shops providing a minimum of £5 is spent in one transaction. Offer excludes books, certain sales items, admission prices and café/restaurant purchases: www.ironbridge.org.uk

- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café's: 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: Miss JE Burnham, Mrs JP Sinclair, Mr CM Hake, Ms PR Wright, Mr D Arrowsmith, Mr G Molyneux, Miss J Reece, Ms B Wishart & Mr J Baker, Miss J Baker, Mrs ML Bishop, Mr D & Mrs L Cole, Miss D Bilbrough and Mr JS McBride. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

Title:
Full Name:
Address:
Tel:
Email:
Where did you pick up this copy of <i>Artefacts</i> ?:

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

SINGLE £32

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

CONCESSIONARY RATES

SINGLE £21

DOUBLE £32

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

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature:

Date:

Eighty four years ago, the Friends was established with the objective of supporting and assisting Birmingham Museums – both financially and practically. Throughout the intervening years, we have used the resources of our members to add objects to the collections and to underwrite specific Museum projects (a recent example of this is the new Mini Museum at BMAG - see article on page 30). To continue this honourable record and in order to respond to the changes since the formation of BMT, we need to maintain our present membership levels, whilst striving to grow. A key resource which the Friends have contributed is that of volunteering, offering their own skills and time. We are keen to whet your appetite and to encourage you to register your interest to volunteer with the Friends – and to become actively involved in contributing to our work.

MEMBERS' SKILLS AND VOLUNTEERING

Visitors to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery will have seen Friends volunteers in person at the desk in the Industrial Gallery. This is a rewarding role, which I will return to later. In case you think this is all that Friends volunteers do, please rethink! Our volunteers assist with administration in the Friends' office, organise events, and work on publicity including social media. The Friends desks in the BMAG galleries (Industrial and Gas Hall) are run exclusively by volunteers. Our volunteers make presentations to local community groups who have never heard about the Friends or BMT before. Friends also volunteer within BMT, for example at the Heritage Sites; in the Conservation department; or on individual projects across BMT's sites. Some of this work was explained by Alex Nicholson-Evans in the October edition of *Artefacts*. It is not necessary to be a

Friend to volunteer with BMT but, as confirmed in the October 2015 '*Director's Report*', the Trust is very grateful for Friends voluntary input.

You can see from all these examples that there is a very wide range of ways that Friends give their time to both BMT and to the Friends. You can gain real satisfaction from doing something very worthwhile! If you are interested in volunteering with the Friends or with BMT then take a look at www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering for all the latest roles. If you have a skill which you would like to offer, please email the Friends at committee.fbmag@gmail.com. You can also contact the BMT volunteering team at: volunteer@birminghammuseums.org.uk and ask to be included on the BMT volunteering interest list.

RECRUITING FRIENDS DESK VOLUNTEERS

This year we will be looking for volunteers to help support the Friends desk in the Industrial Gallery. Volunteers in this role tend to give us their time for a minimum of two hours, weekly or fortnightly. The primary aim of the desk operation is to recruit Friends members and to draw attention to BMT's new Membership Schemes. In addition, and most enjoyably, Friends desk volunteers provide information to visitors about the museum and about the City. Sessions can be particularly stimulating, not least because there is such a wide variety of visitors from all parts of the world. The range of questions is varied and you can find yourself engaged in the most rewarding conversations. So please do get in touch if you have a particular strength which you would be keen to use and develop, and please also keep an eye out as we will be recruiting for specific roles. We are very keen to hear from you, so please do get in touch! ■

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS

BY DEREK STREET, FRIENDS VOLUNTEER AND
DAVID FOSTER, CHAIR OF THE FRIENDS

VOLUNTEERING IN THE LIBRARY

One October morning, 36 years ago, I had a telephone call from an old friend, Sheila Mullins, a volunteer in the Hills Gallery in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Two curators were worried about who was going to sort out the Library, after its removal in tea chests, from the mezzanine floor, down to the room vacated by the Council's bus department. I did not hesitate to say, yes, I could do it. We were living in Solihull then. The children were at school, so I started two days a week, 10:30am to 3:00pm. I arrived the following day, acquired a pass and was taken downstairs to a large room with a high ceiling, overlooking Chamberlain Square and the new (1973) Public Library. A curator helped me to shelve the books in some sort of order. There was a long table covered with piles of exhibition catalogues, journals, Sotheby's and Christie's catalogues.

There were secretaries then, in an office, and just along the corridor, Glenys Wild, Keeper of Applied Art. They were all very helpful. First, I needed some steps, high and substantial, an accession register for numbering the books, catalogue cards and a typewriter – computers had not taken over then. Then, to help me decide which classification scheme to use, I visited the library in the Barber Institute, had a good look and discussed it with Colin Bailey, the lecturer and librarian. He was very helpful and gave me an old copy of the Library of Congress Classification N Volume for the Arts. Later, Eleanor Cakebread, a volunteer in the Hills Gallery and an American, got a new volume for the Library.

At first, I had an office, but later, a sculpture cupboard was extended into my room and a wall built to cut it off from the Library. Shelves were put up, with my large desk in front, which has remained there ever since.

There were times when I felt we were a "dumping ground" for large cardboard boxes and, later, unused typewriters. Four bays of shelves turned into two cages for archival material, which was a problem because like all libraries, there are never enough shelves.

BMAG was so different in 1978. The Round Room pictures were all full length portraits. The anteroom, before the Industrial Gallery 20, displayed in shoulder high cabinets, coins and medals. The Gallery itself, had a false ceiling and prefabricated small rooms on both sides, used for meetings and talks for the Friends and one for the security men to boil their kettle.

During the 36 years I was not working on my own. Without the help of many volunteers in dealing with the auctioneers' catalogues, the small exhibition catalogues (more than 3,000) and essential typing, I could not have managed. First: Mary Boot, a retired English teacher, who looked after the exhibition catalogues; Doreen Heath typed; Pat Moran, who, having moved to Burford, appeared once a month with a shoebox of typed cards; Pat Sumner (typing) was the ex-secretary of the Director during the war, entertained us with stories of how the Museum Gallery managed during that difficult time; Norma Hampson, a NADFAS expert in book care, joined in 1996; Toni Townsend, an active Friend, typed; and Mary Russell Johnson and Sheila helped. Then, in 2000, Gill Irish appeared, a qualified librarian and a typist, who was computer literate and much younger, an ideal volunteer to carry on the work in the Library.

Probably the highlight of all those years was an evening in the Waterhall in 2010 to recognise the work done by volunteers, to which I was invited to attend by Arts & Business. My name was put forward by Rita McLean, then Director of BMAG. I received a pink certificate – "Cultural Champion" – for my support for BMAG, which was presented by Ed Vaizey, the Minister for Culture. I also received an invitation for Malcolm and I to attend a reception in St James' Palace. Prince Charles presented Arts & Business medals to generous donors. ■

BY SHIRLEY STIRLING

(17,600 books registered and numbered)



THANK YOU - FROM
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING A TRADITION OF LOCAL PRIDE!

70 million visitors in 130 years bear witness to the strength of a local tradition of pride in Birmingham's Museum & Art Gallery and its priceless collection. Thank you for donating to show your support for the unfolding story of this Birmingham landmark.

The celebrations of the 130th Anniversary of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery made 2015 a year to remember. On Saturday 28 November over 4,600 visitors took part in a birthday party which included live performances from the Academy of Irish Dance Music And Song, guitarist Alex Vann, dressing up and a photo booth, special tours, a giant cake and birthday card, demonstrations from the Conservation team and Collecting Birmingham, badge-making and object handling. Dressed up in her very best, the Museum & Art Gallery warmly welcomed visitors of all ages, and a lucky 130th family through the doors received a Birmingham

Museums Membership Plus granting free access to all our museums for a year.

At 1pm the Lord Mayor Councillor Raymond Hassall, Queen Victoria (played by Dr Ellen McAdam, Director), and Prince Edward (portrayed by Andrew Fowles, Learning & Access Manager) took everyone back in time to the foundation of the Museum & Art Gallery on that very day, 130 years ago. Congratulating Birmingham on its modern developments, Queen Victoria praised the thriving cultural life of the city today and called on its residents to take a greater stake in their museums' future by donating to the very first Annual Appeal.

Your support for this year's inaugural Annual Appeal has been extremely generous, and we continue to receive cheques towards a range of activities, from specialist conservation to learning programmes for schoolchildren and adult learners. We are determined to uphold the founding principles for the next 130 years, to continue to open our doors for the people of Birmingham, seven days a week, and to help shape the future of the city with world-beating collections that inspire creativity and learning. As Queen Victoria would no doubt say: *'We consider it a very good investment!'* Thank you for supporting Birmingham Museums and showing your love of the city's collection. ■

FRIENDS VACANCY: TREASURER

We are in an urgent search for an Honorary Treasurer.

Do you know of someone, with a solid accounting background and an interest in the Museums, who would welcome the chance to support us with financial oversight, specialist information and advice? The Friends Treasurer will also have the chance serve in the same role for the City of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Development Trust Fund.

If you know of any of your friends or acquaintances who might be interested in filling this role, please let us know.

Email committee.fbmag@gmail.com
Tel: 0121 3488330

Following another successful year for Birmingham Museums, Director Dr Ellen McAdam looks back at her key moments of 2015, and looks forward to 2016 and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead:

LOOKING FORWARD

BY DR ELLEN McADAM

I hope that all the Friends of Birmingham Museums had a pleasant and relaxing festive break, and that you are now braced for the rigours of the New Year. Traditionally, Christmas is a busy time across our museums and 2015 saw a full seasonal programme across all our sites. The well-known Bishop of Myra, Saint Nicholas, made a miraculous appearance in the new Mini Museum at the Museum & Art Gallery, and so charmed children and families that his grotto was voted 'best in the city' by the *Birmingham Mail*. The benign saint miraculously bilocated to Thinktank, where visitors experienced brunch with him. His elves provided a range of craft activities, happily employing many small visitors in manufacturing decorations inspired by our collection.

As we move into the uncharted territories of 2016 (gentlemen, beware 29 February), we should reflect on 2015. It was in many ways a challenging year, as we adjusted to reductions in public funding, but it was also a year of creativity and innovation. Across the Trust, visitor numbers grew by 11%. The new business model at the heritage sites has seen an improvement in performance despite a reduction in staffing, and we are developing long-term plans for

all the sites, including the Museum & Art Gallery and Thinktank.

In the Museum & Art Gallery we opened three new galleries. Our National Gallery/Art Fund curatorial trainee Helen Hillyard led on the re-display of Birmingham's outstanding collection of Baroque art, introducing works that had been in store and bringing a fresh interpretation to this important collection area. The Birmingham People and Places Gallery responds to audience research which asked for more displays about how the city has changed over the last century. We are continuing to add to this, and have asked Argent, the developers of Paradise Forum, to contribute material for a display on this major city-centre project. And the long-term loan and display of the *'Room of Dreams'*, by the doyenne of contemporary jewellers, Wendy Ramshaw, was an astonishing coup for Birmingham Museums. Her work is collected by major galleries world-wide, including the V&A.

Birmingham Museums Trust is committed to growing and diversifying our audiences so that they reflect the modern demographics of the city and the region. In order to do this we need to bring our Birmingham

History collection up to date. The HLF-funded *Collecting Birmingham* project is enabling us to collect objects that tell the stories of people growing up, living and working in four wards of the Ladywood district. The project team is engaging with individuals and community groups including Wassifa, Ladywood Arts Forum, the Central Mosque, and representatives of the Chinese, Irish and Polish communities. We have also recruited four *Collecting Birmingham* ambassadors, volunteers who live in Ladywood and are helping us to find out what we should collect to represent post-war Birmingham. But of course we are interested in the history of the entire city, and welcome donations from any area!

We celebrated the 130th birthday of the Museum & Art Gallery this year, and launched our first Annual Appeal. I hope that you were able to come to one of our celebrations. Our big birthday party on the day itself – Saturday 28 November – was attended by 4,600 people and included a range of activities, from cake-eating to badge-making. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham made a speech, and Queen Victoria said a few disapproving words. On Tuesday 1 December we held an evening event attended by many distinguished guests including Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair of Arts Council England. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to ensure a smooth birthday week, and to the individual Friends who donated so generously to the Annual Appeal. We are always grateful for your support and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to the Conservation team for their win at the prestigious Institute of Conservation Awards. They received the Award of Excellence for their innovative and important work on the Staffordshire Hoard during the Phase 1 research project that ended in March 2014. You can follow the continuing story of research and discovery at www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk.

And in 2016...

In February, we open the Faith in Birmingham Gallery. It responds to audience research that told us museums should provide safe spaces in which people can

explain their differences, and we have developed it in consultation with leaders and members of major faiths across the city. Later in the year, we are launching a practice-based MA in innovation in museum leadership with Birmingham City University. The course is designed to introduce students to the operational realities of running a museum, gallery or heritage site, including collections management, audience engagement and commercial activities, and will be accredited by the Museums Association. And we will continue to work with Birmingham City Council on plans to redevelop the Museum & Art Gallery, as well as taking forward plans for improving our other sites.

Finally, I want to express our gratitude to Deborah de Haes for her hard work during her term of office as Chair of the Friends, which has seen so much engagement with and investment in the Museums Trust. We look forward to an equally successful working relationship with her successor.

Thank you again for all your support. ■

Saunders
Fine Art



"The Red Lion Pub in Herefordshire" Oil On canvas, Signed by the artist William Stone

Sales | Restoration | Valuations | Advice

Tel: 0121 722 2877 | 07765 396 743

www.saundersfineart.co.uk



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
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.

NEW Faith in Birmingham Gallery

Opens 5 February 2016. FREE ENTRY. Discover the many faiths that make up Birmingham's rich and diverse community.

Find out about how six different faiths have influenced and shaped the city. Uncover sacred objects used in religious practice and explore the role of faith in places of worship, at home and within our journey through life.

Objects on display include the Birmingham Qu'ran - recently identified as one of the oldest surviving copies of the Qur'an in the world (on display 5 February - 3 August 2016).

Other highlights include the Sultanganj Buddha. Discovered by British engineers building the Indian Railway in 1861, the Buddha was one of the first

Below: 'A Homage to Venus, Behind Facing', 2015 © The Artist, Laura Haycock



objects to enter Birmingham's collection and is the largest surviving metal Buddha from Ancient India and is over 1,000 years old.

New Art West Midlands

Friday 12 February – Sunday 15 May 2016. Waterhall Gallery. FREE ENTRY. Returning for a fourth year, 'New Art West Midlands' presents intriguing work by artists who have recently graduated from the region's university art schools.

Highlights include Laura Haycock's extraordinary self-portraits in which she reclines, nude, in the style of Venus - a reference to Velasquez's 17th century oil paintings and Jakki Carey's painterly video work, 'Is', capturing a glacial lake in Iceland in what appears to be a direct warning from nature about climate change.

Edwardian Tearooms Late: Valentine Dinner

Sunday 14 February 2016. Tables can be booked 7 – 9pm. £40 per person. Wow your valentine with a dinner reservation they won't be expecting! Join us after hours in the Edwardian Tearooms at



Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery for a delicious dinner in a spectacular location! For £40 a head you can enjoy the delights of a romantic five course meal and be serenaded with live music from the balcony to make a very special evening. Full menu is available at birminghammuseums.org.uk. To book a table email events@birminghammuseums.org.uk or phone 0121 348 8082.



75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA

Open all year round. Tue - Sat 10.30am-5pm.

Closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.

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.



Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Open selected days during February half-term and from Friday 25 March onwards.

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. ➤

Left: Walk the corridors of Aston Hall



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Open selected days during February half-term and from Friday 25 March onwards. Charges apply to non-members
Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-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 selected days during February half-term and from Friday 25 March onwards. 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.



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Open selected days during February half-term and from Friday 25 March onwards.

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

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

Left: The Edwardian Tearooms at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



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.



thinktank
Birmingham science museum

Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Open daily 10am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000

Charges apply to non-members. Half price for members.

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to intestines, 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.

Spitfire Gallery

Now Open. Entry included in admission charge

Uncover Birmingham's Spitfire Story - a new gallery that sheds light on the Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX that hangs from the ceiling at Thinktank. Learn how

Spitfires were built and about the science behind how aeroplanes fly. Delve into the history of the Castle Bromwich factory and the local men and women who brought over 10,000 Spitfires to life. Plus, discover why the Spitfire is still so important today.

How will we power the UK in the future?

A talk by Sir Mark Walport

Thursday 3rd March 2016. Thinktank Theatre, Level 2 Millennium Point, 6pm- 8:30pm. Tickets are free and will be available from Thinktank in February 2016.

The UK faces a series of choices about energy. How we supply energy and how we use it in the future needs to change? We need power that is secure, affordable and, more than ever, sustainable.

Sir Mark Walport is the Chief Science Adviser to the UK Government. He has a background in immunology and now turns his attentions to the most pressing issue we face as a global society: our climate. In this evening talk he will introduce you to the options we have for powering the UK in the future.

The event will be introduced and chaired by Prof Iain Stewart and will include audience Q&A. Doors open at 6pm. This event is part of a UK tour, and has been developed in collaboration with the Association for Science and Discovery Centers and the Department for Energy and Climate Change.



**MUSEUM
COLLECTIONS
CENTRE**

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

Inheriting Rome

Until Sunday 24 April 2016. Look at one of the coins you're carrying today: you'll see the Queen's portrait facing right and Latin script around the royal head.

It seems our coins have looked this way forever - and that's nearly true. But why? This exhibition uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery. Britain is not the only nation, empire or state to channel ancient Rome in this way: the Barber's excellent collection of coins from the Byzantine Empire - as well as examples from Hungary, Georgia and Armenia - illustrate both the problems and possibilities of being genuine heirs of Rome.

Attempting to uncover the political uses of Rome's legacy, this exhibition encourages the visitor to ponder why we are so often told of the empire's importance - and whose interests such imagery serves.

Prestige & Power

Until Sunday 15 May 2016. Artists, writers, politicians and royalty come under the spotlight in this display, which explores how portraiture was used to assert status, celebrate achievements and project individuality in the 17th century.

It features prints, drawings and miniatures from the Barber's own collection along with miniatures on loan from two fine private collections. Artists represented include Rubens, Van Dyck and Charles Le Brun, as well as miniaturists Nicholas Hilliard, Isaac Oliver and Richard Gibson.

Chance, Order, Change

Thursday 11 February - Sunday 8 May 2016. Josef Albers, Bridget Riley, Victor Pasmore, Ad Reinhardt and Sean

Scully: some of the most influential artists of the later 20th century feature in this exciting exhibition, which forms the centrepiece of the spring programme.

Coming to the Barber from an important private collection and never before seen together in public, the dozen works in the show by these artists and other leading names span 50 key years in the development of modern art. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy abstract art at its purest - in a setting generally associated with more representational paintings by the old masters and great Impressionists.

Into The Woods

Friday 12 February - Sunday 12 June 2016. From leafy bowers sheltering weary travellers to the melancholy or menace of brooding forests and overgrown paths, these prints and drawings explore man's relationship with trees, woods and forests, and are drawn from a wide-ranging geographical area and period.

Curated around one of our latest long-term loans, 'Path Through a Dark Wooded Landscape' by John Bernard Gilpin, this display includes stylistically diverse works by distinguished artists such as Jacob van Ruisdael, Theodore Rousseau and Samuel Palmer.

IKON GALLERY

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

Janet Mendelsohn - Varna Road

Until Sunday 3 April 2016. Ikon hosts the largest exhibition to date of photographs by American academic and documentary filmmaker Janet Mendelsohn.

Part of a 'photo-essay' Mendelsohn made as a student at the University of Birmingham during 1967-69, the photographs depict everyday life in the inner-city district of Balsall Heath, focusing in



APPLE STORE GALLERY



MONTHLY EXHIBITIONS OF LOCAL ARTISTS' WORK
ARTISTS' WORKSHOPS : POETRY & MUSIC EVENTS
PRINTS, CARDS & BOOKS FOR SALE
ARTISTS' STUDIOS TO RENT
AND A BESPOKE FRAMING SERVICE

SO WHAT'S NEW?
ASG RESIDENT ARTISTS SHOWING THEIR WORK
UNTIL 27TH FEBRUARY

FINE ARTISTS IN THE MAKING
THE WORK OF YEAR TWO STUDENTS FROM
HEREFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS
2ND MARCH TO 2ND APRIL

FRAMEWORK HEREFORDSHIRE
MEMBERS OF THE SUPPORT NETWORK
FOR EMERGING ARTISTS HIGHLIGHTING
NEW WORK
6TH APRIL TO 7TH MAY

WEDNESDAYS TO FRIDAYS 9.30 TO 4.30
SATURDAYS 10.00 TO 1.00
OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT

UNIT 1, ROCKFIELD ROAD
HEREFORD, HR1 2UA : 01432 263937
APPLESTOREGALLERY@BTINTERNET.COM
WWW.APPLESTOREGALLERY.CO.UK

Old Chapel Gallery

Contemporary Fine Arts and Crafts in Herefordshire

an eclectic collection



EXHIBITIONS SPRING 2016

The Love of Art ... til the end of February

Spring Fever opens Sunday March 6th

Garden Sculpture opens Sunday May 1st



Daily 11 - 5 / Sundays til 4
closed Tuesdays

PEMBRIDGE HEREFORDSHIRE HR6 9HB
oldchapelgallery.co.uk

01544 388 842
Old Chapel Gallery
chapelgallery

Janet Mendelsohn Varna Road

27 January – 3 April 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.
Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Exhibition organised in collaboration with University of Birmingham and Queen's University Belfast. Supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, Exterion Media, The Photography Show, Flatpack Projects, Library of Birmingham and Ort Gallery.

IKON

particular on a sex worker, referred to as Kathleen, with whom Mendelsohn formed a close relationship. By using photography as “a tool for cultural analysis”, she provides a unique insight into a transforming community, shaped by increasing immigration from the Caribbean and South Asia, and affected by ongoing poverty-related issues.

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition including texts by Kieran Connell, Queen’s University Belfast; Matthew Hilton, University of Birmingham; and Val Williams, curator and author, plus Mendelsohn’s interviews with Kathleen and other residents of Balsall Heath. Visit Ikon’s online shop for the full range of Ikon’s catalogues and limited editions.

This exhibition is organised in collaboration with University of Birmingham and Queen’s University Belfast. Supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, Exterion Media, The Photography Show, Flatpack Projects, Library of Birmingham and Ort Gallery.



Dinh Q. Lê - The Colony

Until Sunday 3 April 2016. Ikon, in collaboration with Artangel, presents *The Colony (2016)*, a major new commission of video work by acclaimed Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê.

In three parts, featuring newly filmed footage, *The Colony* is loosely based on nineteenth century depictions of a cluster of islands off the west coast of Peru, rich in guano, a powerful fertilizer. Exploring the drama of absurdity, greed and human suffering, all for the brown gold of bird excrement, Lê’s narratives touch on aspects of the islands’ history such as the nineteenth century imperial wars between Spain and its former colonies Peru and Chile, and the US Guano Act of 1856 that authorised over one hundred claims for uninhabited islands, reefs and atolls in the Pacific and Atlantic.

As the first of Dinh Q. Lê’s film installations which does not directly reference the Vietnam War, *The Colony* marks a significant development in his practice. However, the plight of individuals caught up in the currents of history which has characterised some of his most powerful work remains as a central theme.

The islands in Lê’s films are home to huge colonies of birds, where mountains of guano have built up and when its fertilizing properties were recognised, the deposits became one of the most valuable natural resources in the world. In the mid-nineteenth century, the islands were contested by different powers, each determined to exert control over their exceptional natural wealth. At the height of the “*Great Guano Rush*” bonded Chinese labourers were forced to work there under brutal conditions to collect the guano. Nobody lives on the islands now, but harvesting still occasionally takes place.

Kelly Mark - 108 Leyton Ave

Until Sunday 3 April 2016. *108 Leyton Ave (2014)*, a new

JANET MENDELSON: VARNA ROAD

Until Sunday 3 April 2016

IKON Gallery

Janet Mendelsohn, *The street (c.1968)*. Black and white photographic print. Courtesy Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections, University of Birmingham.

INTO THE WOODS

Friday 12 February - Sunday 12 June 2016

The Barber Institute

Path Through a Dark Wooded Landscape, John Bernard Gilpin

film by Canadian artist Kelly Mark is her most personally revealing work to date. Built from common expressions relating to “everything” and “nothing”, it was developed over a period when Mark was living in the social isolation of a quasi-suburban limbo on Toronto’s eastern edge. “Everything” and “nothing” are constructed as opposite but asymmetrical roles performed by the artist for a split-screen projection, plumbing the contradictions of her own personality to reveal the bravura and insecurity of having no one to talk to but yourself.

Please note the exhibition is in the Tower Room, which is only accessible via a number of steps.

LEAMINGTON SPA GALLERY

The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA

Tel: 01926 742700

Through The Shop Window

Until Sunday 17 April 2016. Enter the shop window and discover what shopping was like in Royal Leamington Spa from the 1880s to the 1980s.

Using personal stories, photographs and objects from the collection, the exhibition will focus on the many and varied independent retailers that operated in the town during this period. From small, specialist companies such as Lavinia’s dress shop and Southorn boot makers, to the large departments stores of Woodward’s and Burgis & Colbourne that came to dominate the Parade.

Find out the techniques used to draw people into the shops and see the neon sign from Toytown on display for the first time. Learn the skills needed to work in a grocers and discover how long it took to train to be a draper. Home delivery and catalogue shopping, the precursor to internet shopping, will be examined alongside the social and technological developments that gradually changed the way people shopped.



With fun interactives and dressing up, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Throughout the exhibition there will be an opportunity to create ‘memory boxes’, which will be added to a growing display. Those who wish to explore further can visit the Shopping in Leamington Spa virtual trail on Historypin.

THE HERBERT

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

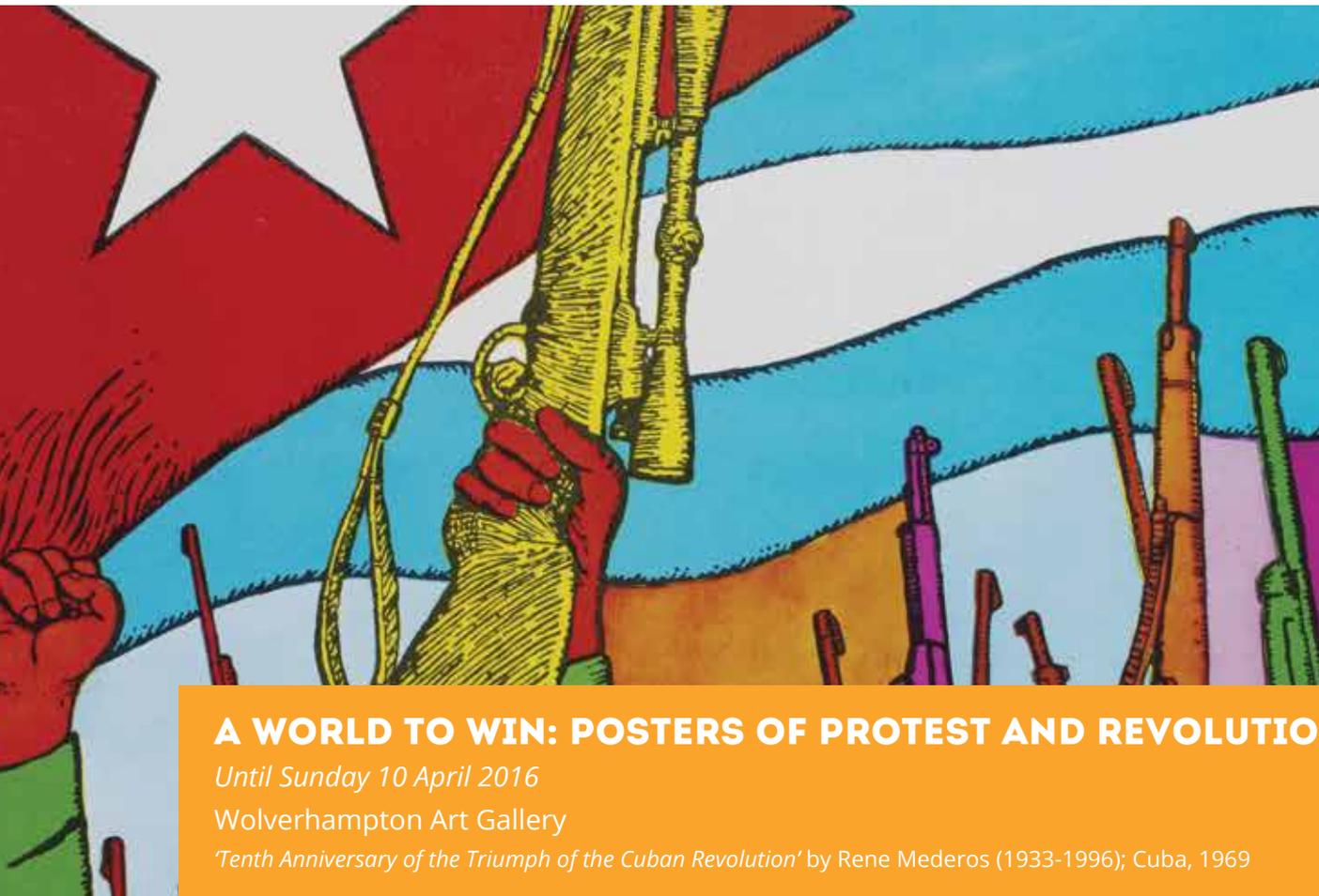
Tel: 024 7623 7521. www.theherbert.org

New Art West Midlands 2016

Friday 26 February - Sunday 24 April 2016. This exhibition showcases exciting new contemporary work from artists who have recently graduated from West Midlands art schools.

Painting, sculpture, photography and sound are represented in the exhibition, demonstrating a variety of artistic approaches, influences and ideas. The exhibition takes place across three other venues: BMAG, mac Birmingham and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.





A WORLD TO WIN: POSTERS OF PROTEST AND REVOLUTION

Until Sunday 10 April 2016

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

'Tenth Anniversary of the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution' by Rene Mederos (1933-1996); Cuba, 1969

Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences

Friday 22 April - Sunday 3 July 2016. *The Vanity of Small Differences* is a series of six large-scale tapestries by the Turner-Prize winning artist Grayson Perry, which explore the British fascination with taste and class.

Inspired by the 18th century painter William Hogarth's moral tale, *A Rake's Progress*, Perry's tapestries follow the life of a fictional character called Tim Rakewell, as he develops from infancy through his teenage and middle years, to his untimely death in a bloody car accident.

The tapestries are rich in both content and colour and depict many of the eccentricities and peculiarities associated with life in the UK, from interior design to British cuisine, political protest and celebrity gossip. The composition of each tapestry also recalls early Renaissance religious painting, drawing us in to an art historical, as well as a socio-political exploration.

The UK tour of the tapestries is supported by the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation.

Alongside this exhibition, there will be a display of the Herbert's collection of studies made by Graham Sutherland for the monumental tapestry which hangs behind the altar of Coventry Cathedral.

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield St, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 1DU
www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

A World to Win: Posters of Protest and Revolution

Until Sunday 10 April 2016. From the 'Votes for Women' campaign of the early Twentieth Century to the recent Occupy movements, the poster has been used to mobilise, educate and organise. Bringing together around seventy posters from the V&A's collection, *A World to Win: Posters of Protest and Revolution* looks at the defining features of protest graphics, showcasing the work of diverse artists, graphic designers and print collectives. Exhibition organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. ■

DRESSED for DRAMA

An exhibition of period costume from British Television and film, set in Worcester Cathedral's stunning 12th Century Chapter House



1ST-29TH AUGUST 2016



**WORCESTER
CATHEDRAL**

Tickets & group bookings
01905 732900

More information visit worcestercathedral.co.uk



Visit the last surviving courtyard of Back to Back houses any where in the West Midlands.

Experience the sights, sounds & smells, as well as hearing the stories of four different families who occupied the houses from the 1840's up to the 1970's.

With real coal fires in the grates & the opportunity to do the washing the Victorian way... a visit is must!

All visits are by guided tour only and advance booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

For bookings please telephone: 0121 666 7671

The property is open every day except Mon (apart from Bank Holidays) when we close on the Tues afterwards.

During school term time we are only open from 1pm on Tues, Wed & Thurs. Fri to Sun we are open 10am - 5pm. Last tour leaves at 3.45pm (maybe earlier in winter months).

Admission Prices:

Gift Aid - Adult £8.00 | Child £4.40 | Family £17.50
Standard - Adult 7.25 | Child £3.90 | Family £15.90



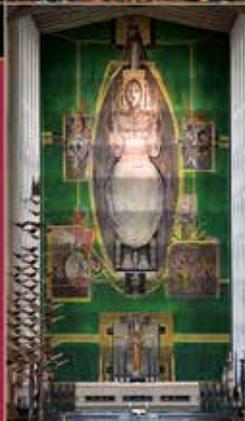
National Trust

AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE A STORY YOU CANT IGNORE



COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

- Coventry Cathedral
The nation's favourite 20th century building
- Exhibition and film on the thousand year history of Coventry's three cathedrals from the 11th century to the present day
- 1940 Experience - experience life in the 1940s
- St Michael's Tower - the third tallest in England
- An unrivalled collection of 1950s art including:
 - Graham Sutherland's Great Tapestry - the largest in the world
 - Britain's greatest collection of modern stained glass
 - World centre for peace and reconciliation
- All within a short walk of the Cathedral are the Coventry Transport Museum, the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, the medieval St. Mary's Guildhall and Priory and the famous 'Doom' painting at Holy Trinity Church.



Open Daily 10am-4pm (last admission); Sunday 12pm-3:30pm
For admission prices, visit www.coventrycathedral.org.uk
Daily guided tours: 11am & 2pm
(02476 521210) | visit@coventrycathedral.org.uk
www.coventrycathedral.org.uk



COVENTRY
CATHEDRAL

A WORLD TO WIN: POSTERS OF PROTEST & REVOLUTION

30 January -
10 April 2016

Wolverhampton
Art Gallery
Lichfield Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1DU

AGAINST APARTHEID

**BOYCOTT
SOUTH
AFRICAN
GOODS**
MARCH 1ST TO 31ST

Based on The Boycott Committee, 200 New Church St, S.E. 8

An exhibition organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, demonstrating the power of the political poster to mobilise, educate and organise.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



WWW.WOLVERHAMPTONART.ORG.UK

Against Apartheid. Boycott South African Goods Mountain and Moiehill. for The Boycott Committee
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London/The Estate of Ken Sprague

BMAG'S MINI MUSEUM

BY JILL WARREN

The Mini Museum is now open. This gallery has been specially designed to provide an engaging place for children aged 5 & under and their families to experience Birmingham Museums' collections and help children love museums from a young age. Andrew Fowles, Learning and Access Manager, shares his enthusiasm for this new and exciting project.

Andrew feels the aim of the Mini Museum gallery is to provide a safe and inviting space for young children and their families to visit and enjoy the fantastic art and artefacts that the Museum has on display. He described an adult 'working' around the many exhibits on show whereas a child will 'dart' from one to another depending on what appeals to them. This gallery allows them to do just that and get up to 'nose' distance from a famous painting or watch amazing animations created from some of the museums fantastic projects. The gallery is situated next to the café with furniture designed to suit both the adults - to sit in comfort to supervise - and soft furnishings to appeal to the smallest child.

While some people may find children in a museum a distraction, Andrew has the opposite view: *"A love of art is a lifelong interest, so by bringing together some of the*

museum's highlights - paintings of animals that children recognise, alongside some of the friendly, furry creatures from our natural history galleries - we provide an accessible way for little visitors to engage with our collection. Young children love pointing to the animals they recognise in the pictures and taxidermy models, and shouting out their names!" The children and their families can see what is available in the museum and visit the respective gallery to see more. For example, the Mini Museum has a multi layered jig-saw of a sarcophagus with a bandaged mummy inside. They can then visit the Egyptian area and see the authentic mummies.

Even the very young are included; mothers can bring babes in arms into the gallery where they can lay safely on the soft cushions and gaze upwards at the ceiling to gain a sensory experience while being read to. Andrew has developed the gallery in conjunction with three local nurseries who supplied information on the type of dressing-up clothes the young children like to wear and what will catch their eye - owls, mice,



ABOVE: This gallery has been specially designed to provide an engaging place for children aged 5 & under and their families.

rabbits – animals that are involved in stories. Older visitors are also charmed by seeing the animals and birds up close and hearing about how they have been caught and preserved. There is a puppet theatre and plenty of books to entertain plus a computer game designed by apprentices from the Learnplay Foundation for the space so children can explore and interact with the rest of the museum.

On the reading front, the Mini Museum was chosen to launch *The Big Read* on Friday 4th December which is the 2016 follow on to the enormously successful *Big Hoot and Little Hoot* scheme by Wild in Art which saw Owls placed around Birmingham. The new initiative will see illustrated BookBench sculptures – shaped as open books – appearing throughout next summer in museums, libraries and other cultural centres. At the end of the project, the fibreglass BookBenches will be returned to the schools and groups that created them.

With arts activities and workshops regularly taking place within the Museum, the Mini Museum will provide gallery space to display children’s work alongside some of the grand paintings. *“Young Australian artist Aelita Andre had her first solo exhibition at the age of two and her first sell-out exhibition at five years old – maybe our gallery space will provide inspiration for a home-grown talent to be the world’s next professional pre-school artist,”* comments Andrew. *“We hope that children will feel welcomed and inspired, and enjoy their time at the Museum.”* ■

Andrew Fowles will be talking about the Mini Museum, which the Friends funded, at a Friends’ Evening Event on 22nd March - see page 7 for more information.

**For more information visit:
www.birminghammuseums.org.uk**

Admission is free.

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS

BY JILL WARREN

The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists is one of the oldest Art Societies in the UK and played an important part in the Pre-Raphaelite movement. The aims of the charity are detailed in their Articles of Association which were set out in 1912. These are: to nurture engagement with the visual arts, to encourage participation in the visual arts, and to support artists in the development of their practice. The current President Robert Neil talks about his role within the Society.

Working from his studio in Worcestershire, Robert is a largely self-taught artist whose work is primarily focused on portraiture and figurative painting. He was elected as a Member of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) in 2010 and became President in 2012. Robert's portrait *'Jeweller'* was selected for the 2014 BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery. He also exhibited in the West Midlands Open 2014 which was staged at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

"As artists we often work a lot of the time in isolation so as a community we not only exhibit but socialise, mentor and inspire each other. The Society is a registered charity which provides a venue for artists to exhibit and to work as a cooperative group. It fosters core skills such as drawing, painting and sculpture which form the basis of the Society's values. We display artists work purely on the basis of artistic merit, so visitors have an opportunity to experience a very diverse range of approaches. We offer a wide range of opportunities for artists who may be at the beginning of their

career right through to established and internationally renowned figures."

The RBSA is over 200 years old, having recently celebrated its bicentenary in 2014. The majority of Members are West Midlands based although a few are from further afield. They are keen to promote skills through family friendly workshops, demonstrations, talks and tours and these activities are largely delivered by the Society's elected Members. There is a symbiotic relationship between the facilities the RBSA offers to help local artists and for them to reciprocate by volunteering. The Charity aims to help people from all walks of life to enjoy the visual arts. In the future they hope to be able to broaden the diversity of artists within their membership and develop the gallery facilities in order to engage with a wider audience. They receive no local authority funding and are consequently dependent on the generosity of local people for their continued existence; donations from local individuals and

RIGHT: President Robert Neil in his studio
FAR RIGHT: RBSA Exterior



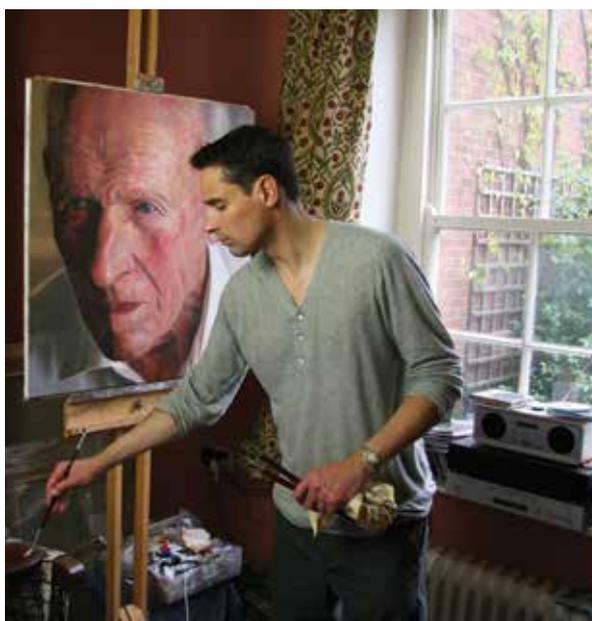
LEFT: RBSA Gallery

foundations will be the key to widening their existing programme and core to their sustainability.

"My role is Chief of the Trustees, public face of the Society and to offer a vision for the future. I confess that this isn't always an easy road but I know it is a very important and unique cause" says Robert. "Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this role is engaging with other institutions such as schools and charities in the region to promote the visual arts. I also like the challenge of finding ways to meet the artist's needs alongside that of running and maintaining our own gallery. As a charity we have to mix commercial and charitable activities in order to survive and this requires us to be commercially creative as well."

One of Robert's favourite exhibitions – apart from the Portrait Prize Exhibition which is close to his heart and took in every conceivable approach to portraiture – was the popular Photographic Prize Exhibition staged for the first time this year. He also admires printmaking which he feels shows a plethora of techniques and is affordable art. For those interested in developing their artistic skills, Robert recommends joining a local Life Drawing class, as copying the human form is the best way to improve observational abilities and a class helps to socialise with other aspiring artists. ■

For more information visit: www.rbsa.org.uk



FEBRUARY 2016

-  Thursday 4 # Eden Camp Museum
-  Tuesday 9 # 'Faith in Birmingham Gallery' – Lynsey Rutter & Adam Jaffer

MARCH 2016

-  Thursday 3 \$ 'How will we power the UK in the future?' - A talk by Sir Mark Walport at Thinktank Theatre, Level 2 Millennium Point
-  Tuesday 8 * 'Origins of the Institute: The History of the Birmingham & Midland Institute' – Dr Connie Wan
-  Friday 11 * Erasmus Darwin House & Lichfield Cathedral
-  Tuesday 15 * Science Short: 'Thinktank's 'Fish Lizard': The Ichthyosaur Skeleton' - Luanne Meehitiya
-  Tuesday 22 * 'Introducing a Mini Museum' – Andrew Fowles
-  Wednesday 23 * 'Faith in Birmingham' - Lynsey Rutter

APRIL 2016

-  Monday 11 – + The Art, Villas & History of Ancient Rome
- Sunday 17
-  Thursday 21 * Annual Lunch at the College of Food (UCB)
-  Thursday 28 * 'Treasures of the Museum' – Jane Howell

MAY 2016

-  Monday 16 * Westonbury Mill & Water Gardens & Hergest Croft Gardens

JUNE 2016

-  Saturday 11 * 'Botticelli Reimagined': Victoria & Albert Museum
-  Tuesday 21 * Science Short: 'Looking after the world's oldest working steam engine' – Jim Andrew
-  Monday 27 ++ Houses of Parliament

SEPTEMBER 2016

-  Tuesday 20 ++ Science Short: 'A History of Gunmaking in Birmingham in 10 Objects' – Professor David Williams
-  Friday 30 - ++ Weekend Away in Chichester
- Monday 3 October

- * 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
- + No application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara Preece directly to book your place.
- ++ Dates for your diary, no application in this mailing
- # Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available - contact the Friends office to book. Contact details can be found on page 3.
- \$ 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 APRIL 2016

Barber Evening Concerts

Spring 2016



Wednesday 3 February 7.30pm

Ian Bostridge tenor
Joseph Middleton piano

Schubert
Winterreise, D. 911

"Without doubt the most extraordinary, riveting, performance of Schubert's great song-cycle *Winterreise* I have ever witnessed." *The Telegraph* on Ian Bostridge at The Barbican



Wednesday 17 February 7.30pm

Fidelio Trio

Alasdair Nicolson
Half Told Tales
Judith Weir
Piano Trio Two
Luke Bedford
Chiaroscuro

CrossCurrents

birmingham.ac.uk/crosscurrents

Scott Wilson
head-neck-chest-four-five-six-thing
(world premiere)
Michael Zev Gordon
In the Middle of Things



Wednesday 16 March 7.30pm

Callum Smart violin
Richard Uttley piano

Mozart
Sonata in B flat, K378
Poulenc
Sonata, FP119

J S Bach
Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in D minor,
BWV 1004
R Strauss
Violin Sonata in E flat, Op. 18



Wednesday 18 May 7.30pm

Academy of Ancient Music:
Vivaldi in Dresden

Vivaldi
Concerto in G minor, RV577
Concerto in D, RV562
Telemann
Concerto for three oboes and three violins

J S Bach
Brandenburg Concerto No. 1
Brandenburg Concerto No. 4

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS

Admission: £18, £15 concessions, £12 Barber Friends, £5 students

Available from Barber Reception on 0121 414 7333

or via www.barber.org.uk/concerts

@BarberConcerts

barber.org.uk

FREE CONCERTS EVERY FRIDAY at 1.10pm from 15 January. See website for details.



Friends of Birmingham Museums presents

The Art, Villas & History of Ancient Rome

7 days from £1,099

Departs 11th April 2016

WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Rome – guided tour
- Forum & Colosseum
- Castel Sant' Angelo
- Pantheon
- Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel
- St Peter's Basilica & Square
- Church of Santa Maria del Popolo
- Borghese Gallery
- Tivoli & Villa d'Este
- Hadrian's Villa

**tailored
travel**

Inspiring Group Tours

The tour features direct scheduled flights from Birmingham to Rome, six nights at the 3* Hotel California in central Rome, with all excursions, entrance fees and guided tours included and the services of a professional local guide. For more information contact

Barbara Preece

Tel: 0121 3083427

Email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com

Or click on the View Your Tour tab at

www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote **frbm161**

