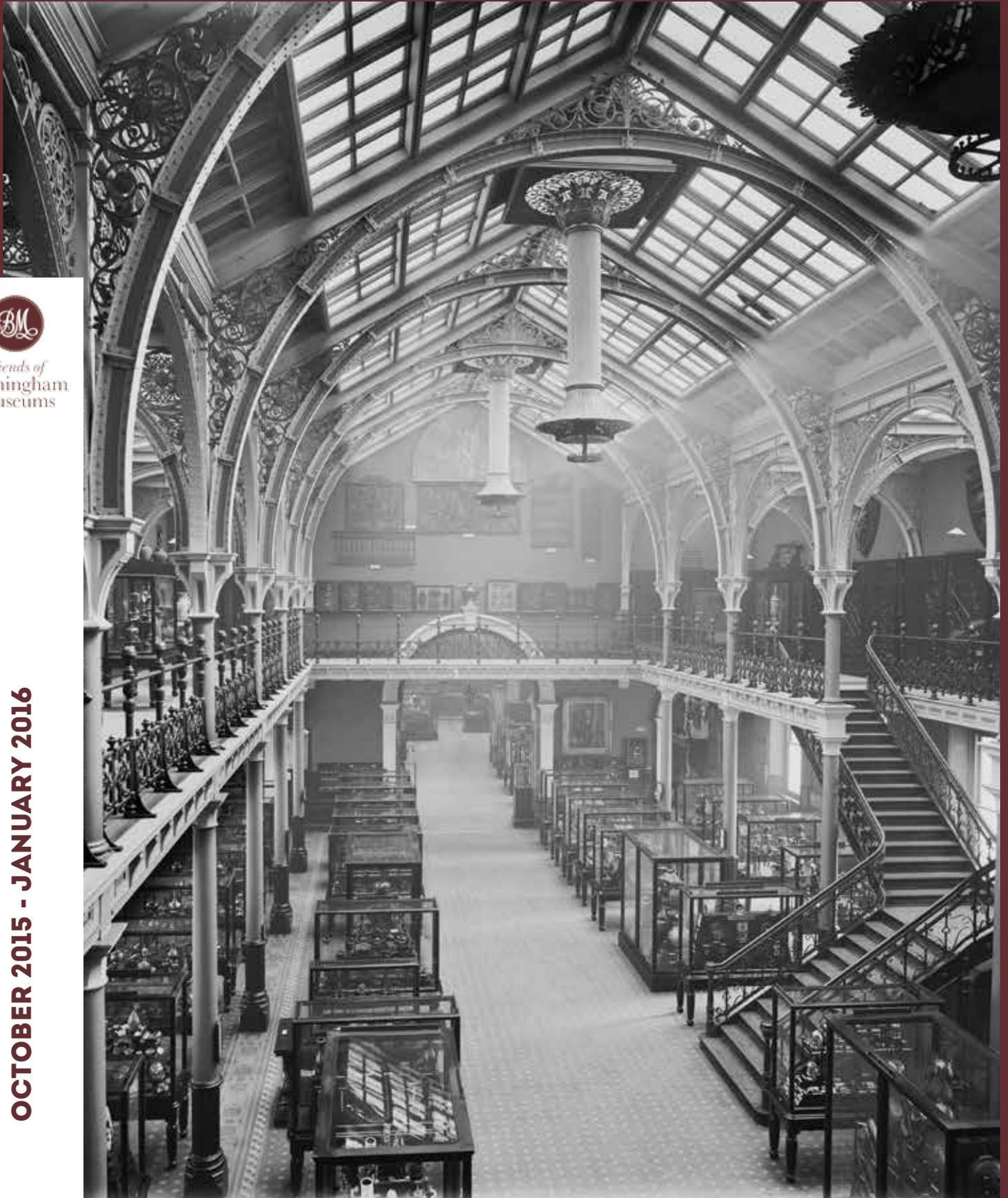


# ARTEFACTS



Friends of  
Birmingham  
Museums

OCTOBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

BAfM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION  
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Industrial Gallery after the improvement works of 1893-4 © Birmingham Museums Trust

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

# Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

## Winter Exhibitions

### WAR GAMES

10 October 2015 – 17 January 2016

Free

**V&A** Museum of Childhood  
London

### INDELIBLE MARKS: THE DRESDEN PROJECT BY MONICA PETZAL

13 November 2015 – 3 February 2016

Free

**BENFIELD**

KB BENFIELD GROUP



Mechanical toy cowboy, Mansel Toys, Japan, 1960s-70s  
© Victoria & Albert Museum, London



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BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS' ANNUAL APPEAL: BMAG CELEBRATES 130 YEARS



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# WELCOME AND FAREWELL

BY DEBORAH DE HAES

---

**Welcome to the 'new-look' Artefacts and Farewell to our Chair,  
Deborah de Haes, who is stepping down after seven years in the role.**

---

Welcome to the first edition of the newly formatted *Artefacts*. The larger size is in part a statement about how important we feel the role of the arts to be in this region. As Friends, we want to publicise our work and the work of all the Birmingham Museums. But we also want to publicise the work of the wider arts community, and involve people more directly in writing and featuring in a greater range of articles. High definition pictures can be shown off to greater effect in the larger A4 format, and we will have more room for articles and other material. To help us as we develop this new format, please send your thoughts and comments to Melissa Page in the office (her contact details are at the front of the magazine, on page 3).

Working more closely with similar organisations across the City and wider region has always been an ambition of mine as Chair. I feel there is still a lot more to do but I believe we are all stronger if we work together. We can each achieve greater sustainability if we share resources, perhaps opening some of our events to each other, whilst retaining our own unique character. I am very much hoping that the new format *Artefacts* will be a key way both to demonstrate and to promote our greater working together.

The area outside the Edwardian Tea Rooms, where the Buddha Gallery has been for many years, will shortly be transformed into a 'Mini Museum'. This is a

project which the Friends have helped to fund and is designed to give a flavour of a museum in miniature. Like the Hoard Gallery which has been a great success, this is an opportunity for BMT to showcase the latest thinking in museum design; particularly in this case for the younger visitor and I am sure it will be very popular. Do go and have a look when you are next in BMAG and let us know what you think.

I am very much looking forward to the next Gas Hall exhibition which opens later in October: *'Enchanted Dreams: the Pre-Raphaelite Art of Edward Robert Hughes'*. This will be the first exhibition of Hughes' work in over a century. Some of you will have attended Fine Art Curator Victoria Osborne's Friends' talk in March, when she shared some of her extensive research into this interesting artist and I am sure the exhibition will be a fascinating glimpse into his life and work.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at the AGM. We had a good turnout and an interesting debate about some important issues. The Friends is a lively organisation and I for one never cease to be impressed by the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm of our members. We still need to do more to encourage new members to join and to do this we need to tell people about who we are and what we do. In this respect, the Ambassadors' Presentation has been doing a great job; the presentations have all been well received, with a frequent comment being: 'I



Above: Christmas 2014 Volunteers' Party in the Edwardian Tearooms: Eileen Maguire, David Foster, Deborah de Haes, Yvonne Warner and Margaret Lister

*never knew there were so many interesting Birmingham Museums; you've really made me want to go and visit them!* If you know of a local society or group that might be interested in having a presentation about the Friends and the Museums we support, do contact Melissa in the office. The presentation is very flexible, and can be anything from 10 minutes to an hour, depending on what the audience would like.

I am delighted to welcome formally our two new Committee members, *Sarah Gravill* and *Judith Hurst*, who were appointed at the AGM, as well as two continuing Committee members re-appointed at the AGM, *John Pownall* and *Margaret Lister*. We are very grateful for the work of all our Committee members and look forward to the new team working well together over the coming months. It will be an interesting time ahead with a new Chair and a new Treasurer to be appointed and for them to become familiar with the work of the Friends and the

Committee. In the meantime, *David Foster*, the Deputy Chair of the Friends will become Acting Chair and I am sure everyone will give him their full support. As a long-serving volunteer both with the Friends and with BMT, David is very familiar with both the Friends and the Trust and we are very fortunate in having him to take over the reins and lead the search for the new Chair and Treasurer.

And so I say farewell and thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chair for the last seven years. I will miss being so centrally involved in the evolving role of the Friends, but I am not disappearing altogether and still hope to attend many exhibitions and Friends' events. I am deeply grateful for the generous gift of Honorary Life Membership of the Friends and hope to keep in touch with many of you.

I wish you every success in the future, individually and as a wonderful group of committed and enthusiastic supporters of Birmingham Museums Trust. ■



## EVENT APPLICATIONS

For members of the Friends, the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine. Where applicable, 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 MAKING OF A TRANSPORT MUSEUM

*Event type: Evening Event*

*Date: Tuesday 20 October 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm*

*Speaker: Bill Lane, Board member of the Tramway Museum and Friends Trustee*

*Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket price 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](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).*

*(Advertised in the Summer 2015 edition of Artefacts.*

*Those who have already booked need not reapply)*

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

Crich Tramway Village, home of the *National Tramway Museum*, has grown from a disused mineral railway into an internationally recognised designated museum. This transformation has taken 50 years and the dedication of the member lead organisation that own and run it. Our Trustee and Board member of the Tramway Museum Society will guide us through this 50 year transformation.

## CALKE ABBEY - NATIONAL TRUST

*Event Type: Outing*

*Date: Thursday 29 October 2015*

*Cost: £20.00 (Includes coach, driver's tip, guided tour and refreshments on arrival.) NB. Entrance to Calke Abbey is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you; non-members can pay on the day.*

*Pickup Points: Yateley Road at 8:30am; or Great Charles Street at 8:45am. Leaving Calke Abbey at 4:30pm to arrive back in Birmingham approximately 6:30pm.*

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

Hidden away in a hollow within ancient park land, Calke Abbey appears to have turned its back on the modern world. Unlike many country houses Calke has not been restored to its former glory. The work to care for Calke Abbey began in 1985 when a decision was made to present the house as it was found. Essential repairs have ensured the structure is safe, but the house is little restored on the inside, with peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards.

Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story. Discover the tales of an eccentric family who amassed a vast collection of hidden treasures. Visit the beautiful, yet faded, walled gardens and explore the orangery, auricular theatre and the kitchen gardens. Escape into the ancient and fragile habitats of Calke Park and its National Nature Reserve.

Far left: Lowry Museum Left: 'The Street Then and Now' from The Making of a Transport Museum



## FRIENDS' ANNUAL LECTURE: 'THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD; THE FIRST FIVE YEARS'

*Event Type: Annual Event*

*Date: Monday 9 November 2015, 6pm*

*Speaker: David Symons Cost: £13*

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

The Annual Lecture will be delivered by *David Symons*, who was very involved in the finding of the Hoard and the subsequent research. He will explain what went on behind the scenes in the earliest days of the find, and will discuss what has been learned about the Hoard so far, describing some of the more interesting and unusual things that happened to him along the way. For a full write up for this event please see the Summer issue of *Artefacts*. There are places still available for this event and so a booking form is enclosed to enable you to book if you have not already done so.



## HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

*Event Type: Outing*

*Date: Thursday 12 November 2015*

*Cost: £24.00 (Includes guided tour, coach and driver's tip)*

*Pickup Points: Yateley Road at 7:30am; or Great*

*Charles Street at 7:45am. Leaving at 5:00pm to arrive back in Birmingham approximately 8:30pm.*

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

We will go by coach to The Houses of Parliament for a guided tour which will begin at 12:00 and finish at approximately 1:15pm. After the tour we will have 45mins for toilets and a quick look around the shop. The coach will collect us at 2:00pm and take us to Knightsbridge or the area near the museums, your choice. The V&A, Natural History and Science Museums are within 5 minutes walk of each other. There are restaurants to please all tastes, especially in the Museums. The coach picks up at both Knightsbridge and The Museums at 5pm for the journey home.

Sutton Coldfield MP *Andrew Mitchell* has authorised this event and we are very grateful to him and his staff for their efforts.



## 'NEARER TO HIM THAN HIS RIGHT HAND': ER HUGHES AND HIS PRE-RAPHAELITE HERO WILLIAM HOLMAN HUNT

*Event type: Evening Event*

*Date: Tuesday 17 November 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm*

*Speaker: Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art)*

*Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket price 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](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).*

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

For at least 17 years, from around 1888, *ER Hughes* worked as studio assistant to the veteran painter *William Holman Hunt* (1827-1910). Hunt had been one of the founder members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in 1848 and Hughes idolised him, calling him 'the Maestro'. When Hunt progressively lost his sight to glaucoma, Hughes became much more than just an assistant – Hunt privately called him his 'dear Right Hand'.

Join 'Enchanted Dreams' curator *Victoria Osborne* to hear more about this lifelong friendship: a story of hero-worship, secrecy and tabloid doorstepping.



## ELECTRIC CINEMA

*Event Type: Outing*

*Date: Sunday 22 November 2015*

*Cost: £15.50 (Includes a 'Behind the Scenes' Tour, followed by a screening of John Steinbeck's 'Of Mice and Men'. (Guidance 12A.)) There will be a short break to purchase refreshments after the tour. Payments please by 1 November 2015.*

*Meeting point: The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY at 10:15am.*

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

This is a live satellite encore from the *National Theatre New York*. Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee *James Franco* and Tony Award nominee *Chris O'Dowd* star in the hit Broadway production *Of Mice and Men*, filmed on stage by National Theatre Live. This landmark revival of Nobel Prize winner *John Steinbeck's*

play is a powerful portrait of the American spirit and a heartbreaking testament to the bonds of friendship.

The plot centres on George and the mentally disabled Lennie. The two farm workers travel together and dream of one day owning their own land. With their work passes, the two end up on Tyler Ranch. George finds a property for sale, and calculates that they can buy the land at the end of the month. The film explores themes of discrimination, loneliness, and the American Dream.



## PAUL NASH: TREES ARE PEOPLE

*Event Type: Daytime Talk*

*Date: Thursday 26 November 2015*

*Speaker: Brendan Flynn*

*Cost: £9/£12 non-members (Includes refreshments.)*

*Meeting point: The AV Room - Gas Hall 10:30am for 11:00am*

Paul Nash was a British surrealist painter and war artist, as well as a photographer, writer and designer of applied art. Nash was among the most important landscape artists of the first half of the twentieth century. This lecture traces the artist's portrayal of trees and woodland from his earliest symbolist and romantic landscapes to the great series of visionary works completed shortly before his death in 1946.



## WEDGWOOD VISITORS CENTRE

*Event Type: Outing*

*Date: Tuesday 1 December 2015*

*Cost: £29 (Includes coach, driver's tip, factory guided tour and refreshments on arrival.)*

*Pickup Points: Yateley Road at 8:30am; or Great Charles Street at 8:45am. Leaving at 4:30pm to arrive back in Birmingham approximately 6:00pm.*

*This event is open to non-members – see note on page 6*  
Home to the Wedgwood Collection, one of the most important ceramic collections in the world, the Wedgwood Museum offers a unique window into English industrial history and creative heritage spanning over 250 years. The collection has been permanently loaned to the Wedgwood Museum by the Victoria and Albert Museum, a testament to its national significance and its rightful domain at Barlaston, Wedgwood's home since 1940.



## FLORENCE CAMM: 'AN ENTERPRISING LIFE'

*Event Type: Daytime Talk*

*Date: Thursday 10 December 2015*

*Speaker: Dr Sally Hoban*

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

*Meeting point: The AV Room - Gas Hall 10:30am for 11:00am*

Florence Camm (1874-1960) was among the most talented and successful designers of stained glass of her period. Born in Smethwick, she exhibited her work 43 times at the Royal Academy in London as well as in other major exhibitions in Britain and Europe. Her combination of the vivid colours of the Pre-Raphaelites and Edwardian realism are regarded as some of the most outstanding stained glass ever produced in the Midlands. Sally will talk about some of the fine pieces of Florence Camm's work which are on show at BMAG.



## LOWRY MUSEUM

*Event Type: Outing*

*Date: Saturday 9 January 2016*

*Cost: £23.00 (Includes coach, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival, and guided tour.)*

*Payments please by 1 December 2015.*

*Pickup points: Yateley Road, Harborne at 8:15am;*

*Great Charles Street at 8:30am; and a third Pickup at South Parade Car Park, Sutton Coldfield at 9:00am.*

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

A Saturday event, this is an opportunity to bring family and friends along for a great day out. Set in a magnificent waterside location at the heart of the redeveloped Salford Quays. The Lowry is an architectural flagship with a unique and dynamic identity. Rising from the

**EVENT  
KEY**



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME EVENT



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



Above: The New Wedgwood Visitors Centre

regenerated docklands, it is a welcoming building, designed to reflect the surrounding landscapes and flourishing waterways, in its glass and metallic surfaces.

The Lowry opened on 28 April 2000, bringing together a wide variety of performing and visual arts under one roof. A breathtaking new international landmark, The Lowry is a "must see" tourist attraction - not just a venue, but a destination.

Movement into and through the building generates an air of theatricality, festivity and anticipation. The layout of The Lowry encourages visitors to explore and enjoy a variety of facilities, throughout the day and evening. An open ramped route with dramatic views connects the theatre foyers and gallery spaces, forming a public promenade around the building, linking all activities. If you have time, visit the nearby Imperial War Museum North.



## **BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY - 130 YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING**

*Event type: Evening Event*

*Date: Tuesday 12 January 2016, 6:30pm-8:30pm*

*Speaker: Dr Rebecca Bridgman, Curator of Islamic & South Asian Art.*

*Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket price 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](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).*

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

Join curator, Rebecca Bridgman to discover more about the new exhibition to mark the 130th anniversary of the opening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG). Celebrating the role of the people of Birmingham in the creation and continuing development of BMAG, it showcases objects from the first displays of 'industrial' art to contemporary work from living artists. Join us to discover more about the fascinating history of the institution and its role in developing and displaying Birmingham's collection.



## **ENCHANTED DREAMS**

*Event Type: Guided Tour*

*Date: Tuesday 19 January 2016*

*Speaker: Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art)*

*Cost: £9.*

*Meeting Point: The Gas Hall Reception for 11:00am*

*This event is exclusively for members.*

Nephew of the painter *Arthur Hughes*, model to *Dante Gabriel Rossetti* and studio assistant to *Holman Hunt*, *ER Hughes* lived and worked at the heart of the Pre-Raphaelite circle. The watercolours he exhibited in London just before the First World War - such as the fairy vision of *'Midsummer Eve'* (1908) - are among the most familiar and most often reproduced images in British art. Yet surprisingly Hughes himself has often been overlooked and his name is little known.

*'Enchanted Dreams'* will be the first exhibition ever dedicated to Hughes and his work. It will bring together paintings, drawings and watercolours from public and private collections in the UK and overseas, many of them unseen in the hundred years since the artist's death. The exhibition will feature Hughes's delightful child portraiture and exquisite chalk drawings as well as the magical late 'blue pictures' such as *'Night with her Train of Stars'* which have become famous and loved worldwide.



## **ANTHONY VAN DYCK'S LAST SELF-PORTRAIT & CONTEMPORARY ARTIST JOHN STEZAKER - THE PROJECT SO FAR**

*Event type: Evening Event*

*Date: Tuesday 26 January 2016, 6:30pm - 8:30pm*

*Speaker: Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art*

**Cost:** £9/£12 non-members. The ticket price 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](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).

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

Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, is working with photographic and collage artist John Stezaker to curate a display on portraiture in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery which will feature Anthony van Dyck's last self-portrait (1640-41). Planned for Gallery 15 from May to September 2016, Lisa will discuss the project so far and some of the works from Birmingham and the National Portrait Gallery that will feature in this major new display.



## EDEN CAMP MUSEUM

**Event:** *Outing*

**Date:** Thursday 4 February 2016

**Cost:** £27.00 (Includes coach, driver's tip and entrance).

**Pickup Points:** Yateley Road at 8:30am; or Great Charles Street at 8:45am. Leaving at 4:30pm to arrive back in Birmingham approximately 6:00pm.

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

A very interesting place, located on the outskirts of the market town of Malton in North Yorkshire, *Eden Camp* is a multi-award winning Modern History Theme Museum housed within the grounds of an original World War Two prisoner of war camp. Today, Eden Camp has people of all ages visiting from around the world to see the story of WWII re-created using sights, sounds, smells and moving figures to create a unique atmosphere that makes it feel like you travelled back in time to wartime Britain. The Prisoners' Canteen and Officers' Mess is the ideal place to refresh yourselves during a visit to *Eden Camp*. Here you will find a range of hot meals and snacks, as well as a range of desserts and hot and cold beverages.



## 'FAITH IN BIRMINGHAM' GALLERY

**Event type:** *Evening Event*

**Date:** Tuesday 9 February 2016, 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Speakers:** Lynsey Rutter, Community Engagement Team Leader; and Adam Jaffer, Curator of World Cultures

**Cost:** £9/£12 non-members. The ticket price 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](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).

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

Lynsey Rutter and Adam Jaffer will be introducing the 'Faith in Birmingham' gallery and highlighting the significance of some of the artefacts displayed for this gallery.



## THE ART, VILLAS & HISTORY OF ANCIENT ROME

**Event Type:** *Annual Event*

**Date:** Monday 11 to Sunday 17 April 2016

**Cost:** £1,099.00 (Includes 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.

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

Our hotel is The Hotel California Roma 3\*, centrally located, with superior rooms. We will visit the Coliseum; the Vatican Museums; St Peter's Basilica; Castel Sant' Angelo; the Borghese Gallery, parkland and country house; and the Villas of Tivoli. There will be some free time.

There will be no application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara directly to book your place email: [barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com) or telephone 0121 308 3427. ■



Above: The Sultanganj Buddha, Bronze, 500 AD - 700 AD.

© Birmingham Museums Trust

**EVENT KEY**



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME EVENT



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING

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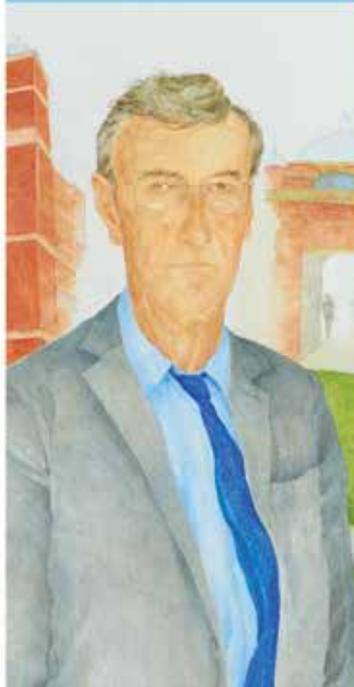
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## TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

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16 October 2015 – 17 January 2016



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# BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY CELEBRATES 130 YEARS

*View from the Round Room, through the Italian and the Industrial Galleries c. 1890'*

The Museum & Art Gallery was opened in 1885 and this year celebrates its 130th birthday. While the aims of the people who cared for the building and its precious collection may have changed, the spirit with which it was set up is alive today – thanks to you.



'Much has changed over the last 130 years, but our reliance on support from donors like you has remained the same.'



The 28th November 1885 was a grand celebration of civic pride in Birmingham. Opened by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) the long-awaited Museum & Art Gallery welcomed its first visitors on a day that all could enjoy – a Saturday. Joseph Chamberlain, Richard and George Tangye and the other founders had a vision of providing a place for Birmingham craftsmen to learn from excellent design. The memorial stone in the Entrance Hall commemorates this ambition with their motto: *'By the Gains of Industry We Promote Art.'*

While the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1850 allowed funds for the building and running of the premises, it did not provide for the building of a Collection. From the very beginning, the Museum was reliant upon the generosity of individuals and companies for donations. Numerous donors such as John Feeney, J.R. Holliday and Frederick Nettlefold formed the Collection in its early days and this reliance upon the support of dedicated individuals is still very much true today. In 1931 the Association of the Friends of the Gallery was formed to contribute funds to a purchase fund. For a subscription of £1.25, all members received a monthly card, newsletters, private viewings of exhibitions, lectures, an annual ball and a summer outing.

The Museum & Art Gallery moved from strength to strength with this support, building up a Collection which included worldwide treasures of craftsmanship and works by David Cox, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Rossetti, Millais, Ford Madox Brown, Holman Hunt and Arthur Hughes. While there was always an interest in Birmingham artists, it was not until the 20th Century that the focus of the Museum shifted to reflecting Birmingham's role in history. The Second World War, the opening of the heritage sites and a Local History Gallery at the Museum in 1981 began the undertaking that has culminated in the internationally-acclaimed

Collection we care for today. Our purpose is 'To reflect Birmingham to the world, and the world to Birmingham.'

This purpose is at the core of our plans for the future. Education remains part of our charitable objects. After 130 years, using real objects for learning remains at the heart of what we do. For example, the New Year will see the opening of a new *Faith in Birmingham* gallery, which will represent the variety of faiths and practices that are shared by Birmingham people. *Collecting Birmingham* is a current project which engages with local communities and preserves their stories. In partnership with local universities and organisations like Turning Point West Midlands, we continue to support local and emerging artists. Birmingham and our visitors remain the life of the Museum & Art Gallery, as we get prepared to welcome the 70 millionth visitor through our doors.

Museums are going through tough times at the moment, and Birmingham's Museum & Art Gallery is no exception. Without the essential work of today, there is no guarantee of tomorrow. Much has changed over the last 130 years, but our reliance on support from donors like you has remained the same. This year, on Saturday 28th November, we will celebrate a special birthday with people from across Birmingham, to which you are warmly invited. We all need to show our support for the next 130 years of the Museum, and this November we launch an Annual Appeal to give a special birthday gift. We would like to write to you in November about this Appeal, and we hope that many of you will share our hopes for the future. ■

**Rebecca Bridgman, BMT's Curator of Islamic & South Asian Art, will be discussing the new exhibition to mark the 130th anniversary of the opening of BMAG at a Friends' Evening Event - see page 9.**

# 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](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank)
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices): [www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://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](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)

- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café:  
[www.museums.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.museums.stoke.gov.uk)

## CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available throughout the year and includes 3 extra months free. Christmas Gift Membership (valid 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017) could make an ideal present to a friend or relative. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at [www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends](http://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. Please ensure the form reaches us by Friday 11 December at the latest.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr DV Minchin, Ms SE Lee, Miss C & Miss JM Cook, Miss HM Riggall, Mrs J Davies, Ms R Apostol, Mrs V Austwick, Mr B Reed, Ms K Davies, Mr L & Mrs P Parkes, Mrs E Bridgewood, Miss E Reason. ■

## 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:



The summer is drawing to an end and so much has been achieved by our volunteers that I could take up all the pages in *Artefacts* telling you about the incredible things they've been up to. Instead, let me highlight just some of the volunteering that the team have been doing.

Over at Aston Hall we have been running the Aston Experience thanks to our dedicated team of Aston Ambassadors. The Aston Experience is a fantastic interactive tour that takes place during the holidays and at weekends. Our volunteers really bring the history of the hall to life and we're about to start experimenting with costumes too, to add even more fun! Here you can see some of the team enjoying our first Aston Hall volunteers' social event with Museum Team Manager Kimberley.

Over at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery our Conservation volunteers have been very busy too. This year we have had a fantastic team of 40 people helping us with everything from the conservation cleaning of the Heritage Sites, to documentation and working on the Civic Silver collection. The team have

been absolutely incredible and we're hoping that their hard work will soon be externally recognised as they've been nominated for the ICON Conservation in the Community Award. Keep your fingers crossed! Here you see some of the team in action working on the Aston Hall textiles project. Our volunteers are tackling the cleaning and remounting of a 17th Century bed hanging – quite the challenge.

Every summer we recruit around 15 – 20 Summer Activities Assistants. This team support the Informal Learning team at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery over the summer holidays. They help us by running object handling sessions with the visitors and supporting craft activities too. Every year they impress us with their enthusiasm and their knowledge, and this summer has been no different.

We've had a great group for 2015 so a big thank you to all the team (pictured above). I look forward to sharing more about other volunteers across the Trust in forthcoming issues of *Artefacts*! If you'd like to join the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or on other projects for the Trust then take a look at [www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering).

We're soon going to be recruiting for our new Artefacts Coordinator, so if you think you might be interested in coordinating the fantastic magazine you are currently reading then please do get in touch!

The next Friends Volunteers Meeting will take place in the Large Meeting Room at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery on Thursday 1 October at 11am. ■

# NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY ALEX NICHOLSON~EVANS  
BMT VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

## EVENING EVENT AT THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF ARTISTS: SEPTEMBER 1ST 2015

Nearly twenty Friends gathered at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA), at the evening event arranged to hear the sculptor Viv Astling talk about his craft and the exhibition of his work – ‘Stones@Home in the Garden’ – which was on show at the RBSA from 24th August until 5th September.

The evening commenced with Viv presenting a potted history of the Society, which was established in the mid-eighteenth century. Before this, artists had to show their work in London to reach a wide audience which meant that local people often did not see it at all. Although it has had its ups and downs as an organisation over the two centuries of its existence, the RBSA is still here and flourishing. For some long time it used a building on New Street, but came to its present home on Brook Street in the Jewellery Quarter in the 1980s. It uses the whole of the building, which is on four floors. On the ground floor there are usually lovely displays of jewellery, pottery and textiles made by local artists with great skill - all of which are for sale. There is also an exhibition on the same floor of a member's work. The two upper floors house the regular exhibitions. A nice point in this talk was the fact that Viv included aspects of the infighting which had taken place over the centuries as artistic temperaments clashed over Society policy and developments. The RBSA has had some distinguished members over the years, including *David Cox*, and today, as well as *Viv Astling* himself, *Rob Perry*, a well-known Black Country artist, is also a member.

Moving to discuss his own work, Viv had brought a range of samples of stone which he uses. We were able to handle these, noting their different qualities as he described them to us. He encourages visitors to touch

much of his work and to feel the tactile characteristics of the various materials he uses. Then he showed us a range of the tools he uses to achieve the variety of different effects he is seeking to create. He then showed us a number of photos of completed sculptures, explaining their purpose and locations. He told us of his interest in flowing shapes and in using ‘waste’ stone, which would otherwise be scheduled for landfill - including some from a demolished police station!

The exhibition currently showing Viv Astling's work is wide ranging. The theme is of a garden and his wife, Hazel Astling, a designer, had grown all the plants from seed to display each piece at its best. She had also planned the layout and the colour scheme with a water feature and lovely flowers. The result was a delightful garden with a range of colourful plants carefully laid out showing off the sculptures to great advantage. We were able to recognise pieces Viv had described to us and to handle many of them too. Many could be shown outside in the garden.

This event was a delight. Most members went away feeling that they had had an interesting and entertaining evening led by people who communicated their skill and enthusiasm for their chosen crafts well. It was all enhanced by the usual slices of pizza and glass of wine too! ■

BY DORIS MACDONALD



A panorama of 'Stones@Home in the Garden', taken by Toeman Irmak

# COLLECTING BIRMINGHAM

## BY BECKY FLETCHER

**Becky Fletcher, the Community Engagement Officer for the ‘Collecting Birmingham’ Project, talks about the work being done on Birmingham Museums’ doorstep to encourage local communities to become involved in the collection and acquisition of objects.**

Birmingham Museums launched an exciting new three year project called *Collecting Birmingham* in 2015. Funded by a £389,100 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project enables the people of Birmingham to take an active role in developing a collection of museum objects and oral histories that tell stories of growing up, living and working in Birmingham.

*Collecting Birmingham* focuses on four wards of the city – Aston, Soho, Nechells and Ladywood – where six of Birmingham Museums’ nine sites are based. The Trust is beginning to work with the community in these areas to identify objects to be acquired for the collection. This includes encouraging donations of objects from members of the community and also consulting the community on purchases for the very first time.

The items collected will tell stories about Birmingham life over the past 60 years and will strengthen the city’s art, history and science collections. The project is already reaching out to a wide range of people; helping them to collect their own local history and allowing them to decide on what is collected for future generations to enjoy. The community will

also assist and advise on forthcoming exhibitions to be held at the *Museum of the Jewellery Quarter*, *Soho House*, *Aston Hall*, the *Museum Collections Centre* and *Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery*.

Over the course of the three years watch out for special *Collecting Birmingham* events, focus groups, activities and open days across the Trust’s sites to celebrate Birmingham and its heritage. If you have a special story to tell, a memory to share with us or ideas on the kind of objects we should be collecting then please get in touch.

To contact the *Collecting Birmingham* team, find out further information, or to sign up to a monthly newsletter email [collectingbirmingham@birminghammuseums.org.uk](mailto:collectingbirmingham@birminghammuseums.org.uk) or phone 0121 348 8283. ■



# CHAIR & TREASURER

Those of you who were at the AGM will have learned, with huge regret that our Chair, *Debby de Haes*, wishes to retire from this position. Also, you will know that our long-standing Treasurer, John Nodding, had to resign due to his ailing health, and his successor, *Katy Oram*, had to resign due to competing pressure from her employment. So we are in an urgent search for replacements.

The two vacancies offer exciting opportunities to help the Friends through the next stage of development by providing: strategic direction and strong relationships with key partners, most notably Birmingham Museums Trust - Chair; financial oversight, information and advice - Treasurer.

Both roles lead in ensuring that the Friends complies with all relevant laws, including

those of the Charities Commission. Also the Treasurer will serve in that role for the City of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Development Trust Fund.

If you or your friends or acquaintances might be interested in filling either of these roles, please let us know. For more information, email to [committee.fbmag@gmail.com](mailto:committee.fbmag@gmail.com) or phone 0121 3488330. ■

**Dr Ellen McAdam, Director of Birmingham Museums Trust, talks about the plans for the autumn, which include a host of seasonal activities across all sites, a brand new exhibition of a little-seen artist, a new membership scheme, community engagement for the new 'Collecting Birmingham' project and a big birthday.**

# AUTUMN IS UPON US

BY DR ELLEN McADAM



'As an independent charity, we are constantly looking for ways to provide a better service to visitors while making ourselves more financially sustainable.'



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Keats's season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, or in 2015 the season of the Arctic plume. Our seasonal programme offers a great variety of activities to keep our visitors busy. Blakesley Hall is holding its annual *Apple Day* on 11 October, featuring Morris dancers, archery and apple tasting. In a more sinister vein, the Hall observes the pagan rites of Hallowe'en, with the Witchfinder General paying a visit during half term. Aston Hall, Sarehole Mill and Soho House are also marking this ancient festival with magical activities, including a *Pumpkin Flotilla* and spooky crafts. Find more information on the website.

On 17 October we open *'Enchanted Dreams: the Pre-Raphaelite Art of ER Hughes'* in the Gas Hall at the Museum and Art Gallery. Hughes, who was a studio assistant to Holman Hunt and the nephew of Arthur Hughes, grew up surrounded by the Brotherhood. Their influence is evident in his work. Although not as well known as some of his peers, he has a considerable following, and this is the first dedicated exhibition of his work since his death in 1915. One of his best known works is *'Night with her Train of Stars'*, one of the most popular works in the collection. Our Fine Art Curator, Victoria Osborne, is an expert on Hughes, and has been successful in securing loans from private collectors around the world.

Birmingham Museums has launched a new membership scheme. As an independent charity, we are constantly looking for ways to provide a better service to visitors while making ourselves more financially sustainable. The Marketing and Development teams have worked hard, putting together a great package, and we explain the benefits later in this magazine. This scheme sits alongside Friends' membership. We are offering 15% off Life Membership for existing Friends, as valued supporters of our work.

Our *'Collecting Birmingham'* project is swinging into action. This three-year Heritage Lottery Fund project

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will see the Museum engaging with communities in the Ladywood constituency to collect objects and stories that reflect their experiences of growing up, living and working in Birmingham. This is an innovative project that puts Birmingham people at the heart of our decision-making. The Community Engagement Officer for the project is already out and about, talking to local societies and groups about their experiences of the city. Although the project is based in Ladywood, we are interested in everyone's stories about life in Birmingham, so if you have an object you would like to donate please get in touch.

On 28 November, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is celebrating its 130th birthday. The famous manufacturers, the *Tangye brothers*, persuaded the city to build an art gallery by offering a major donation, arguing that it would improve Birmingham's manufactured products by enabling workers to see the finest examples of art and design. The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) opened the new Museum and Art Gallery. Since then, Birmingham has gone on to amass the finest civic collection in England. Donors have ranged from wealthy benefactors such as John Feeney to less affluent but supportive Brummies. Many of the works acquired by purchase have been bought as a result of the tireless work of the *Friends* and the *Museums Development Trust*. As a charity we continue to rely on donations, and every visitor who drops loose change in a donations box helps to ensure that Birmingham Museums will serve the public for another 130 years.

We are grateful to the Friends for all their support and active interest in the work of the Trust, and for their voluntary input across the sites. I hope you can join us over the coming months to take part in our planned activities and enjoy our great collection. ■



Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH  
Open Saturday - Thursday 10am-5pm & Friday 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.

### Enchanted Dreams:

#### The Pre-Raphaelite Art of E.R. Hughes

Thursday 15 October 2015 – Sunday 21 February 2016.  
Gas Hall. FREE for Friends of Birmingham Museums.  
Admission charges apply for non-members.

Escape into a magical world of fairytale and myth. 'Enchanted Dreams' is the largest ever display of work by Edward Robert Hughes (1851-1914), a fascinating, but lesser-known Pre-Raphaelite artist.

Showcasing spectacular works not seen in public for over a century, the exhibition invites you to step inside a spellbinding dream. The centrepiece is a collection of Hughes' breathtaking 'blue pictures', fantastical and evocative works overflowing with stories and symbols.

Highlights include the entrancing fairy vision, 'Midsummer Eve', one of the best known and reproduced paintings in British art and 'Night with

Below: Edward Robert Hughes, 'Night with Her Train of Stars' © Birmingham Museums Trust



*Her Train of Stars*, one of the most popular works in Birmingham's collection.

*'Enchanted Dreams'* takes centre stage this winter in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Edwardian Christmas season – a festive celebration of yuletide from years ago. Meet Father Christmas in his grotto, browse an inspiring range of gift ideas and sample traditional winter warmers in the Edwardian Tearooms.

### **Birmingham Heritage Tours**

This season, Birmingham Museums is proud to launch a new programme of *Heritage Tours* at its Heritage Sites. For prices, opening times and for more information, see [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk).



**MUSEUM OF THE  
JEWELLERY QTR**

75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA  
Open all year round. Tuesday - Saturday 10.30am-5pm.  
Closed Sunday and Monday 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.



**ASTON HALL**

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Open Saturday 28 March - Sunday 1 November 2015.

See website for opening times and booking details.

*Tour charges apply to non-members.*

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion on the '*Aston Experience*' tour. Take a tour through majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens.

Hear captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. Plus, don't miss the chance to get to grips with genuine 17th-century objects.

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 Saturday 28 March - Sunday 1 November 2015.

See website for opening times and booking details.

*Tour charges apply to non-members.*

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed Tudor houses. Built in 1590 for *Richard Smalbroke*, a >

Left: Jewellery Offcuts at the  
Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



Birmingham merchant, Blakesley Hall is a peaceful haven set in an urban location.

The Blakesley tour reveals the fascinating history of the Hall and allows you to 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 Saturday 28 March - Sunday 1 November 2015.  
See website for opening times and booking details.  
Tour charges apply to non-members.*

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Take a tour around one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and gain 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 Saturday 28 March - Sunday 1 November 2015.  
See website for opening times and booking details.*

*Tour charges apply to non-members.*

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, *Matthew Boulton*. The Soho tour provides a glimpse into Boulton's world, taking you into family and servants' rooms as well as lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests, including 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.



Far Left: Dancing at Soho House  
Left: Get hands-on at Thinktank



## 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

*Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum  
Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG  
Open daily 10am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000.  
Admission charges apply.*

*Friends receive a 50% entrance discount.*

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.

### **NEW Spitfire Gallery**

*Now Open*

*Entry included in admission charge*

Uncover Birmingham's Spitfire Story - the new gallery 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.



**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  
[WWW.BIRMINGHAMMUSEUMS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAMMUSEUMS.ORG.UK)**

# IN THE AREA

## BARBER INSTITUTE

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS. Tel: 0121 414 7333. [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

### The Age of Innocence

Until Sunday 10 January 2016. Stolen gingerbread, spirited laughter, serenely slumbering infants and poised young girls provide some colourful contrasts in this exploration of the evolving imagery of children and childhood.

Curated to complement *Flinck in Focus*, this display includes stylistically diverse prints and drawings selected from the Barber's collection – from tranquil religious prints of the 17th century to playful illustrations of childhood in the 18th and 19th centuries. Drawn from all over Europe, the display includes works by notable artists such as *Castiglione*, *Adriaen van Ostade*, *William Hogarth* and *John Brett*.

### 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.

### Portraits from the University Of Birmingham

Friday 16 October 2015 – Sunday 17 January 2016. *Jacob*

*Epstein*, *Tom Phillips*, *Humphrey Ocean* and *Jennifer McRae*: some of the most respected British artists of the 20th century have been commissioned by the University over the past 100 years to portray and honour its chancellors, vice chancellors and other leading figures.

This selection features oil paintings, works on paper and sculpture, and looks not only at the University's leaders, but also some of its most prominent academics as well as those who played an instrumental role in student life. It explores the process of commissioning and realising portraits, rather than attempting to be a history of the University. However, gathered for the first time together, these sometimes surprising images nevertheless still reveal something of the character and eclecticism of the institution – the UK's original redbrick University.

### Flinck in Focus

Friday 23 October 2015 - Sunday 24 January 2016.

One of Rembrandt's most talented pupils, *Govert Flinck* was a highly prized and extremely successful portraitist and history painter, with a reputation that grew to match even that of his master. He was particularly popular for his portraits of children – a genre his teacher eschewed. But his fame waned and his name is relatively unknown today.

Marking the 400th anniversary of Flinck's birth, this exhibition is one of two opening this month that explore this under-appreciated artist – and are the first shows ever to examine any aspect of his work. In the Barber's picture-in-context show, one of the gallery's best-loved paintings, Flinck's *Portrait of a Boy* of 1640, comes under the spotlight: the sitter, the painting itself and its history. It features works lent by major public collections including the British Museum, the National Gallery, London, and the Rembrandt Museum, Amsterdam, alongside new technical information about the painting.



# Illustration Beats Explanation

12th September – 21st November

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum,  
Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT

Open Mon-Sat 10.30-4.30, FREE ENTRY



Image: Sir Bernard Partridge © Worcester City Collection

For details and talks see  
[www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

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## 70 Years of Music

*Friday 6 November 2015 - Sunday 31 January 2016.* In 2015, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Barber Evening Concert series.

The first Barber Evening Concert took place on 5 November 1945 during *Sir Jack Westrup's* reign as the University's Peyton and Barber Professor of Music. Westrup's programming in subsequent years included new, challenging, and sometimes controversial music, alongside accessible and popular repertoire, performed by Europe's leading chamber ensembles and recitalists. The concert series continues in this vein to this day, and this exhibition of photographs, concert programmes and other archive material celebrates the highlights of seven decades of music performance at the Barber.

## LEAMINGTON SPA GALLERY

*The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA*

*Tel: 01926 742700*



## Medicate 2015

*Friday 23 October 2015 - Sunday 17 January 2016.* This exhibition will showcase contemporary art collected through the *Medicate* project and later acquisitions inspired by it.

Between 2000 and 2005 the Art Gallery & Museum developed a collection of contemporary art works which explored the history of the Royal Pump Rooms as a former centre for medical treatments, especially hydrotherapy and physiotherapy. 10 years after the project finished, the *Medicate 2015* exhibition will revisit this unique group of artworks, which will be accompanied by more recent acquisitions inspired by the same theme.

The works of art in this collection examine the physical, societal and psychological effects of disease on people as well as the values and practices of medical science. Artists represented in the collection include: *Damien Hirst, Christine Borland, Keith Coventry, Jason Oddy, Laura Glassar, Tania Kovats, Jordan Baseman, Alexa Wright, Marc Quinn* and *Lyndall Phelps*. Glassar and Wright's work question how our bodily appearance is shaped by illness or disease and how we react to this. Hirst's and Coventry's work can be seen to question how the pharmaceutical and recreational drugs and foods we consume affect us physically.

The *Medicate* collection was created with the help of the artists and funders: the *Wellcome Trust, Arts Council of England, Resource/V&A Purchase Grant Fund*. A panel of consultants advised on the selection of artworks for the collection: *Mr Francis Wells, Professor Nick Spencer, Professor Martin Kemp, Anna Harrison, Sandra Percival* and *Gill Hedley*.

Since the *Medicate* project finished in 2005, Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum have continued to collect work with a link to medical science, spas and healing.

## 70 YEARS OF MUSIC

*Friday 6 November 2015 - Sunday 31 January 2016*

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

Works by *Edmund de Wall*, *Lyndall Phelps*, *Zadok Ben David* and *Jacqueline Donachie* have recently been acquired to expand this area of the collection.

## THE HERBERT

*Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP*

Tel: 024 7623 7521. [www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

### War Games

*Until Sunday 17 January 2016.* A highly interactive exhibition for adults and children alike, *War Games* examines the role of war in childhood play and strategic games from the 1800s to the present day, through a series of intriguing and immersive activities.

With tin toys, action figures and an army of iconic green soldiers, the exhibition is a delight for both adventurous little ones and the child in us all. Children are encouraged to dress up, play games and discover a range of exciting activities to investigate how games of war have evolved across the ages.

Exploring social and political contexts, as well as the controversy surrounding childhood engagement with war, this thought-provoking exhibition takes visitors on a fascinating journey through the role of conflict in human nature, and highlights debates about childhood exposure to war and gender stereotypes.

### Indelible Marks: The Dresden Project by Monica Petzal

*Friday 13 November 2015 - Sunday 7 February 2016.* Marking the 75th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz and the 70th anniversary of the Dresden bombings; *Indelible Marks* connects Coventry with its twinned city.

Blending personal family images, historical archive materials and Petzal's own experiences, *Indelible Marks* reflects upon the physical and emotional impact of tyranny in a series of haunting and emotive prints.

Exploring the devastation caused by saturation bombing, Petzal also shares with us her personal family story. Leading safe, secure lives in the heart of Dresden; the family were forced to flee their home following the rise of National Socialism and its Anti-Jewish policies, seeking the relative safety of London



# WEAVING OVER KIDDERMINSTER



## 3D Art Beneath Your Feet!

Opens Saturday 17th October  
Museum of Carpet, Kidderminster  
[www.museumofcarpet.org.uk](http://www.museumofcarpet.org.uk)  
Tel: 01562 69028

MUSEUM • LIBRARY • ARCHIVE • EVENTS • FAMILY ACTIVITIES • SHOP



## Halloween Half Term Fun

Monday 26 to Saturday 31 October

We've got a week of activities to give the kids a frighteningly good time.

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[birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/whatson](http://birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk/whatson)

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THE BIRMINGHAM  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS  
AN EDUCATIONAL CHARITY



## ILLUSTRATION BEATS EXPLANATION

*Until Saturday 21 November 2015*

Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Ackerman & Co, London, Worcester 1856 Grand Stand Made Brook © Worcester City Collection

in the Spring of 1936. Layers of imagery create a unique narrative, as Petzal presents visitors with recollections and echoes through time.

The Herbert will be hosting a series of prints from November 2015 through to February 2016; and will coincide with a site specific art work created by Petzal at Coventry Cathedral.

Connecting the two cities in their shared wartime experiences, prints from the project will now be displayed in Coventry following their presentation at the Kreuzkirche in Dresden in February 2015. This project is kindly supported by the *Benfield Group*.

### WORCESTER MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT

Tel: 01905 25371. [www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

#### Illustration Beats Explanation

*Until Saturday 21 November 2015.* We encounter

illustrations every day, be they instructions, cartoons or anatomical diagrams. *Illustration Beats Explanation* features contemporary artists who work in illustration and use comics, storyboards and drawing as a visual way to convey new ideas about the world. The exhibition is a collaboration between *Nathaniel Pitt, Division of Labour Gallery* and the *Museums Worcestershire Team*.

#### Crafted for You

*Saturday 7 November 2015 - Saturday 9 January 2016.* Once again we bring you some of the best craft makers in the Midlands in this annual exhibition. *Crafted for You* is the perfect opportunity to purchase an exquisite Christmas gift, or why not treat yourself to something special. Whilst you're here pop in the Art Gallery & Museum shop too for a fabulous range of Christmas cards and gifts.

#### Worcester Society of Artists

*Saturday 28 November 2015 - Saturday 30 January 2016.* The 68th annual exhibition of the *Worcester Society of Artists*. Many of the paintings and ceramics by local artists are for sale. ■

# 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



H.ART - BOTANICAL ART PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS BY HEREFORD BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY CERAMICS BY KATE DAWSON

9TH TO 27TH SEPTEMBER

FRAMEWORK HEREFORDSHIRE OPEN 2015 MC800 PROJECT AND FH MEMBERS' WORK



DRAWING, FINE ART PRINTS AND ARTISTS' BOOKS

30TH SEPTEMBER TO 25TH OCTOBER

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL ART 28TH OCTOBER TO 22ND NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS

25TH NOVEMBER TO 20TH DECEMBER

WEDNESDAYS TO FRIDAYS 9.30 TO 4.30

SATURDAYS 10.00 TO 1.00 : SUNDAYS 2.00 TO 5.00

OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT

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

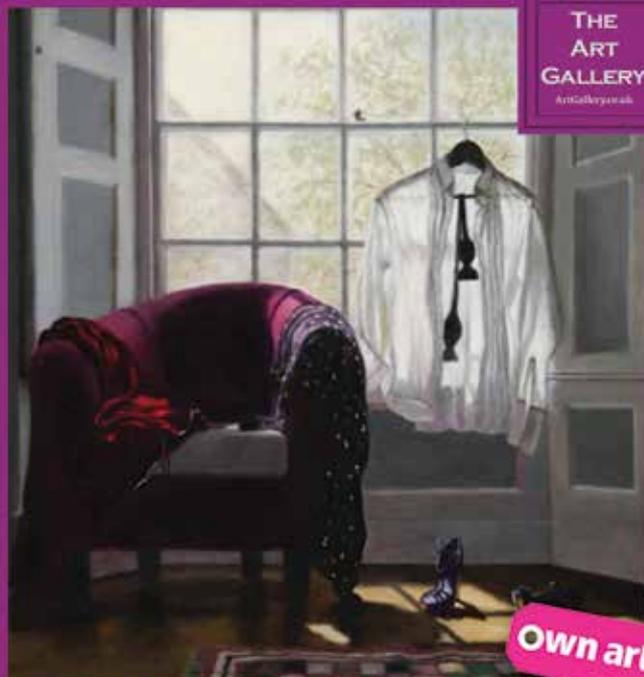
For bookings please telephone: 0121 666 7671

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 £4.00 | Family £17.50  
Standard - Adult 7.25 | Child £3.90 | Family £13.90



THE ART GALLERY  
ArtGallery.co.uk

own art  
Member Gallery

'All That Matters' Andrew McNeile Jones - 28"x24" Framed £1500

## THE ART GALLERY

www.artgallery.co.uk

Spencer House, 34 Long Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8AQ

Tues-Sat. 9.30-5pm. Tel: 01666 505152 help@artgallery.co.uk



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## MONTPELLIER CONTEMPORARY ART



MODERN GLASS : CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY  
STUDIO CERAMICS : FINE PAINTINGS : ETCHINGS & BRONZES



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montpelliergallery.com

# BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

BY JILL WARREN

**Jo-Ann Curtis, Curator (History) for Birmingham Museums Trust, discusses her role in the ‘Collecting Birmingham’ Project and how the two new displays – ‘Change in the Inner City’ and ‘Birmingham People’ - are developing. They are both about recording the lives and experiences of ordinary people in Birmingham since the Second World War.**

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Jo-Ann began by describing *Collecting Birmingham* which is a unique collecting project. Generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it will significantly develop the relevance and accessibility of the city’s museum collection. This project will enable Birmingham Museums Trust to capture the untold stories of people who have grown up, lived and worked in Birmingham. With a focus on the wards of Aston, Nechells, Soho and Ladywood, this three year project, from 2015 – 2018, will also enable the development of a new programme of sustainable engagement with Birmingham’s communities. The project will consult local communities on the objects and histories that the museum should acquire, and for the first time, these communities will have a direct influence on the purchasing of objects. The two displays that Jo-Ann is curating are:

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#### **Birmingham People**

This new display explores the ways in which ordinary Birmingham people have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries. The display includes oil paintings, photographs, and film as well as sculpture from the fine art and history collection. Gallery 12.

#### **Change in the Inner City**

‘*Change in the Inner City*’ focuses on the four inner-city wards of Birmingham, which include Nechells, Soho, Aston and Ladywood. This display explores how Birmingham’s urban landscape has undergone a number of significant redevelopments since the Second World War, and the impact this has had on the city and its people. The display includes topographical material from the fine art and history collection, as well as architectural models including 1967 Aston Expressway. Gallery 13.

The latter display illustrates the constant change during the 50s, 60s and 70s and how that legacy



**ABOVE:** The Pallasades 05-01-01 I, Video projection, 2001 ©Beat Streuli

is impacting on life in the City today. *'Birmingham People'* shows real people going about their everyday business. The starting point of this exhibition is a portrait of the *'Official Rat Catcher to the City of Birmingham'* which is in the Museum's collection. Although prior to World War II, the traditional oil painting by *Arthur Charles Shorthouse* complete with ferret, terrier and dead rats, highlights the changing roles and characters the City has generated.

Asked about the favourite part of her job as Curator of these displays, Jo-Ann replied that she particularly enjoys the public engagement side. She is passionate

about the City of Birmingham and finds the history of its development and its people fascinating. Jo-Ann uses oral history interviews to record peoples' experiences and regularly goes out to schools or visits community groups to do talks and show artefacts from the collection. She also leads tours and talks for groups who visit the museum and is often approached by the public with interesting articles from this period. Anyone who has items which they would like to donate, please contact the team.

To get in touch with the *Collecting Birmingham* team, email: [collectingbirmingham@birminghammuseums.org.uk](mailto:collectingbirmingham@birminghammuseums.org.uk). ■

# IKON GALLERY

## BIRMINGHAM

BY JILL WARREN

**Ikon is an internationally acclaimed art gallery situated in central Birmingham. Housed in a magnificent Victorian school building, it is a charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. Here Director Jonathan Watkins talks about his role.**

Ikon was first conceived of as a *'gallery without walls'* and in 1965 it took up residence in a glass-walled kiosk in Birmingham's brave new Bullring precinct. In the following 50 years it has resided in several venues around the city including its current location in Brindleyplace. Jonathan Watkins has worked there for 16 years and amongst his favourite exhibitions is *Some of the Best Things in Life Happen Accidentally*, a survey of work by Ikon's founding artists in 2004. This exhibition marked the 40th anniversary of the gallery and included Jesse Bruton, Robert Groves, Sylvani Merilion and David Prentice, amongst others. The creation of the gallery came about because of a chance conversation and a strong desire to create an alternative: *'Ikon is intended as an antithesis to exclusive art establishments and galleries... it has been formed because of the need for an accessible place where the exchange of visual ideas can become a familiar reality'*. These words ring out of the prospectus for Ikon, published in 1964, and, according to Jonathan, still inform an exhibition programme that ranges across a spectrum of art that

includes sculpture, paintings, sound, film, prints, installation and multi-media, extending into a vital off-site programme and learning activity. There is a very diverse audience to match.

Jonathan's role is a varied one which involves much travelling and many meetings as he represents the gallery nationally and abroad. He is involved with developing artistic heritage, especially relevant to Birmingham, whilst searching out emerging artists for debut exhibitions. The gallery is an independent public institution - *'non-commercial'* - and so much of his time is spent fundraising, from trusts and foundations, sponsorships and private donations, especially to complement diminishing support from the local authority. In the same vein, Ikon is very concerned to develop audiences, attracting visitors from all walks of life, so they have an opportunity to experience a more varied interpretation of art. Jonathan says *'Our job is to give people the opportunity to enjoy art and to provide a space where things are done differently'*. To celebrate their 50 year anniversary, Ikon organised

**RIGHT:**

Ikon Gallery,  
Brindleyplace

**FAR RIGHT:**

*Fiona Banner with  
NAM stack (1997),  
c-type print,  
aluminium*



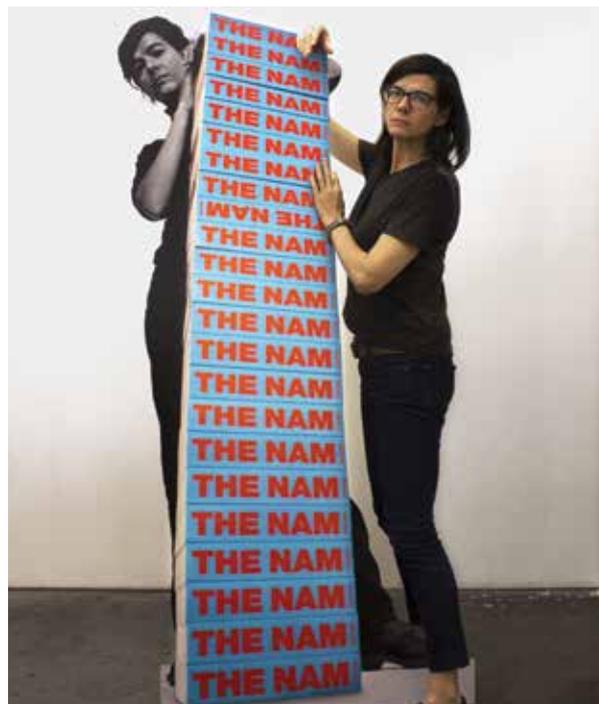
**LEFT:** Jonathan Watkins,  
Ikon Director

an auction in conjunction with Sotheby's, selling art works by over thirty artists who had previously shown at Ikon, donated in gestures of appreciation. The proceeds have given rise to an endowment fund providing grants for artists who will exhibit in the future.

Jonathan is looking forward to Ikon's next exhibition by Fiona Banner, opening on 10 October and continuing through into the new year. Fiona is a British artist of international renown, who was shortlisted for the Turner Prize and this will be her most comprehensive

exhibition to date. Next year there will be a major show of fluorescent light sculptures by Dan Flavin, one of the most important post war American artists and then the first UK exhibition by young Chinese video artist Kan Xuan, conveying her desire to '*express a more direct, simple and original understanding of life.*' Jonathan Watkins says that more art should be like that. ■

**Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham**  
is a charity and offers free entry to all.  
**Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm.**  
Tel: 0121 248 0708 / [www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)



## OCTOBER 2015

-  Tuesday 20 # *The making of a transport Museum'* – Bill Lane
-  Thursday 29 \* Calke Abbey

## NOVEMBER 2015

-  Monday 9 # Friends' Annual Lecture:  
*'The Staffordshire Hoard: The First Five Years'* – David Symons
-  Thursday 12 \* Houses of Parliament
-  Tuesday 17 \* *"Nearer to him than his right hand":  
ER Hughes and his Pre-Raphaelite hero William Holman Hunt'* –  
Victoria Osborne
-  Sunday 22 \* Electric Cinema
-  Thursday 26 \* *'Paul Nash: Trees are People'* - Brendan Flynn

## DECEMBER 2015

-  Tuesday 1 \* Wedgwood Visitors Centre
-  Thursday 10 \* *'Florence Camm: 'An Enterprising Life''* – Dr Sally Hoban

## JANUARY 2016

-  Saturday 9 \* Lowry Museum
-  Tuesday 12 \* *'Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery - 130 Years of History  
in the Making'* – Rebecca Bridgman
-  Tuesday 19 \* *'Enchanted Dreams'* – Victoria Osborne
-  Tuesday 26 \* *'Anthony van Dyck's last self-portrait & contemporary artist  
John Stezaker - the project so far'* – Lisa Beauchamp

## FEBRUARY 2016

-  Thursday 4 \* Eden Camp Museum
-  Tuesday 9 \* *'Faith in Birmingham Gallery'* – Lynsey Rutter and Adam Jaffer

## APRIL 2016

-  Monday 11 – Sunday 17 + The Art, Villas & History of Ancient Rome

- \* 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.
- # Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available - and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine
- \$ 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 JANUARY 2016

# Barber Evening Concerts

## Autumn 2015



### Wednesday 28 October 7.30pm

## Binchois Consort: The Battle of Agincourt

Andrew Kirkman director

The Binchois Consort mark the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt (25th October, 1415), one of England's greatest military victories. The programme also brings the focus onto its victor, Henry V. Great warrior though he was, Henry – typically for his time – was also a major patron of the arts. Like early fifteenth-century life itself, the music of Henry's time is colourful and surprisingly varied: a world of energy, rhythm, drive and brilliance.

### Wednesday 25 November 7.30pm

## quartet-lab

György Kurtág  
String Quartet No. 1  
Bartók  
String Quartet No. 4  
Beethoven  
Quartet, Op. 127

Plus additional short  
chamber surprises,  
to be announced from  
the stage.

**"THESE ARE ALL  
SEASONED INNOVATORS.  
THEIR COMBINED  
VIRTUOSITY TOOK THE  
BREATH AWAY."  
THE INDEPENDENT**



### Wednesday 9 December 7.30pm

## Pascal and Ami Rogé piano

Fauré  
Dolly Suite  
Debussy  
6 preludes (solo)  
Schubert  
Fantasie in F minor,  
Op. 103, D940

Mozart  
Sonata in C, K521  
Dvořák  
Four Slavonic  
Dances

**"Peerless pianism.  
The range of  
colours conjured  
up by the Rogés's  
was dazzling."  
The Arts Desk**

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 (0121 414 7333)

or via [www.barber.org.uk/concerts](http://www.barber.org.uk/concerts)

[barber.org.uk](http://barber.org.uk)

**FREE CONCERTS** every Friday at 1.10pm from 2 October. See website for details



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