

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2017

BAFM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Totality by Katie Paterson, 2016. A 70th Anniversary Commission for the Arts Council Collection.
Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist and Ingleby, Edinburgh

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

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SAT 16 DEC - SAT 6 JAN

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Reg. Charity No. 528895

DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY

PW MEDIA & PUBLISHING LTD

GRAPHIC DESIGN

PAUL BLYTH

PRINTED BY

STEPHENS & GEORGE

ADVERTISING SALES

JO WILLIAMS

Email: jo@pw-media.co.uk

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OPINIONS; WHAT OPINIONS!

BY DAVID FOSTER

Your committee welcomes, indeed needs, opinions from all our members. How else can we know whether what we are doing meets your expectations?

Are we supporting the projects that you want to support? Are we arranging the right kinds of events, too many, or not enough? How do you think we should promote them: *Artefacts* only, or online too? Or are you content to leave these decisions to the Committee? We'd particularly like to know coming up to the AGM, which is on 19 September in the Birmingham & Midland Institute (see page 7 for more details). We still need more committee members to fill vacancies so if you are interested in joining then please get in touch to find out more. **And we need you at the AGM!**

And we are not alone in seeking opinions. Birmingham Museums is also keen to know what you think: about its exhibitions at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) and Thinktank; and about the events being presented at its Heritage Sites. Some of you may have joined in their Open Space Forum at Thinktank in early July, which collected opinions on the plans for the 'Museum for Birmingham'. This is the title for the proposed redevelopment of the central museum, aka BMAG. You may think this is premature, since there will be no bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant until mid/late 2018. But that bid, and the others that will surely accompany it, will be stronger if it is backed by local community voices declaring what they want of their city's museums.

As you will remember, earlier this year we had to tell Birmingham City Council in no uncertain terms what we thought of their proposal to cut drastically their service grant to Birmingham Museums for the current year. On that occasion our voice, together with those of many others, was heard and the Council withdrew its reduction – but only for the current year. We are very likely to have to return to this battle again.

Birmingham Museums' plight is not unique, however. I recently met a group of Friends from the National Museum of Wales when they visited BMAG. In chewing over our various problems at lunch, it was remarkable



The Friends Trustees and Office Team

how similar their plight was to ours. They, like many (probably most) other Friends of Museums groups, are threatened by cuts. This is particularly the case for funding which comes from central Government, directly or indirectly. We want to encourage the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM), of which we are a member, to tell central government how important museums are to the lives of our communities. There is a good story to tell about the value of museums: how our museums help to build stronger and more resilient communities; and how money spent on our museums will reap benefits. But it will need to be well-written and widely supported.

If you want an easy way to send us your thoughts on this, or any other Friends' issues, you can write into the Friends office, or send us an email (see page 3). There is also the Friends website – www.fbmt.org.uk – which is designed to make it easy for you to post your stories and ideas. You'll find some of mine there already, being my tentative first steps in art comment. If you disagree with my opinions – which you very well might! – it is easy to respond using the 'Comment' button. I will be delighted if your comments spawn more responses, so that a conversation or a discussion starts up.

Opinions are powerful – let's use them. ■



HEREFORD CATHEDRAL



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the 1217 Magna Carta
and new Ascension window

www.herefordcathedral.org

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King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra by James Rossell & Sons, 1870 © National Portrait Gallery, London

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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.

Please note: a new rate has been introduced for non-members who wish to attend Friends Outings. Non-members will now be charged a £10 supplement (see prices for individual events below).

The Friends Office is manned on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you have a query, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will be in touch.



ELTON HALL & GARDENS

Date: Tuesday 22 August 2017

Cost: £40/£50 non-members (Includes coach, Buffet Lunch, Entrance to House with Guided Tour, Entrance to Gardens and driver's tip). Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:45am; City Centre, Margaret Street (B3 3BS) at 8:15am; or Yateley Road, Harborne (B15 3JP) at 8:30am. The journey should take approximately 1 hour 45 minutes, including a comfort break. Return at 4:30pm. Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; and Harborne. (NB. This

event was advertised in the last edition of Artefacts - but the date has been altered. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.)

An extraordinary, romantic, part-gothic historic house, Elton Hall stands in unspoilt landscaped parkland. The Hall is enchanting, with its gothic south elevation set at a right angle to the classical, French inspired, entrance wing. The house contains superb treasures, including fine French furniture, one of the best libraries in private hands and a magnificent collection of paintings. The gardens provide a stunning backdrop to the house.

A buffet lunch will be provided as we are asked not to eat picnics in the grounds. The buffet lunch includes: white and brown bread sandwiches, crisps, salad, home-made quiches, a selection of cakes and hot drinks.



'THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN 1951 AND ITS DESIGN LEGACY'

Date: Wednesday 13 September 2017

Speaker: Dr Sally Hoban

Cost: £9/12 non-members (includes entrance & refreshments). Meeting point: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:30am for an 11am start

The late 1940s was a time of great economic expansion for Britain after World War II and the 1951 *Festival of Britain* showcased the best of new British industry and design. Gerald Barry, the Festival's director, described it as a riot of 'fun, fantasy and colour'. It was held over five months at London's South Bank. Eight million people visited the site with attractions including the futuristic 'Skylon' sculpture and the 'Dome of Discovery'. This lecture looks at how and why *The Festival of Britain* had a huge impact on people's perception of design

EVENT KEY



Far left: The walled garden in bloom at Croft Castle in Herefordshire © National Trust
Left: Hereford Cathedral

(including graphics, textiles, ceramics and industrial design), and on design itself.



CROFT CASTLE (NATIONAL TRUST)

Date: Monday 18 September 2017

Cost: £26/£36 non-members (Includes coach and driver's tip). NB. Entrance to the property is not included so please bring your National Trust Card with you; non-members must pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8:15am; City Centre, Margaret Street, B3 3BS at 8:45am; or Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 9am. The journey should take approximately 2 hours, including a comfort break. Return at 4:30pm. Order of drop offs: Yateley Road; Colmore Row; and Sutton Coldfield.

Croft Castle sits deep in the heart of Herefordshire countryside surrounded by 1,500 acres of historic woodland, farm and parkland. This intimate family home encapsulates 1,000 years of power, politics and pleasure, as the Croft family moved in before the Domesday Book. 2017 is the 60th anniversary of Croft coming into the ownership of the National Trust; and you can reminisce by getting involved in some of their 1950s events. In the castle you can live life as Sir James Croft and find out how the family bought back their home in 1923, looking out for the 1950s photographs and memorabilia which detail how Croft looked when it was at risk of demolition before 1957. You can step outside and enter the working walled garden, complete with historic orchards and vineyard, take a peek inside the 1908 glasshouse restoration project, look out for the Georgian stable block and uncover stories of how horses were cared for during the war years.

Take a stroll through the parkland up to the Iron Age hill fort for far reaching views or follow one of the woodland trails and find over 300 veteran trees along the way.



'JOHN COBB'S 400 MILES PER HOUR ON FOUR WHEELS'

Date: Tuesday 19 September 2017, 6-7pm

Speaker: Jim Andrew, Volunteer at Thinktank

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members. (NB.

Refreshments are not provided). Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

Continuing our series of quarterly short science talks in conjunction with Thinktank and the BMI. In 1947 John Cobb, a fur trader and amateur racing car driver, took this car to a new record of 394 mph with well over 400 mph in one direction. In 1953 the Dunlop tyre company presented the car, the Napier Railton Special, to the Birmingham collections and it is exhibited in Thinktank, the Birmingham Science Museum. This lecture will explain some of the worries about looking after such an exhibit while also covering some of its fascinating history as a real engineering optimisation exercise.

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 19 September 2017, 7:30pm

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

The AGM will commence at 7:30pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre and we anticipate that it will conclude by 8:30-9pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 7pm until 7:30pm at no cost.

If you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event please indicate the amount you are donating on the booking form, and include it in the amount you are paying for events bookings. Donation plates will also be available on the night. It is important that we know numbers for catering purposes, so please complete the Application Form and return it as soon as possible.

Far Right: Visitors to the Festival of Britain in front of the Dome of Discovery.
(Southbank Centre Archive, Mrs Holland)

The AGM will follow our Science Short on John Cobb's Napier Railton Special. The Science Short will be held directly before the AGM, from 6-7pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre at the BMI, and will cost £3 (see above).

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

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL & CATHEDRAL GARDENS

Date: Wednesday 4 October 2017

Cost: £36/£46 non-members (Includes coach, 2 guided tours and driver's tip). 3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:45am; City Centre, Margaret Street, B3 3BS at 8:15 am; or Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:30am. The journey should take approximately 2 hours, including a comfort break. Return at 5pm. Order of drop offs: Yateley Road; Colmore Row; and Sutton Coldfield.

Hereford Cathedral – Guided Tour: Hereford Cathedral may not be one of the 'greats' when it comes to ecclesiastical architecture – it is not a York, a Salisbury, a Durham or a Lincoln in terms of size or grandeur. But it is wonderfully ancient and lies at the heart of one of the oldest dioceses in England (the date of its foundation is traditionally given as 676).

New SAS Memorial art installation: 'Ascension', the internationally important artwork dedicated to the Special Air Service in Hereford Cathedral, was unveiled in April 2017. Designed by the Royal Academy sculptor, John Maine, the magnificent sculpture and stained glass window is a modern focus for reflection, pilgrimage and worship in the Cathedral. 'Ascension' was two years in the making, with the nine metre-high installation comprising 3,000 pieces of European glass in 40 different colours. The parallax glazing, which creates breathtaking movement and depth to the window, was assembled by the architectural glass specialists Derix in their studios near Wiesbaden,

Germany. It took their three specialists just four days to install the glass at the cathedral.

Mappa Mundi: The Hereford Mappa Mundi is unique in Britain's heritage; an outstanding treasure of the medieval world, it records how 13th Century scholars interpreted the world in spiritual as well as geographical terms. Recent research suggests a date of about 1300 for the creation of the map.

Garden – Guided Tour: Hereford Cathedral's horticultural significance is reflected in six acres of RHS award-winning gardens, as featured in 'Country Life' magazine and on BBC TV. The historic Chapter House Gardens nestle amongst medieval ruins and illustrate pre-Reformation social and culinary lifestyles.

Cafe Mundi offers home-made hot and cold meals, seasonal soups, sandwiches and a tempting array of hand-crafted cakes.

THE WILSON ART GALLERY, CHELTENHAM: 'QUEEN VICTORIA IN PARIS'

Date: Tuesday 10 October 2017

Cost: £39/£49 non-members (Includes coach, Buffet Lunch, Curator's tour of the exhibition, entrance to permanent collections and driver's tip). 3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8am; City Centre, Margaret Street, B3 3BS at 8:30am; or Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:45am. The journey should take approximately 1 hour 15 minutes. Return at 4:30pm. Order of drop offs: Yateley Road; Colmore Row; and Sutton Coldfield.

'Queen Victoria in Paris', organised by the Royal Collection Trust, displays the watercolours commissioned as souvenirs from Queen Victoria's momentous state visit to Paris, in August 1855. Following years of antipathy between France and Britain, this visit was intended to cement the historic alliance between the two countries, developed through their fight against Russia in the Crimean War.

EVENT KEY



The watercolours that make up the exhibition were all presented to or commissioned by Queen Victoria as a souvenir of her visit. The works act as fascinating records of the opulent surroundings and the pomp and pageantry of Queen Victoria's visit to Paris, and are representative of art and taste during her reign. Queen Victoria was a passionate collector of watercolours, compiling a sequence of 'Souvenir Albums' during her marriage to Albert, which recorded the journeys, events and visits the couple attended together. As well as displaying work by French artists, the collection also holds some drawings Queen Victoria herself made during the Paris tour.

Generously loaned by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection, this exhibition is the first time that many of these works have been on display, and introduce the remarkable work of little-known French artists to today's audiences.

Lunch is included: the Wilson's own sandwiches, bowls of hand cut chips and soft leaf salad.



'COMING OUT: SEXUALITY, GENDER AND IDENTITY'

Date: Tuesday 17 October 2017, 6:30-8:30pm

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

'Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender and Identity' is the next exhibition as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, opening in the Gas Hall on 2 December 2017. This ground-breaking exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of male homosexual acts in England and Wales (1967 Sexual Offences Act). 'Coming Out' will feature works by internationally renowned artists whose work explores themes of sexuality, gender and identity in art since 1967, from The Arts Council Collection, The Walker Art Gallery and Birmingham's collection alongside additional major new loans for the exhibition in Birmingham.



Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, will discuss the curatorial - and engagement-led development of the exhibition and discuss key works in the show, prior to the exhibition opening.



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, ALREWAS

Date: Monday 13 November 2017

Cost: £33/£43 non-members (Includes coach, Tea, Coffee and Biscuits on arrival, the Arboretum Audio Guide, Tour by Land Train, Entrance to 'Landscapes of Life' Exhibition and driver's tip).

3 Pickup points: Yateley Road, Harborne at 8:30am; City Centre, Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street at 8:45am; or South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 9:15am. The journey should take approximately 45 minutes from last pick up. Return at 4:30pm. Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield, Colmore Row and Yateley Road.

The National Memorial Arboretum is an evolving, maturing woodland landscape featuring 30,000 trees and a vast collection of memorials. The 150-acre site is a living, growing tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country. With new memorials, both civilian and military, opening all the time, it is well worth a visit – even if you have been before.

10:50am: The Chapel: There will be an optional visit to the chapel for a short talk and two minutes silence. ➤

11:30am: Land Train Tour: The Arboretum's Land Train is the perfect way to enjoy the 150-acre site. The 50-minute journey will provide you with views across the landscape and will introduce you to some of the 300 plus memorials. Highlights en route include the Shot at Dawn Memorial, The Polish Armed Forces Memorial, The RAF Remembrance Garden and views across the Naval Review. The Land Train provides a pre-recorded commentary.

1:30pm: Shot at Dawn Memorial: There will be an option of joining a talk with an experienced volunteer at the Shot at Dawn Memorial.

2:15pm: Entrance to 'Landscapes of Life': This new exhibition opened in 2017. Comprising a mixture of traditional interpretation and interactive exhibits, you will discover a variety of moving and fascinating stories, providing an introduction to the Arboretum and its collection of memorials and wildlife. Discover the many stories behind some of the memorials, explore the symbolism in their designs and learn how they came to be part of the National Memorial Arboretum.



'IDYLLS AND IDOLS: VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BRONZE SCULPTURES'

Date: Wednesday 22 November 2017

Speaker: Brendan Flynn

Cost: £9/£12 non-members (Includes entrance and refreshments). **Meeting point:** The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:30am for an 11am start

In 1860, British sculpture in bronze was backward and provincial in comparison with mainland Europe. By 1875 a radical new spirit had transformed it into a world leader, setting new standards for technique and invention in representing the human figure. This illustrated talk traces the origin and rise of the 'New Sculpture' in 19th century Britain through the work of the artists Alfred Gilbert, Lord Leighton, Alfred Drury, William Thorneycroft and many others. Their themes of magic, mythology and the cult of beauty offer a vivid insight into the Victorian imagination.



'100 VIEWS OF BIRMINGHAM': TALK & DEMONSTRATION

Date: Wednesday 6 December 2017

Speaker: Mike Allison

Cost: £9/£12 non-members (Incl. entrance & refreshments)

Meeting point: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:30am for an 11am start

Mike Allison's 'Views of Birmingham' series was initially inspired by the Japanese printmaker, Ando Hiroshige's '100 Views of Edo'. Allison's original prints have small edition sizes with complex layering, combining printmaking techniques such as collagraph, engraving and monoprint. Each print has the same portrait format and dimensions, and draws upon elements of Hiroshige's series but also reflect the techniques and style of work that Mike Allison has developed over the past ten years of printmaking. The project, '100 views of Birmingham' will take around ten years to complete. Mike will describe the origins of the project, demonstrate some of the techniques that he uses and discuss some of the ideas and stories behind the prints themselves.

Mike Allison was born in Whalley, Lancashire in 1970. He is a graduate in Fine Art, Winchester School of Art (1992) and has an MA Fine Art from De Montfort University, Leicester (2005).

He is a full time printmaker and a past Chair of Birmingham Printmakers. He currently operates from his own print studio workshop at Ruskin Glass College in Stourbridge.



LOOKING UP: HOW WE SEE FURTHER

Date: Tuesday 12 December 2017, 6-7pm.

Speaker: Colin Hutcheson, Planetarium Officer, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

People have been looking up at the night sky, the

EVENT KEY



Moon and Sun for eternity, but it's only in the past 400 years or so that telescopes have been used to study them. They have advanced our knowledge and understanding of objects that have inspired poets and artist. Even today, artists are still being inspired, notably Katie Paterson's *'Totality'* and Luke Jerram's *'Museum of the Moon'*. Planetarium Officer Colin Hutcheson will discuss how our scientific discoveries have allowed artworks such as these to be made, and what we now know about both the Sun and the Moon – the most obvious members of the solar system.



FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY TO NICE & THE FRENCH RIVIERA

Dates: Friday 20 to Friday 27 April 2018

Cost: £1,299. Includes return flight from Manchester (including hold baggage); transfers and all excursions by air-conditioned executive coach; entrance fees and headsets; 7 nights' accommodation in the centrally located 4 Holiday Inn, Nice which has a roof-top terrace, bar/restaurant, wellness centre & access to a private beach 5 minutes walk away; Half board: Daily buffet breakfast and dinner at the hotel (3 courses plus a glass of wine). Fully escorted by an experienced French speaking Riviera tour manager throughout, supplemented with local guides. Single room supplement £289. If you would like to share a twin room with another same sex member, saving the single supplement, please contact Barbara to see if this might be possible. Transport by coach to and from Manchester Airport is possible at a small charge. Please contact Barbara directly to book this.*

Comprehensive itinerary to include:

Day 1: Meet at Manchester Airport (or join the coach from Birmingham) for our flight to Nice. Transfer to hotel.

Day 2: Lunch and guided tour at Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, plus time in the gardens. Walking tour of the Old Town of Nice.

Day 3: A full day visiting Monaco & Monte Carlo - including Palace of Monaco (State apartments and private collection of antique cars) and Saint Nicholas Cathedral. Ticket to the Matisse Museum, Nice.



Day 4: An excursion to Cannes - including a guided tour and free time to explore the castle, the ports, take a boat trip or head for the shops.

Day 5: Excursion to Antibes to include the old town and the Picasso Museum. Visit the medieval walled village of Vence, with the Chagall mosaic behind the font in the Cathedral of the Nativity de Marie de Vence and the nearby Rosary Chapel decorated by Henri Matisse.

Day 6: Visit Menton to see the Basilica of Saint-Michel and the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, plus time at leisure.

Day 7: Personal free time to enjoy the city of Nice at your own pace. Tour manager will be on hand for suggestions, directions and assistance.

Day 8: Travel to the Airport for our flight home.

Brochures are available from the Events Coordinator, Barbara Preece. Telephone: 0121 406 1145 or email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com.

To confirm places we require a signed booking form (one per room) and a deposit of £100 per person. The balance will then be due on or before 8 weeks prior to travel. Please book as early as possible as this hotel is very popular and rooms may sell out.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19 March 2018: Tate Modern, London:
'The EY Exhibition Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy'

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, near the Museum) on production of a valid Friends membership card. Available for lunch or dinner, 7 days a week.

Plus discounts at the following venues (terms and conditions apply):

- BMAG and Heritage Site shops/cafés
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices): www.shakespeare.org.uk
- 25% discount on Annual Passport Tickets at Ironbridge Gorge Trust: www.ironbridge.org.uk

- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/cafés: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at www.fbmt.org.uk/subscriptions/. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form below. 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 W Flanagan, Miss R Kostiuk, Miss SL Phillips, Mr C & Mrs L Johnson, Dr G & Mrs L Freshwater, Mr A Crucean and Mr S Laishley ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

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

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

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

Signature:

Date:



ABOVE: Friends' Desk and Infinity Box

Visitors seeking information, conversation or advice at the Friends' Desk are of all ages and come from all parts of the world. In a busy two hour session at the Desk it is not unusual to speak with individuals or groups from up to a dozen overseas countries in addition to the visitors from closer to home.

The Friends' Desk has operated for many years and still fulfils its original purposes as a contact and information point for members and a recruitment point for new members. Today, the predominant role of the Friends' Desk volunteers is to support Birmingham Museums Trust by helping visitors with information about the museum, its exhibitions and the other Trust sites and also providing visitors with advice about the city. However, recruiting new members remains a primary objective.

The topics covered and the questions asked by visitors are many and varied. Whilst it is often just a quick request and response giving directions within the museum, the questions are frequently far more open ended and lead to longer and more detailed conversations. Information flows both ways in these talks, since many visitors speak of things from their own backgrounds. What they say can be informative, funny, useful, critical and occasionally barely believable. It is an unusual session when the volunteer does not learn something new.

It is not necessary, possible or expected for volunteers working at the Friends' Desk to have detailed knowledge of more than a few individual museum exhibits but they do need to have, or be willing to acquire, a broad general knowledge of the museum and of the city centre. When working at the desk volunteers get asked about city activities by the visitors; especially activities in which the museum itself is involved, such as the 'Big Hoot'.

Lynda Perrin, the Friends' Membership Secretary, maintains and updates the Friends' Desk, which is equipped with a manual, up-to-date Trust literature, Friends' literature, maps of the museum and of the city and copies of the current *Artefacts*. There is also a telephone and all the necessary recruitment literature and paperwork.

The Infinity Box, located alongside the Friends' Desk, was commissioned to replace an outworn donations box in 2008. Both functional and eye-catching, this donations box is an ingenious piece of fine craftsmanship and an artwork in its own right. It intrigues and entertains, in different ways, young children, art lovers, professional scientists – almost anyone with an inquiring mind. That four mirrors and a light bulb can be assembled to generate quite so much conversation is amazing.

We are always looking for new volunteers to come and join the team on the Desk. Could you help us? If you might be interested in volunteering on the Friends' Desk, spending time assisting visitors to BMAG and promoting the work of the Friends, then please contact the Friends Office (see Contact details on page 3) and we can take it from there. After a short induction, which will be led by staff from Birmingham Museums Trust, Friends' Desk volunteers will become part of the Trust's volunteer team. We would love to welcome you to join our Team! ■

MEET THE WORLD AT THE FRIENDS' DESK

BY DEREK STREET, FRIENDS' VOLUNTEER

REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

I'm pleased to share the news that Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) has secured Arts Council England investment of just over £4 million for the next four years (2018 – 2022) as part of the funder's new National Portfolio. BMT was recognised as 'outstanding' throughout many areas of the application, including the creative case for diversity, which asks organisations to enrich the work they do by embracing diverse influences and practices to reach new audiences. The high scores reflect the hard work, skill and commitment of all BMT's staff and volunteers. Here's to another successful four years!

Friends can now help raise funds for Birmingham Museums for free, just by shopping online. Your everyday online purchases will benefit Birmingham's museums and collection without costing you a penny when you shop with 'Give as you Live'. 'Give as you Live' is a shopping and price comparison website with a heart. You can shop at over 4,000 top stores including Amazon, Expedia and John Lewis via 'Give as you Live' and they'll turn a percentage of your spend into free funds for BMT. Look up 'Give as you Live' on the internet and follow their straightforward instructions. It's that simple.

The Development team and many other staff have been working hard on fundraising for miniBrum, the new under-8s gallery at Thinktank, and the essential refurbishment of the Smethwick Engine in time for James Watt's 2019 bicentenary. BMT hope to be able to celebrate some major successes soon.

BMT will be launching a brand new Legacy Giving Strategy in the summer, highlighting that a gift to BMT will help share stories about the city's history and art, and will have a long-term impact on the programmes which Birmingham Museums are able to offer. BMT are also delighted to have gained new patrons in 2017 and look forward to welcoming more. As always, Birmingham Museums continue to look for new and innovative ways to raise funds and welcome your suggestions.

As we move into August, the holiday season is in full swing and I'm looking forward to welcoming new and regular visitors to Birmingham Museums' sites. With the Big Sleuth bear trail across the city, and lots of exciting events including Shakespeare Snippets (expect the unexpected!) at Aston Hall, and an Ale Festival (beers, ales & ciders from the best Birmingham brewers) at Blakesley Hall, it should be a fun few months. I am particularly looking forward to Luke Jerram's *Museum of the Moon* at Thinktank.

And finally, the 2017 Birmingham Heritage Festival will run from 7-17 September. You'll be able to explore cultural and heritage venues that are rarely open to the public, take part in workshops, discover Birmingham's hidden gems on guided tours and much more – there's something for everyone!

Enjoy the summer! ■

BIRMINGHAM
BACH
25 YEARS
PAUL SPICER
Choir
Inspiring Performances

Special Anniversary Concert
Thursday 30 November
Town Hall, Birmingham

J S Bach
B Minor Mass

Paul Spicer conducts:
Birmingham Bach Choir
London Baroque Sinfonia
Soloists: Sarah Fox, James Laing,
Robert Murray & Ashley Riches

Tickets from £12.50 & Students £5
www.birmingham.bachchoir.com
THSH Box Office tel: 0121 780 3333.



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THE STORY OF A GUARD DOG

*A stunning
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*Tickets include a £1 booking fee. No booking fee applies if booked online.

BIRMINGHAM MANUFACTURES

BY RACHEL COCKETT, BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST'S DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Birmingham Manufactures is a project funded by Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund to increase knowledge and documentation of the objects in our collection which relate to manufacturing in Birmingham. The project has been running for about a year so this is a great time to share some of our findings with our Friends.

As I am sure many readers know, Birmingham's importance as a centre of industrial production, particularly in metalworking, goes back to the medieval period, and it achieved global significance through its leading role in the Industrial Revolution. The dominance of its products in an international market justified its claim (contested by Liverpool and Glasgow) to be the Second City of the British Empire and the workshop of the world.

Many of its manufacturers – Austin Motors, Bird's, Boulton and Watt, Cadbury's, Chad Valley, GEC, HP, Typhoo – were household names, and their products, raw materials and machinery are well represented in our collection.

Thanks to the *Birmingham Manufactures* project we know much more about this important collection. The project started with a survey of the collection and the identification of 17,000 objects which were manufactured in the city. There are certainly many more than this as this doesn't include objects that have unknown makers or locations. With the survey complete, we had the daunting task of deciding which trades, manufacturers and objects to focus on, and narrowing down the list to about 3,000 objects to look at in detail. For each of these 3,000 objects we are researching and improving catalogue records, taking professional photographs, and marking the objects in accordance with conservation standards. We regularly share our most interesting finds and behind-the-scenes work on internet via Twitter and Facebook. All this work will make the collections more accessible for the public and researchers, and help put Birmingham on the map.

So far we have learnt:

- Copyright and trademarks are not simple, even historic ones! At the beginning of the project we looked at the Bird's Archive - and quickly became a little obsessed with custard! We discovered that Bird's is still an active trademark belonging to Premier Foods, and we've worked with them closely to ensure that we uphold the correct copyright for these items.



ABOVE: Bracelet, 1886, purchased by the museum from the Bingley Hall Exhibition in 1886.

- Not everything in the collection is perfect. A collection of objects was made by students whilst studying at the School of Jewellery. William Thomas Blackband (1885-1949), a past headmaster of the School of Jewellery, saved some of the work completed by his students, and they came into Birmingham's collection through a descendant of his. All but one of these pieces are anonymous and, although they tell us little about the person that made them, they do

offer an extraordinary insight into the acquisition of skills. In the slight inaccuracies of application and miscalculations about material and design, we get a sense of just how demanding the training at the School of Jewellery was and how technically proficient jewellers needed to be to 'get on' in the trade.

- The importance of the city's manufacturing industry has long been recognised by curators. In 1886, the Bingley Hall Exhibition of Birmingham wares from leading makers and manufacturers represented many of the trades that the city had to offer. Having opened one year earlier, the museum bought a few of the pieces that were on show, and added them to the rapidly growing collection.

- It is not all about Birmingham! Though called *Birmingham Manufactures*, our project might be better understood as a project to identify and catalogue items in Birmingham's collection which relate to manufacturing in the region. Although Birmingham makers and manufacturers often worked together, very few products were constructed solely within Birmingham's borders. The dependence of Birmingham's industrial success on the local, national and global market for raw materials, labour and skill is becoming significantly clearer as we progress with the project.

You can keep up with our latest discoveries online. The *Birmingham Manufactures* team, Tessa Chynoweth and Sophie Misson, share pictures and stories on Twitter (@BrumMfr), Facebook (Birmingham Manufactures), and Flickr (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery). They have also posted blogs on the BMT website to give insight into all of their exciting discoveries. ■



**BLACK & WHITE
HOUSE MUSEUM**
History lives here

A newly re-opened and re-furbished magnificent Jacobean building in the heart of Hereford. Enter a museum where you can experience life in 17th century Hereford with hands on activities, dressing up and even try the replica beds.

Visit our shop, stocked with replica 17th Century goods inspired by the museum's collection.

For up to date information on opening hours and admission charges please visit our website www.blackandwhitehouse.org

Opening Hours: T: 01432 260694
Tuesday - Saturday 10am-4pm High Town, Hereford HR1 2AA
Sunday 11.30am-2.30pm

E: herefordmuseums@herefordshire.gov.uk
● www.facebook.com/herefordmuseums

The Black and White House Museum is owned and managed by the Herefordshire Museum Service.



VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

www.viennafestivalballet.com

Sunday 1st October, 5pm Artrix, Bromsgrove Box Office: 01527 577330	Thursday 26th October, 7.30pm Benn Hall, Rugby Box Office: 01788 533719
Friday 6th October, 7.30pm Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham Box Office: 01242 258002	Wednesday 1st November, 7.30pm The Little Theatre, Leicester Box Office: 0116 255 1302
Saturday 21st October, 2.30pm & 7.30pm Mill Arts Centre, Banbury Box Office: 01295 279002	Thursday 2nd November, 7.30pm Civic Hall, Bedworth Box Office: 024 7637 6707
Sunday 22nd October, 5pm Lincoln Performing Arts Centre Box Office: 01522 837600	Thursday 14th December, 7pm Subscription Rooms, Stroud Box Office: 01453 760900

THE NUTCRACKER
Thursday 23rd November, 7.30pm, The Royal Spa Centre, Royal Leamington Spa. Box Office: 01926 334418
Saturday 9th December, 3pm, Evesham Arts Centre, Evesham. Box Office: 01386 446994



Sun-sparkle through trees in the Wyre Forest. Size A4. Gouache.

Following the success of his recent retrospective exhibition at Wolverhampton City Art Gallery, Robert Perry is pleased to announce his exhibition of new work

SUNLIGHT 3

RBSA Gallery, 4, Brook Street, St Paul's, Birmingham. B3 1SA. Tel 0121 236 4353

EXHIBITION DATES:

2nd - 14th October 2017

OPENING TIMES:

Monday-Saturday 10.30am-5.00pm

Sunday 1.00pm-5.00pm

ADMISSION FREE

EQUIVALENT 8

RBSA GALLERY, GALLERY 2

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER ~ SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2017

Equivalent 8 brings together a group of eight artists who are members of the RBSA. Viv Astling, Malcolm Franklin and Jo Naden will be showing sculptures; and Steve Evans, Jenny Ryrie, Michael Sadler, George Taylor and David Walton will be exhibiting paintings, drawings and other wall-mounted works.



LEFT:
'North Atlantic Odyssey'
George Taylor

BOTTOM LEFT:
'Morris'
Malcolm Franklin

BOTTOM CENTRE:
'Wings of Desire'
Jenny Ryrie

BOTTOM RIGHT:
'Stargazer'
Jo Naden



The exhibition is entitled *Equivalent 8* as the featured artists are a non-hierarchical group of artists. These individual artists work in a variety of media and have varied and differing approaches to their work, which ranges from abstraction that can be clearly seen to have its origins in the visible world to work that is more self-referential.

It could be argued that some of the first art created by humans was abstract in content yet figuration has been the dominant genre for most of Western

art history. Abstraction, as we know it today, has its roots in the works of Kandinsky, Malevich and other like-minded artists of the early twentieth century.

The *Equivalent 8* artists are delighted to be exhibiting alongside the William Gear exhibition and feel that the two exhibitions will showcase a less seen output of the RBSA's members' work, in the hope that the show will broaden the appeal of what is shown at the RBSA. ■

Michael Sadler RBSA

CLUES ACROSS

- 2. (and 5 down) These precision-engineered small metal items from Birmingham dominated the world supply for many decades. The point of them was not to be a feather (3, 4)
- 4. Word in current usage to part describe clients of the more luxurious restaurants (6)
- 8. They went round parks night and day, rain or shine (8)
- 10. Syrian President (5)
- 13. The Land of the Raj (Rahj), long described as the jewel in the crown of the British Empire (5)
- 14. Less formal name used by Shakespeare for Henry V (5)
- 15. All that was left of the Cheshire cat (4)
- 16. Legendary bowman in a Rossini opera (4)
- 17. Simon, Sakari, Andris, ---- . Continue (5)
- 20. An old word for "telling off". Usually by an adult to a child (5)
- 21. Just before Christmas this makes a greeting (5)
- 24. Repeating or occurring at irregular intervals (8)
- 25. These famed, historic Welsh mineral products still usually end up on top (6)
- 26. This nation forms part of the land mass where the original Dippy once roamed. The nation's present Commander in Chief sounds like a powerful card (initials) (3)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. This medieval town grew and achieved city status in 1889 (10)
- 3. Mendelssohn Oratorio first performed in Birmingham Town Hall in 1846 (6)
- 4. Word used to precede information about the past (3)
- 5. See 2 across (4)
- 6. Local cultural society with a gallery in the Jewellery Quarter (initials)(4)
- 7. Robert Browning's poem records the catastrophic result of this musician's visit to Hamelin (4,5)
- 9. Put a "Top" on it and you get a popular, if controversial, TV programme for drivers (4)
- 11. In nature a description for not quite perfect spheres. Planet Earth, a slightly flattened sphere, is an example of one (9)
- 12. Dippy the dinosaur is visiting the Gas Hall from 29th May to 9th September 2018. What is his formal name in zoology? (10)
- 18. It can be just the thing for ups and downs (4)
- 19. Vauxhall's "star" cars from Ellesmere Port (6)
- 22. One of the English noble ranks below Duke (4)
- 23. Corroded iron (4)
- 24. British military unit. Motto "Who Dares Wins" (initials) (3)

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ANSWERS ACROSS: 2. Pen 4. Winers 8. Railings 10. Assad 13. India 14. Harry 15. Grin 16. Tell 17. Mirga 20. Scold 21. Merry 24. Sporadic 25. Slates 26. USA DOWN: 1. Birmingham 3. Elijah 4. Was 5. Nibs 6. RBSA 7. Pied Piper 9. Gear 11. Spheroids 12. Diplodocus 18. Ramp 19. Astras 22. Earl 23. Rust 24. SAS

For events which need to be pre-booked, bookings can be made by calling 0121 348 8038 or via the website (www.birminghammuseums.org.uk) unless alternative details are given.



Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Open Saturday-Thursday: 10am-5pm and Friday:
10:30am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000. FREE entry

From Renaissance masterpieces to Egyptian mummies, 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; the Mini Museum, specially designed for little visitors; 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.

I Want! I Want!: Art & Technology

Until 1 October 2017. Gas Hall. Free entry. This exhibition features work by artists made over the last 20 years who have all been influenced by the rapid development of technology. The approach of each of the 26 artists and collectives to their practice is different, resulting in a rich and contrasting view of the world and the culture that surrounds us.

The artists have used computer animation, video, computer graphics, audio, photography, drawing and gaming technology to create films, moving image, sculptures, paintings, interactive games and small and large-scale drawings. The artworks themselves tackle a range of themes such as human relationships and behaviour, surveillance and the habits of modern society.

The title is inspired by '*I Want! I Want!*', an etching created by the artist William Blake over two hundred years ago. It depicts a tiny figure standing before a celestial ladder that leads up to the crescent moon. The image acts as a metaphor for humankind's ability to dream and turn ideas into reality.

Bottom Left: Museum of the Jewellery Quarter
Bottom Right: Crafternoons at MJQ



Works selected date from the mid-1990s to the present day and are drawn from the Arts Council Collection, Birmingham's museum collection and other public and private collections.

'I Want! I Want!' is part of the Arts Council Collection National Partnership Programme which sees four major UK galleries working together to curate, host, and share a series of exciting and innovative new exhibitions with works drawn from the Arts Council Collection. The National Partner venues are Birmingham Museums Trust, Walker Art Gallery Liverpool, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Towner Gallery, Eastbourne.

Speculative Cameras Workshop

19 August 2017. Adult: £5.00; Concession: £3.50. 12 - 4pm. A mix of computation and cardboard, from the camera obscura to artificial intelligence, join artist Pete Ashton to hack cameras and rethink photography.

Did you ever wonder why all cameras look roughly the same? This workshop will use the history of photography and cutting-edge developments in image processing to challenge our assumptions of what a camera could be. You'll never think of your optical data-capture device in the same way again!

This workshop will take you through the history of photography and give you the opportunity to build your own cameras as well as using the latest technology to make 3D scans of objects and investigating artificial intelligence in photography.

This session costs £5 for adults and £3.50 for concessions. The activity is aimed at adults but

enthusiastic teens welcome (age 14+). You will need to bring some equipment yourself. For more information visit the Birmingham Museums website.

The workshop will be held in the AV Room at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Pre-booking is essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.

I Want I Want! Stories of 1975

20 August 2017. 1pm - 3pm. Join us for a warm and welcoming reminiscence session (dementia friendly) that looks back to the 1970s. Combining art from the gallery and the Arts Council Collection, we will look back to 1975 and across the decade through music, stories and art.

Highlights will include: 1970s wardrobe: try on or hold real clothing from the period; Music and art from the period; Look at the history of our region; Tea, coffee and biscuits; Share memories or make new ones with others.

Free drop in event which is suitable for all ages.

Life Drawing Special: The Act of Art

30 September 2017. Adult: £30.00. 1pm - 4pm. Artist Rob Conway returns for our incredibly popular life drawing class with a difference. Part performance, part life drawing, we use creative performers as our models live in the gallery. This time, join Rob as he offers top tips on how to draw an actor.

Our live model will perform and emote responding to the Arts Council Collection - make a request and capture facial responses live! From slow and careful study to quick fire drawing capture, this dynamic drawing session works at your pace.

£30 cost per person. All materials will be provided plus tutor and model. Suitable for ages 16 and above. Pre-booking is essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.



Left: Sarehole Mill



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.

Free entry for Friends. Tour charges apply to non-members.

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

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

Jewellery Quarter Heritage Walks

5 August, 9 September, 7 October 2017. Adult: £6.00. 2pm - 3:30pm. Join us for a lively walk around the historic Jewellery Quarter and learn interesting facts about the history of this renowned area, its buildings and businesses. The heritage walks will focus on the jewellery trade but also encompass many other aspects of the Jewellery Quarter's rich history.

Visitors can go on a journey back in time along streets drenched in history to allow them to discover the stories of those who defined the area. They can learn more about famous Egyptologist Colonel Vyse, whose estate formed a large part of the area as it is known today, as well as internationally-heralded companies that made fine jewellery for royalty and a host of celebrities including Jenson Button, Eric Clapton and Sophia Loren. The walk costs £6 per person. Please meet your guide on the corner of Newhall Street and Charlotte Street outside the old Assay Office.

Pre-booking essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.

Silver Stacking Rings Jewellery Workshop

30 September 2017. Adult: £50.00. 10am - 4pm. Join designer maker Grace Page to make a stylish and unique set of silver stacking rings using simple

techniques and learn new skills in jewellery making. This workshop is suitable for adults only.

Tickets cost £50 per person (includes materials and refreshments).

Pre-booking is essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Opening times: Open Tuesday - Sunday (and bank holiday Mondays): 11am - 4pm.

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

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion. Explore majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens. Uncover captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.

Open Air Theatre: Alice in Wonderland

6 August 2017. 6pm - 8:30pm. Adult: £15.00; Child: £12.00. Bring your picnic hamper and join us for a magical outdoor performance of Alice in Wonderland with Tread the Boards. Chasing a mysterious white rabbit with a pocket watch, Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole and into a world of fun and adventure. There she meets the colourful characters of Wonderland and hears their fantastical tales. After a lively tea party, an unusual game of croquet and a nail-biting trial to find out who stole a very special plate of jam tarts, will Alice find her way home?

This event is aimed at families and those young at heart with a curious disposition. The event will take place in our courtyard in the open air so please consider wearing warm clothes. We will provide the magical setting but not the seating, so please bring picnic blankets and/or low fold-out garden chairs. Unfortunately, no dogs are allowed at this event, with the exception of assistance dogs.

Doors open at 6pm, performance will start at 6:30pm. Our tea room and gift shop will be open from 6pm.

PLEASE NOTE: This event will go ahead whatever the weather. Tickets are non-transferrable and non-refundable.

Pre-booking is essential via the Tread the Boards ticketing website.

Meet Sir Thomas Holte

14 September 2017. Adult: £8.00; Child: £3.00. 1pm - 2pm. Sir Thomas Holte: Hero, villain, murderer, or simply misunderstood? Who is the man behind the myths? Aston Hall, a stunning Jacobean Mansion was built for Sir Thomas Holte, the man with an incredible reputation, find out his side of the story as he takes you on a guided tour. Are you brave enough to ask if he chopped his cook's head in two, or if he locked his daughter away in the attic?

Pre-booking is essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.

A Woman's Work

15 September 2017. Adult: £8.00 Child: £3.00. 1pm - 2pm. They say a woman's work is never done, was a truer word ever spoken? For Birmingham Heritage Week, this special tour focuses on the women at Aston Hall.

Pre-booking is essential. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.



Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Opening times: Open Tuesday - Sunday (and bank holiday Mondays): 11am - 4pm.

Free entry for Friends. 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.

Blakesley Ale Festival

16 September 2017. Adult: £5. Try a variety of Beers, Ales & Ciders from a host of the best Birmingham brewers. You can also pick up a limited edition Blakesley Hall beer glass (Entry fee includes glass). £5 entry fee to the festival. Usual prices apply to enter the Hall.



Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD. Opening times: Wednesday - Sunday: 11am - 4pm. Open bank holiday Mondays and Tuesdays in School Holidays: 11am - 4pm. Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members. Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Sarehole Mill is one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and provides a unique insight into the lives of the millers who once worked here. On Wednesdays and Sundays, our volunteer millers demonstrate the mill in action.

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

Family Baking Day

23 August 2017. 12pm - 3pm. £1.50 per child. Come and take part in our Sarehole baking day, where everyone can have a go! We are making Victorian drop scones (also known as scotch pancakes) in outside ovens and you can too. You'll take part in every part of the process from the making to the baking! Whilst you're here why not pop into the mill to see our millers making the flour you will use in our baking, and visit our historic bake house and handle some Victorian baking implements?

Normal admission to the mill applies (free entry for Friends).



An Unexpected...Birthday

9 September 2017. Adult: £25. 7pm - 10pm. To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of *'The Hobbit'* you are invited to an exclusive evening at Sarehole Mill. There will be live music and plenty of ale. Tickets include hog roast, access to the Mill and even a slice of birthday cake. Our bar will be open all night; we look forward to celebrating with you!

This event is part of our Middle Earth Festival celebrations which take place the weekend of 9-10 September 2017.

Tickets cost £25 per person. To book phone 0121 348 8263 or book online.



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Opening times: Wednesday - Thursday (and the first Sunday of the month): 11am - 4pm. Open some bank holiday Mondays and for special events - see What's On (prices may vary). Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

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

Handsworth Heritage Walks

2, 6 & 30 August, 3 September 2017. 12 - 2pm. Free event.

On the tour you will see fine Georgian and Victorian architecture, a convent designed by Augustus Pugin, a church that was built nearly one millennium ago and is known as the 'Westminster Abbey of the Industrial Revolution', the finest park that this city has, along with magnificent civic buildings. The tour starts at Soho House and ends on Soho Road, which is a vibrant area that offers a taste of India. The Lozells and Handsworth

Heritage Trail has been developed by Legacy West Midlands, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Birmingham City Council.

The tour is free but pre-booking is essential. To book email info@legacy-wm.org.



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

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to a talking robot, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology. This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden, a gallery dedicated to the iconic Spitfire as well as a number of natural history displays. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Right: Katie Paterson, *Totality* 2016,
Installation view Somerset House,
Photo © Flora Bartlett, Arts Council
Collection, Southbank Centre, London



Totality

27 May – 1 October 2017. Free to Thinktank ticket holders.

Created by contemporary artist Katie Paterson, *Totality* is made up of 10,000 images of solar eclipses, illuminated and sparkling from a rotating mirror ball. The collected images include the oldest known drawing of a solar eclipse from 1778, early 20th century photographs, contemporary images sourced from the internet and the most technologically advanced telescopes. *Totality* is on display as part of the Arts Council Collection National Partnership Programme which sees four major UK galleries working together to curate, host, and share a series of exciting and innovative new exhibitions with works drawn from the Arts Council Collection. The National Partner venues are Birmingham Museums Trust, Walker Art Gallery Liverpool, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Towner Gallery, Eastbourne. *Totality* is a 70th Anniversary Commission for the Arts Council Collection.

Looking Up, Looking Down:

The Earth, Moon, Sun and beyond!

27 May - 1 October 2017. Free to Thinktank ticket holders.

This display brings together an exciting selection of objects from Birmingham's collection looking at how artists and scientists have explored the skies. Objects featured include a globe of the Moon made in the late 1700s by renowned artist and astronomer John Russell and historic mechanical orreries used for demonstrating the positions of planets and moons in the solar system. These are being shown alongside photographs, prints and paintings including Andreas Gefeller's modified satellite photographs of cities on Earth, striking and colourful prints from June Wayne's *Solar Flares* series and Estella Canziani's watercolours of a solar eclipse. From John Russell's drawing of the Moon in the late 1700s to a printed paper deed for one acre of Moon estate, each object in this display tells a story about people's desire to know more about their place in the universe.

Museum of the Moon

21 July – 20 August 2017. Free to ticket holders. *Museum*

of the Moon is a new touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. The art installation uses detailed imagery from NASA of the lunar surface to create a scale replica of the moon (approximate scale of 1:500,000). Measuring seven metres in diameter, the installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound musical composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award-winning composer Dan Jones. The artwork creates an ethereal sight that visitors can enjoy by walking and sitting by the side of the moon and bathing in its own moonlight. This is the first time the touring artwork will be seen in the Midlands and has previously been on show around the UK and in Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

Entry to *Museum of the Moon* is included in the Thinktank ticket price.



**MUSEUM
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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 please visit: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk. To book for events, please call the Gas Hall reception on 0121 348 8038 or visit the website unless alternative details are given.

DEBORAH SMITH, CURATOR, PRESENTS AN INSIGHT INTO BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST'S ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION NATIONAL PARTNERS PROGRAMME

TOTALITY

The artwork *'Totality'* by Katie Paterson was commissioned in celebration of the Arts Council Collections 70th anniversary. Presented at Thinktank, next to the Planetarium, images of solar eclipses on the ball's surface float from partial to total, mirroring the sequence of the Sun eclipsed by the Moon.

The idea for *'Totality'* developed over several years and it is a significant new light work by Paterson, who is widely regarded as one of the most respected artists of her generation. At the heart of her practice is the examination of the relationship of human beings to the universe. She works cross-medium, with an emphasis on nature, ecology, geology and cosmology, underpinned by collaborations with leading scientists as well as writers, astronomers, nanotechnologists and musicians.

'Totality' draws on our experience of the natural world and makes the invisible visible. From the shimmering mirrorball 10,000 solar eclipses illuminate the room. The individual images collected by Paterson reflect an immensity of eclipsed suns. Total eclipses, annular eclipses, hybrid eclipses, partial eclipses, in stark black and white. The images bring together almost every solar eclipse seen from earth that has been documented by humankind, through drawings and photography - including the oldest solar eclipse drawings from hundreds of years ago, and the earliest 19th century photographs, to images from today's most technologically advanced telescopes. We experience a mass of solar eclipse images from scientists and specialists, posted online, in the press, news, YouTube, Flickr, by people from all over the globe, from every country that has witnessed an eclipse.

The process of creating *'Totality'* has involved collaboration with the leading scientific community worldwide, such as University College London, Lowell Observatory, Arizona, Hamburg Observatory, South African Astronomical Observatory, The High Altitude



Totality by Katie Paterson, 2016. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Birmingham Museums Trust

Observatory of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research. Observatories all over the world have donated images. The artwork process has involved a mass search for images, a significant editing process, and the undertaking of the joint production of the sculpture with astronomers, technical assistants and photography specialists.

The mirrorball is made of individual mirrors, which are digitally printed with a unique image of a solar eclipse. Each mirror sits within a recess cut using a 5-axis CNC router, then pushed into a high density, black sprayed, sculpting foam. This handcrafted meticulous method took over a month to completed - producing a spinning, dreamlike, hypnotic work of art.

'Totality' is part of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, supported by the Friends of Birmingham Museums, which has enabled Birmingham Museums Trust to host and curate a series of contemporary art exhibitions from 2016 to 2019. These exhibitions will increase nationwide access to UK's most widely seen collection of modern and contemporary art. ■

CONTEXT & SPACE

Deborah Smith (DS) talks to Stephen Beasley (SB) from the architectural practice Manalo and White about their inspiration for the design of the exhibition *'I Want! I Want! Art and Technology'* in the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

DS: It has been wonderful to work together on the exhibition that includes 27 works by contemporary artists that spans painting, film, sound work, interactive gaming and sculpture. Bearing in mind the content of the show and the different requirements for displaying each work, what was your starting inspiration for the design of the exhibition?

SB: Our work always responds to context. The original, Edwardian interior of the Gas Hall is beautifully rich in decoration so the simple forms we designed both contrast and heighten awareness of it. The varied nature of the work and the huge scale and formality of the Classical space encouraged us to think of the exhibition as a small town with avenues, cul-de-sacs, and courtyards, etc., each providing different spatial qualities suited to the individuality of the works. Works in the exhibition, in collaboration with yourself as curator, are positioned with generous amounts of space around them. The maze-like quality of the layout also allows a sense of discovery, the works seemingly chanced upon, encouraging people to spend time with each piece which they seem to do. The four blackout rooms are to experience film/sound works in complete isolation. A larger space for learning activities is a natural extension of the exhibition rather than separate from it.

DS: A selection of the gallery is spray painted with a graduation of colour from blue to pink, inspired by computer or mobile screen savers.

SB: The reference is to digital wallpaper colour fades like the ones you might have on your smart phone or tablet, but on closer inspection, because they are sprayed, the walls have a lovely handmade quality to them. It's something that came out of our collaboration with Fraser Muggerridge. A gallery of white walls can be dispiriting and a bit cold. The bold colours complement the subtle, cream tones of the original interior. We deliberately positioned the coloured walls so that on entry the visitor is met with an enticing expanse of colour.

DS: What's your favourite work in the exhibition?

SB: That's a tough one. If I had to choose it would probably be Ed Atkins' *'Warm, Warm, Warm Spring Mouths'* (2013). He's still fairly young and it seems to me to be a key piece in the development of his work, so perhaps for that reason it feels alive to possibility, and very current particularly in its use of language. The sound element is deceptively sophisticated and equally as significant as the visual aspect. It's an immersive soundscape in which his own voice is very present. He's almost in the room with you.

DS: Your work at Manalo and White is quite expansive from



'I Want! I Want! Art & Technology' (Installation).
Photograph: Morgan O'Donovan

houses to hotels and more recently to art centres and galleries. I'm curious to know how the museum has come into your life?

SB: My focus within the practice is on the arts and it feels like a natural move to work within the museum. Whilst finishing my studies as an architect I co-founded a collaborative practice with my brother who is an artist/curator. We worked with many artists and arts organisations, like Grizedale Arts and The Showroom, and that experience still influences the way I approach working on arts projects. I'm currently collaborating with artist Marc Camille Chaimowicz on the design of an apartment in Vauxhall and funding has just been obtained for some new artists studios for Focal Point Gallery in Southend-On-Sea.

DS: The exhibition has technology-based works by artists that go back as far as 1995 (22 years). What role has technology played in your architectural practice and everyday life?

SB: I've been lucky enough to see a very broad shift in the use of technology as part of the last generation of architects to be taught on the drawing board and the first to use computers. We began our studies using Rotring ink pens on tracing paper and ended building 3D models on the first generation iMacs. My favourite piece of tech is kind of boring and old though - it's the A3 Canon scanner in our studio. Being able to sketch by hand is still really important to think freely about design, and not least to get away from the computer screen. The scanner means you can do this and still share ideas with others. It's a really pleasing thing I can't quite explain. ■

'I Want! I Want! Art and Technology' is on until 1 October 2017.

THE INFLUENCE MACHINE

The Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme exhibition *'I Want! I Want! Art and Technology'*, in collaboration with Artangel, presents Tony Oursler's *'The Influence Machine'* - a multimedia immersive installation at St Philips Cathedral, where historic talking heads emerge through smoke onto trees, the cathedral and surrounding buildings.

American artist Tony Oursler has been experimenting with video since the late 1970s. He is best known for his multimedia installations, often featuring 'talking' sculptures, made from low-tech set designs, inventively assembled from brightly painted cardboard and household objects, with long fixed-camera shots and claustrophobic close-ups.

With its large-scale immersive installation of light and sound, *'The Influence Machine'* is an assembly of images of dreamlike landscapes and psychodramatic stories. The technological inventions in the work range from phantasmagorias and son-et-lumière discoveries made in the eighteenth century to those made in the twenty-first century.

The work comprises seven video projections, each with its own audio track. The videos of talking heads are projected onto smoke, trees, the cathedral and surrounding buildings, their fractured monologues combining to make a dissonant confessional chorus of the mass media age. One of the figures, appearing and disappearing in the smoke, is Oursler's longstanding collaborator, Tracy Leipold. Her dialogue makes references to key names from media history such as television pioneer John Logie Baird; and Etienne Gaspard Roberston, who founded the first moving image theatre in a Paris crypt in 1763. Other video projections include a talking light, a chorus singing and a technician's hand. A further video projects intimate and cryptic texts vertically along the trunk of a tree, while the audio channels include sections of radio feedback and the sound of Morse Code being transmitted.

The installation fuses the work with the urban environment in which it is staged, spilling out into the city as the smoke diffuses. These deliberately blurred parameters encourage the viewer to move through the work, experiencing its different elements, and encountering the built environment in a different way.

Oursler's title *'The Influence Machine'* is taken from one of the earliest inventions referenced: Francis Hauksbee's 1706 'Influencing Machine' in which a hand-crank

would spin a glass vacuum globe half full of air. This created a mysterious luminosity that had no practical application, but became popular as people associated it with talismanic powers. The work is also named 'The Influence Machine' after a psychological condition of the same name identified by psychoanalyst Viktor Tausk in 1919, in which the patient sees their body as an ever-changing machine.

As part of Birmingham Weekender, Birmingham Museums Trust, in collaboration with Artangel, presents *'The Influence Machine'* as part of The Artangel Collection, an initiative to bring outstanding film and video works, commissioned and produced by Artangel, to galleries and museums across the UK. The Artangel Collection has been developed in partnership with Tate, is generously supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Foyle Foundation and uses public funding from Arts Council England. ■

Curator's/Artist's Tours of 'I Want! I Want! Art and Technology': Friday 22 September 2017, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm. Gas Hall, BMAG. Free, open until 8:30pm.

Tony Oursler - Exclusive Artist's Talk: Friday 22 September 2017, 5-6pm, BMAG. Booking essential.

'The Influence Machine': Friday 22 and Saturday 23 September 2017, 8-10pm. St Philips Cathedral, Colmore Row. Free.

Birmingham Weekender: 22-24 September 2017. www.birminghamweekender.com



Tony Oursler, *'The Influence Machine'* (2000) Photograph: Dennis Cowley

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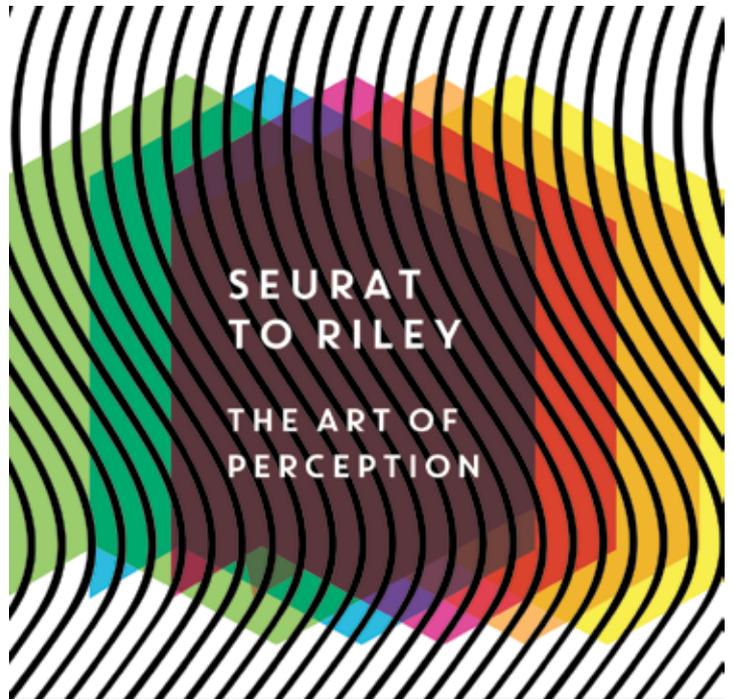
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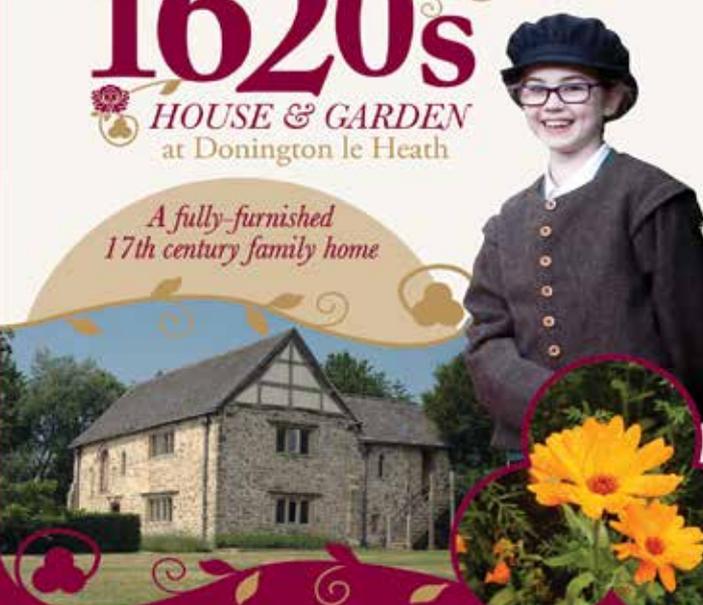
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The Galapagos Experience: Dive into the story of the Islands
Until 3 September, 11am–5pm. Explore the unique wildlife with a special exhibition, children's activities and trails throughout the summer holidays in partnership with the Galapagos Conservation Trust. Free entry.

Samuel Galton

Monday 7 August, 7:30pm. Join Cambridge academic Dr Harry Smith on the full moon as he delivers an engaging talk on a the 18th Century industrialist, religious non-conformist and gun maker, Samuel Galton. Tickets £5.

From down and outs to divas, Hogarth and the performing arts

Wednesday 6 September, 7:30pm. Join Darwin descendant and published author Jeremy Barlow for a lively talk on William Hogarth's cultural contrasts in the performing arts. Talk includes music. Tickets £5.

Collections, Collectors & Collaborations Seminar Day

Thursday 5 October. Full day conference with speakers to include Dr Patricia Fara (Cambridge University) on Joseph Banks, plant collector; Jonathan Wallis (Derby Museums) on John Whitehurst, fossil collector; and Dr Stephen Leach (Keele University) on Boothby, Rousseau and Wright. Includes lunch and refreshments. Tickets £35.

William Withering Celebration Dinner

Thursday 5 October, 7pm. Edgbaston Hall, Edgbaston Golf Club, Church Road, B15 3TB. Join us for dinner at the former home of Lunar Society member William Withering. Dr Peter Sheldon will talk on the life and times of the pioneering 18th century doctor. Includes a welcome drink, three course dinner and an auction. Tickets £35.

EX CATHEDRA

CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF.

Tel: 0121 616 3410. www.excathedra.co.uk

Monteverdi 'made spiritual': In Search of 1610

Tuesday 10 October 2017, 7:30pm. St Mary's Church, Warwick. Ex Cathedra Consort & Continuo. Jeffrey Skidmore, conductor. Programme includes: Monteverdi madrigals and madrigals 'made spiritual', Missa in illo tempore (from 1610 publication).

Bach's Magnificat

Saturday 14 October 2017, 7:30pm. Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Ex Cathedra. City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Jeffrey Skidmore, conductor. Programme includes: Bach Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott BWV 80; Bach Christ lag in Todesbanden BWV 4; Bach Suite No.3 in D Major BWV 1068; Bach Magnificat in D BWV 243.

IKON GALLERY

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.

Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org. Ikon is open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 11am – 5pm.

Portrait of the Artist: Käthe Kollwitz

13 September – 26 November 2017. Käthe Kollwitz (née Schmidt, 1867–1945) was one of the leading artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, notable for the emotional power of her drawing, printmaking and later sculpture. This exhibition focuses on around forty works from the British Museum's remarkable print collection, alongside material drawn from other UK public collections. The exhibition highlights the importance of Kollwitz's work and celebrates the enduring impact of her powerful and affecting images. The exhibition is organised in partnership between Ikon and the British Museum and is accompanied by a fully illustrated publication. A British Museum and Ikon Partnership Exhibition. Generously supported by the Dorset Foundation.

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY

Worcester City Art Gallery, Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT.

Tel: 01905 25371. Email: gallerymuseum@worcestershire.gov.uk.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Worcester Society of Artists' 70th Anniversary Exhibition
 Saturday 16 September - Saturday 30 October 2017, 10:30am-4:30pm. Worcester Society of Artists' annual exhibition is a great opportunity to see a fabulous and eclectic selection of art created by local artists. The Society has exhibited every year since their first year of existence from 1947 at Worcester City Art Gallery. The WSA today is a thriving group of amateur and professional artists, open to anyone interested in creating art, who meet for a programme of lectures, practical sessions and exhibitions. Whatever your taste, you'll find a picture or sculpture that you will admire and possibly even decide to take home! Much of the work is for sale and can make a wonderful Christmas present for that hard-to-buy-for person. Free Entry. ■



BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE OPEN DAY

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 9 September, 10am to 4pm

Drop in for

- The Birmingham and Midland Local History Fair
- Family Tree workshop with the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry
- Tours of the original Birmingham Library
- Self-guided tours
- Vintage book and cake sale



THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE
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www.bmi.org.uk 0121 2363591



22 SEP
- 7 OCT

DUET FOR ONE

By Tom Kempinski



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17 - 28 OCT

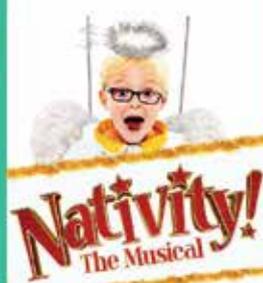
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101

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WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS 2017 26 ~ 28 AUGUST 2017

Art and craft created by Worcestershire artists will be on display in 70 different creative venues across the county this August bank holiday weekend.

Now in its third year, Worcestershire Open Studios delivers a unique annual opportunity for the public to visit the wonderful creative spaces of over 200 artists. Talented artists open their studios, homes and shared spaces to give you the chance to experience the life and environment of an artist and talk to creators about their inspiration and creative processes.

Karen Stone of Stone Fine Art, Worcester is just one of many artists eager to share her ideas with visitors, she says, "Worcestershire Open Studios encourages a dialogue between like-minded creatives and gives artists, both professional and amateur, the opportunity to promote themselves. At our studio we are always happy to talk about artwork, ideas and creative pathways. We believe that art can enhance everyone's day to day life, whatever their circumstances, and would encourage all to visit as many studios as possible."

Visit the studio space of Chris Haywood to discover the beauty of his unconventional subject matter. Chris explains, "My work explores the urban landscape, focusing on the buildings, street furniture, roads and atmosphere of the city of Birmingham. The paintings investigate the beauty that can be found in a familiar subject, conventionally thought of as being ugly or uninteresting. Expressive marks and vibrant colour result in dynamic portraits of the city."

Growing year on year, the number of participating artists and organisations is now at an all-time high, so there's even more sensational art to see than ever before! A wonderfully diverse collection of original arts and crafts will be available to see and buy, from

drawing, painting, printmaking and photography to ceramics, jewellery, textiles and mixed media. With such variety, there's something to suit every taste.

Having been involved with the event from its creation, painter and co-organiser Cherrie Mansfield believes Worcestershire has a wealth of talent to offer. She says, "Worcestershire is a county full of fantastic artistic talent - from painters, printmakers and photographers to ceramicists, jewellers and textile artists, we've got it all! Worcestershire Open Studios provides the perfect opportunity to meet some of the county's many artists - those who are well established alongside those who are just starting out - and talk directly to them about their creative practice."

Previous open studios events have proved to be invaluable experiences for some participating artists. One such artist is painter, Dora Williams. After composer, Liz Johnson visited Dora's studio in 2015 and discovered her emotive artwork, the pair developed a collaborative relationship that would alter their separate practices. Looking back at the event, Dora says, "You never know who is going to walk through your studio door! After purchasing some of my artwork in 2015, Liz Johnson went on to compose music based on the painting.

A new project in 2017 then saw Liz and myself comparing the creative processes used in visual art and music composition and exploring how these processes can influence each other. During the collaboration Liz's composition for the '*Colwall Requiem for Aleppo*' influenced my work; migration and displacement a connection deeply felt by me, being a migrant myself."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Cherrie Mansfield, Chris Haywood, Dora Williams, Lighthouse Glass, Nicola Currie, Richard Nicholls and Sophie Symes

She goes on to explain, "My painting titled *'In Pursuit of Happiness'*, has also been chosen for the cover of Liz Johnson's CD called *'Intricate Web'*. Participating in Worcestershire Open Studios has brought unexpected creative opportunity, and has opened up new avenues in my career."

To enhance the experience and help you get involved, some artists are also offering refreshments, demonstrations and have a go sessions.

Entry to all venues is free, so why not go on a creativity-packed adventure, discovering creative niches you never knew existed! ■

To find out more about the event, visit www.worcestershiresopenstudios.org.uk

Guides containing details of all the venues, opening times and examples of some of the work that you will be able to see over the weekend are now available to download from the website or to pick up from libraries, Tourist Information Centres and other locations.

Worcestershire Open Studios 2017 is sponsored by Bevere Gallery and Malvern School of Art.

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/OpenStudios_WR and like us on Facebook: [worcestershiresopenstudios](http://www.facebook.com/worcestershiresopenstudios)

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE EXHIBITION

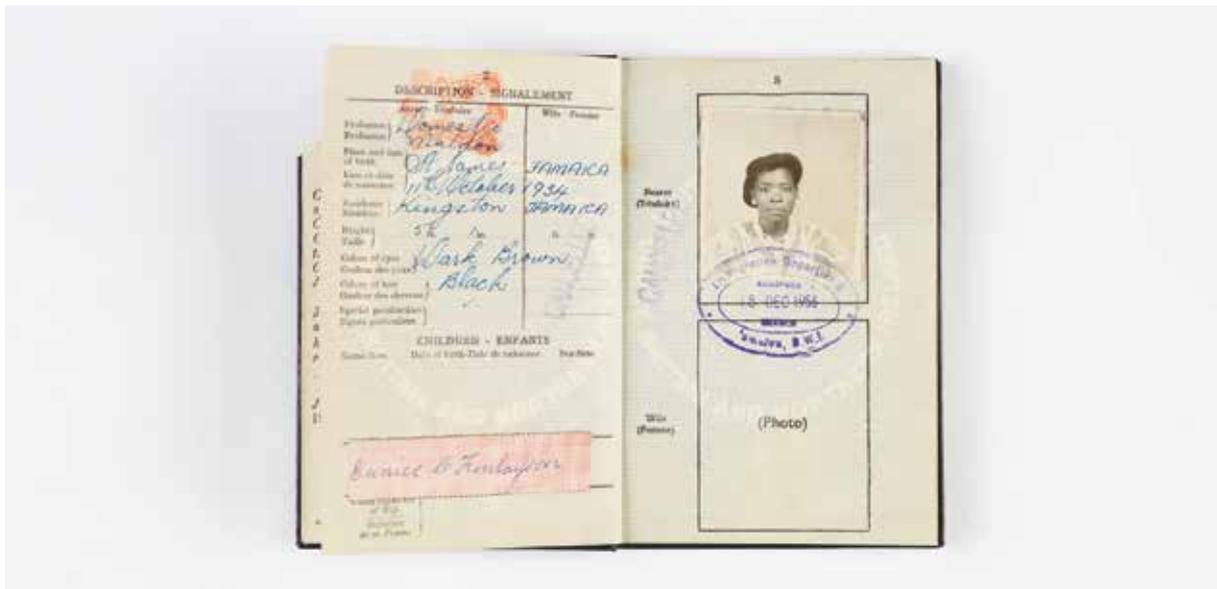
BY JILL WARREN

Will people in 100 years' time know how we live today? The *Extraordinary Lives of Everyday People* Exhibition, part of the 'Collecting Birmingham' project is asking local people to share their experiences of life today and in the recent past, to help future generations understand how local communities have grown and developed. Nazia Ali, Curator of *Collecting Birmingham* and Charlotte Holmes, Community Engagement Officer for *Collecting Birmingham* discuss the aims of Birmingham Museums Trust in launching this collaborative exhibition.



The Exhibition is being held in the newly refurbished community gallery at Soho House in Handsworth, the elegant home of the industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton from 1766 to 1809. It has been beautifully restored to reflect the late Georgian period tastes and fashions and was chosen as the exhibition is focusing on the Soho, Aston, Nechells and Ladywood areas of Birmingham. Nazia and Charlotte are encouraging local people to visit Soho House to leave their comments and reactions to the current exhibits which will be added to over the coming months in a rolling programme of events. The aim is to reflect the vibrant and colourful life in these areas of Birmingham and how the experiences of those moving here from abroad have contributed to the dynamic of community living.

The exhibition covers the period from 1950's – 2011 and a recent addition to the collection are Vanley Burke's black and white photographs. He emigrated from Jamaica in 1965 at the age of 14 and the 100 or so photographs are a reflection of his experiences



and the events during the period from 1967 to 2011. Only a selection of 15 are on show at Soho House but the whole collection – previously exhibited as the *'Rivers of Birminam'* – were purchased and are in the museum collection facility for future showing. These photos capture the riots and protests that have taken place in Birmingham plus life changing events including the shooting of Letitia Shakespeare. The ordinary, daily lives of Jamaicans' are also well documented. 'These photographs are seminal in their representation of Birmingham's Caribbean communities and the Handsworth area of the city from 1967' comments Lisa Beachamp, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the museum.

The Soho exhibition also includes a collection of around 40 objects belonging to Mrs Eunice McGhie-Belgrave MBE who moved to Birmingham from Jamaica in the 1950s. Again they are a part of a larger collection but Eunice, now in her eighties has been part of the community for many years helping others at every opportunity and showing no signs of wanting to retire! She started a sewing club for children among her many projects and with a very 'can do' attitude took on various roles promoting education for which she has received many awards along with her work involving the Shades of Black community project. An amazing woman, Eunice has been forthright about the racism she and the rest of the community experienced when they arrived in

Britain in the 1950's. Key questions in the Soho House exhibition invite visitors to voice their opinions about their treatment and experiences and those of others during the last half century of living in Birmingham.

Nazia and Charlotte are both Birmingham born and bred; Charlotte moved away to work in other museums but was keen to return when an opportunity came up with the *Collecting Birmingham* engagement programme. Nazia worked at Thinktank from 2007 but joined Birmingham Museums Trust when it was created in 2012. Nazia and Charlotte ask anyone with artefacts they may like to donate or memories they want to share to visit the exhibition or to call them on 0121 348 8192 or email: collectingbirmingham@birminghammuseums.org.uk. ■

***Extraordinary Lives of Everyday People* is at Soho House, Soho Avenue, Handsworth, Birmingham B18 5LB.**

The exhibition runs until 30 September. Opening Times: Wednesday and Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Also open: On the first Sunday of the month, 11am - 4pm and on some bank holiday Mondays. Entry is free

www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

LEFT: Vanley Burke, 'Boy with a flag, Wilfred, in Handsworth Park', 1970. Photo © Birmingham Museums Trust
TOP: Passport stamped 1956, belonging to Eunice McGhie-Belgrave, MBE. Photo © Birmingham Museums Trust

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

BY JILL WARREN

In 2017 Paul Spicer celebrates his 25th year as Director and Conductor of Birmingham Bach Choir with a performance of Bach's *B Minor Mass* in Birmingham Town Hall. To be offered the opportunity to sing in this prestigious venue is a reflection of the excellent reputation of the Choir and Paul's international standing as a conductor, teacher, composer and writer. Here, Paul discusses the choir and his busy schedule.

The Birmingham Bach Choir has evolved from modest beginnings as the Birmingham Bach Society in October 1919 to be one of the City's oldest and most distinguished musical groups. Richard Butt, Paul's predecessor in the role, also served for 25 years and it was under his auspices that the Birmingham Bach Society began performing concerts with the Orchestra which were very popular and successful. When Paul took over the role of Musical Director he changed the name to its present form and further developed the Choir. His abilities as a composer created opportunities for the Choir to perform some of his works which include *The Deciduous Cross* and *'Man, Wretched Man'*, both commissioned by Nicholas Fisher. His major work *'Easter Oratorio'* was recorded by the Birmingham Bach Choir with the Lichfield Cathedral Choristers, the Lichfield Special Choir and the English Symphony Orchestra in 2005, and was conducted by Paul himself.

The choral season runs from the end of September to late June, but this year throughout the summer, the 70-80 members of the choir will undertake triennial auditions to maintain their places within the group - such is the extremely high standard at which they perform. Paul is obviously heavily involved in this process, but towards the end of July, he will also find time to visit the beautiful county of Herefordshire and indulge in one of his favourite pastimes - running the annual summer choral workshop! Under the banner of the English Choral Experience, he takes around 60 disparate singers and forms them into an experienced choir within the confines of the atmospheric Dore Abbey, a beautiful and ancient Cistercian abbey in the Golden Valley.

In addition to the workshops, Paul conducts in London and teaches at both Oxford University and the Birmingham Conservatoire. The latter is being



ABOVE: Paul Spicer

TOP: World Premiere of Paul Spicer's *'Unfinished Remembering'* Choral Symphony (Symphony Hall 2014) photo: Adrian Burrows

BOTTOM LEFT: Hard working rehearsal, Birmingham Cathedral June 2017

BOTTOM RIGHT: Some current Birmingham Bach Choir members, singing with Paul from past 5 - 25 yrs



demolished and from September moving to a new purpose built £57 million teaching and performance facility which should open new opportunities. When asked to name his favourite venue for performance and his favourite piece, Paul was reluctant to pick a particular one as the experience is dependent on the type of music chosen. Among his preferences however are Lichfield Cathedral where the Easter Oratorio was first performed, and Birmingham Symphony Hall where Paul's choral symphony *'Unfinished Remembering'* was performed. Perhaps the ultimate combination is Paul's 25th anniversary concert – Birmingham Town Hall and Bach's *'B Minor Mass'*.

Paul was keen to point out the Choir is constantly developing and its reputation for excellence draws new members from a wide area. The Bach Choir asks anyone with an interest in choral music to contact them to discuss the possibility of a 'Come and Sing' session in their locality or if they prefer a more formal performance. They should also visit the website if they are interested in joining the Choir.

In celebration of the Choir's long and exalted history, and to recognise Paul Spicer 25th year in charge, it is fitting to remember the aims of the group:

'We exist to give inspiring live performances to a professional standard that engage with our audiences, with a distinctive mix of new and established repertoire. We aim to communicate our enthusiasm for great choral music to an increasing audience with concerts that, like our rehearsals, are both purposeful and enjoyable.' (Birmingham Bach Choir website) ■

For further details about Paul Spicer, his compositions, concerts, workshops and biography please refer to his website: www.paulspicer.com

For more information about Birmingham Bach Choir visit: www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

The 25th anniversary concert, a performance of Bach's 'B Minor Mass', will take place at Birmingham Town Hall, Victoria Square, Birmingham B3 3DQ on Thursday 30 November 2017 at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £25 (£23 concessionary), £18 (£16 con.) & £12.50. Please see website.



AUGUST

-  Friday 11 # Behind the Scenes Tours in Stratford
-  Tuesday 15 # *'It's a Dog's Life'* – Jane Howell
-  Tuesday 22 * Elton Hall & Gardens (Please note date change)

SEPTEMBER

-  Wednesday 13 * *'The Festival of Britain 1951 and its Design Legacy'* – Dr Sally Hoban
-  Monday 18 * Outing: Croft Castle (National Trust)
-  Tuesday 19 + *'John Cobb's 400 miles per hour on four wheels'* – Jim Andrew
-  Tuesday 19 + Friends AGM
-  Saturday 23 – ** The Art & Historic Houses of Greenwich & South East London
-  Tuesday 26

OCTOBER

-  Wednesday 4 * Hereford Cathedral & Cathedral Gardens
-  Tuesday 10 * The Wilson Art Gallery, Cheltenham: *'Queen Victoria in Paris'*
-  Tuesday 17 * *'Coming Out: Sexuality, Gender and Identity'* – Lisa Beauchamp

NOVEMBER

-  Monday 13 * The National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas
-  Wednesday 22 * *'Idylls and Idols: Victorian and Edwardian Bronze Sculptures'* – Brendan Flynn

DECEMBER

-  Wednesday 6 * *'100 Views of Birmingham'*: Talk & Demonstration – Mike Allison
-  Tuesday 12 * *'Looking Up: how we see further'* - Colin Hutcheson

MARCH 2018

-  Monday 19 ++ Tate Modern, London: *'The EY Exhibition Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy'*

APRIL 2018

-  Friday 20 - ** Friends International Holiday to Nice & the French Riviera
-  Friday 27

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).
- ** Fully booked, sorry!
- # Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Please contact the Friends' office if you would like to book a place.
- + Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).
- ++ Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing.
- ## No application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara Preece to book you place.

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

COVENTRY
Transport
MUSEUM

**14 ARTISTS, 1 CHALLENGE...
TRANSFORM A CAR INTO A WORK OF ART!**

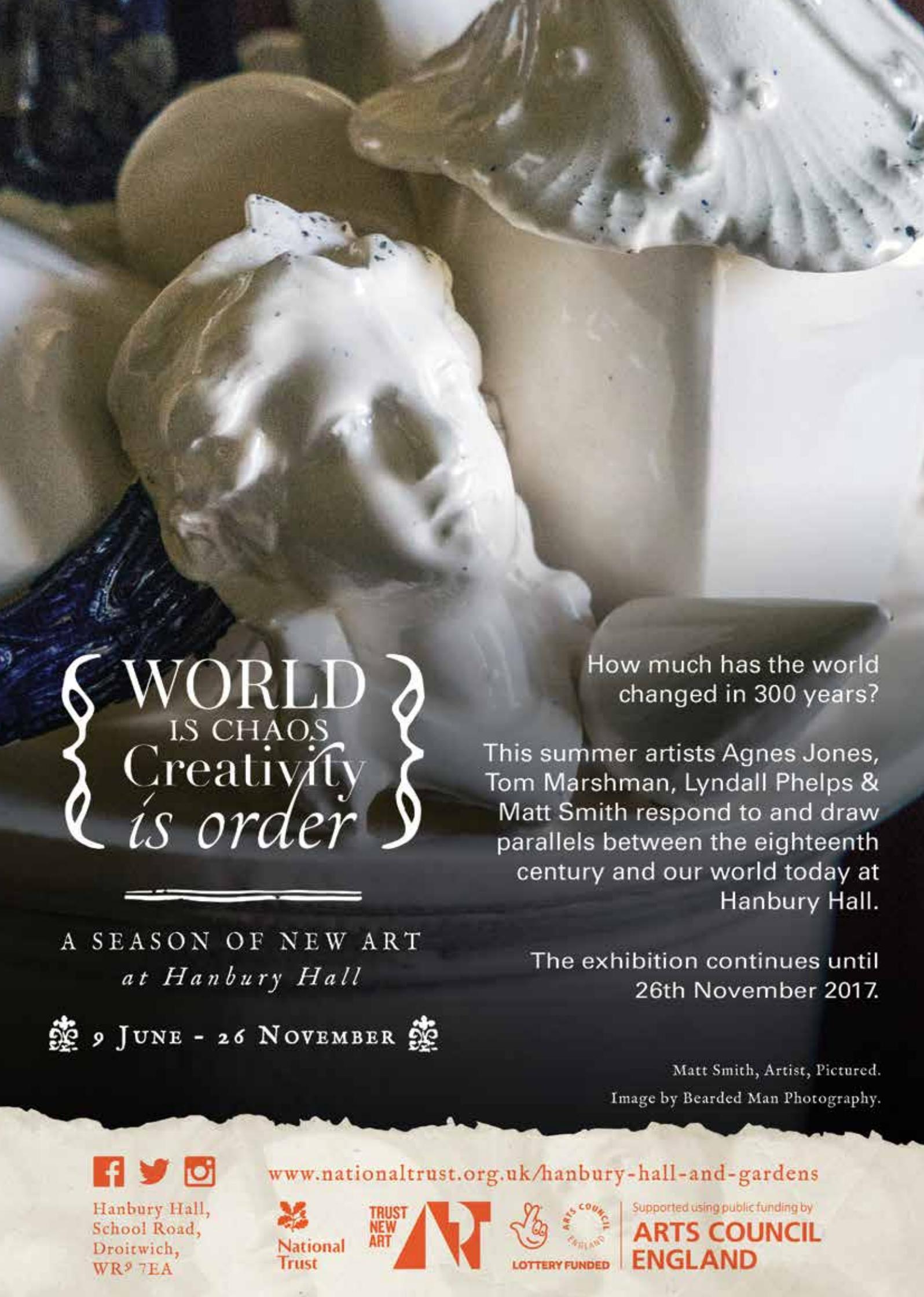
15 July - 29 October 2017

Step into a world where art and engineering collide, and see cars as you've never seen them before in this incredible new exhibition.

This exhibition is kindly supported by Rowley Auto Ltd.
Coventry Transport Museum
Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JD
www.transport-museum.org



**FREE
ENTRY**



WORLD
IS CHAOS
*Creativity
is order*

A SEASON OF NEW ART
at Hanbury Hall

9 JUNE - 26 NOVEMBER

How much has the world
changed in 300 years?

This summer artists Agnes Jones,
Tom Marshman, Lyndall Phelps &
Matt Smith respond to and draw
parallels between the eighteenth
century and our world today at
Hanbury Hall.

The exhibition continues until
26th November 2017.

Matt Smith, Artist, Pictured.

Image by Bearded Man Photography.



Hanbury Hall,
School Road,
Droitwich,
WR9 7EA

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hanbury-hall-and-gardens



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