

Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

Autumn 2012



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'Three peaches on a stone ledge with a Painted Lady butterfly' by Adriaen Coorte, sold for £2.1 million at Bonhams' Old Master Pictures sale, December 2011.

Our Chairman

Deborah de Haes



Deborah and Melissa Page at the opening of Thinktank's Science Garden

As I write this, I see an amazing variety of colours in the trees, flowers and shrubs around me on this beautiful autumn day. And it reminds me of the amazing variety of exhibitions we have been privileged to enjoy over the last few months. From the Curious Visitors exhibition of contemporary art at Aston Hall, the joyous celebration of Jamaica at 50 and the compelling portrayals of the Pre-Raphaelites' love and death at BMAG, to the refreshed Visitor Centre at Soho House, showing off the Sphinxes in their original location. These have really demonstrated the range and quality of the collections of which we are Friends.

I mentioned at the AGM that we have email addresses for about 25% of our members. This enabled us recently to email invitations to two private views at relatively short notice. We had a really positive response and those who came very much enjoyed the occasions. I do hope more of you will contact Lynda Perrin, the Membership Secretary, with your email addresses and then you too will be invited if something comes up between these quarterly editions of Artefacts.

As a 'first' this year we had a joint summer social with the Lunar Society at the MAC. This popular event was an opportunity to learn about the latest research on the Staffordshire Hoard. We are very grateful to Dr David Symons for taking the time to share his great knowledge and enthusiasm about the Hoard with us.

Our evening events have been going from strength to strength and range widely in style and content. One of our Trustees, Pogus Caesar, gave us an eye-opening talk about his photography and the subjects he has covered over an illustrious career as an art photographer. Drawing workshops, led by tutors from Birmingham Metropolitan College, have been much enjoyed; if you missed them, there is another one in the current programme. Also, you will see we are launching a new series where senior members of staff talk about their roles in the Trust.

One of our Trustees, Ria van den Nieuwboer, has recently resigned. She now lives away and finds it difficult to make meetings. We wish her well as she develops new opportunities closer to home. Her

resignation as Volunteer Coordinator earlier this year led me to commission an external review of our volunteering, the findings of which were presented to the Committee in September. We hope a new Volunteer Coordinator will soon be appointed who will be able to take forward the agreed recommendations.

I am delighted that a list of all Friends' acquisitions is now more or less complete. This was part of an 80th Birthday Project and I owe a great debt of gratitude to David Foster, Margaret Boniface and the team for their application and persistence in achieving this. Another marking of our 80th birthday was the commissioning of a major new art work to hang in the oculus below the History Gallery. By the time you read this, it will have been installed. See photo on page 20 - more in the next edition!

Over the summer, we have been enjoying opportunities to get to know the Director of the Trust, Ann Sumner. She spoke at our AGM and Annual Lecture, attended two Friends' Committee meetings and has welcomed us to many private views. Her dynamism and enthusiasm are a delight, and she and I are working closely together to ensure the Friends fully support the Trust as it evolves.

This autumn, I hope you find the collections brighten many a dark evening with the joy and challenge of their beauty. Try them and see! ■

Deborah de Haes

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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:
Diane Stinton - Tel: 01905 727903
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Evelyn De Morgan
"Luna"
Oil on canvas
© De Morgan Foundation

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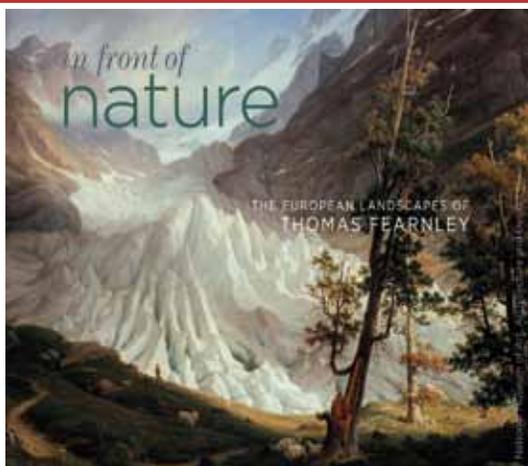
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Laura Knight, The Yellow Dress, 1918. © Reproduced with the permission of The Estate of Dame Laura Knight OBE RA 2012. All rights reserved.



Forthcoming Friends' Events

Event Applications

For Friends' Members the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine.

Note: Where applicable, if you are not a member and would like to apply for one of our events, send a letter to the address on page 4 stating the Event Name(s), your name, address, telephone number, how many places, the cost, the pickup point if a coach trip and any other relevant information. Include a cheque for the total amount made out to FB MAG unless otherwise stated. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.

Malta - Its History and Heritage

Friday 19 – Thursday 25 April 2013. Malta is situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, halfway between Gibraltar and Alexandria, and Sicily and North Africa. Thus it has always been at the cross-roads of the trading and warring routes of this land-locked sea.

Our itinerary includes visits to Valletta, Mdina, Mosta, Tarxien, Gozo Island and Sliema for a Grand Harbour cruise. This event was published in the last Artefacts, there are still a few places remaining, if you are interested please contact John Pownall. E: friends.of.bmag@googlemail.com or T: 0121 303 3129 or by letter to the address on page four.

Cost: £895 in Double Room and £994 in a Single (£99 supplement). Includes flight from Birmingham, coach from Luton, half board in a 4* hotel, a dinner "out" at a traditional restaurant, all excursions and entrances, gratuities to Tour Manager and coach driver.

Deposit: £100 per person, Insurance is available for £36 per person (max age 85). Please note that all cheques for this event should be made out to "Tailored Travel" and should not include

monies for any other Friends' events. Applicants will be sent the full itinerary; and a form to complete with their Passport, Insurance details and dietary requirements etc.

De Morgan Centre & Dulwich Picture Gallery

Tuesday 20 November 2012. William De Morgan, the ceramicist, and his wife Evelyn De Morgan, the painter, were both highly esteemed in their day - the late 19th and early 20th Century, and were key participants at the beginning of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The wonderful collection of their work at the De Morgan Centre was formed by Evelyn De Morgan's sister, Mrs Wilhelmina Stirling. On her death she bequeathed her substantial art collection to be looked after in Trust in perpetuity and the De Morgan Foundation Charity was formally created and charged with this duty in 1967. William De Morgan was an important Arts and Crafts ceramicist who rediscovered the lost art of lustre decoration and brilliant colours. He also had a long association with William Morris, designing tiles and stained glass windows. The front cover of this magazine features a painting by Evelyn De Morgan.

After lunch we will visit Dulwich Picture Gallery that houses one of the world's most important collections of European old master paintings of the 1600s and 1700s. The collection is also one of the oldest in Great Britain, substantially put together in the years 1790 to 1795. The paintings are housed in the first purpose built art gallery in England, designed by Sir John Soane in 1811.

Note: there are reductions for ArtPass holders

Cost: £34 (£26 ArtPass holders)– Includes coach, driver's tip, entrance, talk, coffee & biscuits at De Morgan Centre, entrance to Dulwich Picture Gallery

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 7:30am or Chest Clinic, Gt. Charles St. @ 7:45am.

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

Worcester Porcelain Museum & City Art Gallery

Friday 7 December 2012. The Museum houses the world's largest collection of Worcester porcelain. The visit begins with an introductory talk by a member of staff, a chance to examine some of the items of china and view behind the scenes of the archive stores. We shall also have a chance to see a Master Gilder at work.

After our visit to the porcelain museum you are free to visit Worcester Cathedral or Worcester City Art Gallery in Foregate Street. The Art Gallery has an exhibition displaying a selection of Laura Knight's landscapes. They have been brought back to Worcester where Laura Knight lived and painted for many of her later years.

Cost: £21 – Includes coach, driver's tip, coffee on arrival and tour of the Museum of Royal Worcester.

Pickup Points: Margaret Street @ 9:00am or Yateley Road @ 9:15am.

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

Evening Talks at Edmunds

New Lamps for Old: Crime, Law and Order in Victorian Birmingham – Chris Upton: Edmunds

Tuesday 13 November 2012, 6:30-8:30pm.

Birmingham's first historian, William Hutton, said that his home town was among the most peaceable in the land, with just two constables looking after a population of 60,000. Could this really be true, or was Mr Hutton guilty of massaging the figures? The government, on the other hand, thought Birmingham

utterly incapable of policing itself. Who was right? Dr Chris Upton takes a torch into the dark recesses of the Victorian town, gives chase to a few burglars and wonders what lay in store for them once they were caught. Expect an arresting evening!

Cost: £8.00 (£11 non-members).

We will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall St. and Edmund St. for the talk, discussions and refreshments at 6:30pm.

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

The Fast Paced World of Programming! – Toby Watley: Edmunds

Tuesday 20 November 2012, 6:30-8:30pm. An evening with Toby Watley, Head of Programming, to discover what really goes on behind the scenes at one of the UK's biggest museums services. From negotiating international loans, forging national museum partnerships and developing diverse exhibition programmes, to buying new art works, expanding learning provision for children and adults, and enabling local communities to take the lead. Gain an insight into Toby's senior role, leading on exhibition, curatorial, education and community engagement programmes, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Cost: £8.00 (£11 non-members).

We will meet in Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall St. and Edmund St. for the talk, discussions and refreshments at 6:30pm.

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

Evening Workshops with Birmingham Metropolitan College

Continuing our association with the Outline Visual Arts Department of Birmingham Metropolitan College, this workshop will encourage the Friends to experience hands-on practical drawing techniques.

Drawing from Epstein - depicting form

Monday 26 November 2012, 5:30pm - 8pm. Develop your artistic ability to depict form using tonal techniques looking at the work of sculptor Jacob Epstein. The revolutionary sculpture, *Rock Drill*, is not only a powerful statement of Epstein's response to an increasingly mechanised world, but also a fantastic object from which to make exciting drawings.

The workshop provides earlier participants with a chance to develop their work further, but also operates as a stand-alone introductory session for those coming along for the first time. No drawing experience is necessary, just a willingness to get involved and have a go. All materials will be provided.

Cost: £8.00 (£11 non-members).

We will meet in BMAG at the Edmunds St lift on the 2nd floor at 5:30pm. The workshop in the Gallery will last 1 hour; followed by discussion and refreshments at Edmunds which will include a group critique and a presentation from an art historian putting the practical work in context.

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

scenes of this unique art collection which is displayed across the world. This is the first time that such a large number of works from the collection have been displayed under one roof. The Government Art Collection has been created to promote the nation through displays in government buildings, particularly British embassies, around the world, providing a backdrop for global political meetings and events. For more information about this exhibition see What's On Museum Events on page 17.

Cost: £8.00 (£11 non-members).

We will meet in Gas Hall Reception for the tour at 5:30pm. This will be followed by refreshments and discussion at Edmunds.

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

'Love and Death' - Victoria Osborne

Tuesday 4 December 2012, 5:30pm - 8pm. *Love and Death* brings together 11 late-Victorian paintings from Tate alongside works from BMAG's own collections to explore themes of magic and murder, passion and tragedy. Join its curator, Victoria Osborne, for an informal tour, and take advantage of a private viewing of the exhibition after hours.

Cost: £8.00 (£11 non-members). We will meet in BMAG outside the Edmund St. lift on the 2nd floor for the tour at 5:30pm. This will be followed by refreshments and discussion at Edmunds.

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

Evening Tours

Revealed: The Government Art Collection - Andy Horn (Exhibitions Manager)

Tuesday 27 November 2012, 5:30-8pm. *Revealed: The Government Art Collection* takes you behind the

Friends Guided Tours

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £7.00. Please note that Lunch is not included in these events (see Luncheon Clubs).



Baddesley Clinton - a place to come back to

Experience an evening of fine dining in the Barn Restaurant and super sleuthing in the manor house at our first Murder Mystery evening on Saturday 27 October, 6.30pm. Tickets £45.

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

Admission Prices:
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Standard: Adult (6.30) | Child (3.20) | Family (14.80)


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**Guided Tour (113) - "In Three Dimensions"
by Jane Howell**

Friday 18 January 2013. On this tour we will be looking at the Applied Art in Galleries 20, 21 and 22. A real mix of materials, subjects and sizes; including sculpture by Ana Maria Pacheco, Henry Moore and Jacob Epstein, figures from a fairground organ and a ceramic vase from Sèvres C 1890.

We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

Luncheon Clubs

The following luncheon clubs have been arranged for this next quarter. The talks take about an hour and then we go to the Edwardian Tea Room for lunch. (You will need to bring your ticket for the lunch.) Luncheon Clubs are exclusive to Friends and cost: £14.00. You may attend the talk without having the lunch at a cost of £9.

**"Love and Death" - Victorian Paintings from the
Tate by Victoria Osborne (Curator, Fine Art)**

Fridays 30 November & 14 December 2012. This exhibition features eleven of the most spectacular Victorian paintings in the national collection; they are displayed alongside some of Birmingham's own related works. Exploring universal themes of love, beauty and tragedy, these powerful and moving paintings create a spectacular display.

Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11:00am.

**Revealed: The Government Art Collection
by Andy Horn (Exhibitions Manager)**

Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 January 2013. *Revealed: The Government Art Collection* takes you behind the scenes of this unique art collection which is displayed across the world. This is the first time that such a large number of works from the collection have been displayed under one roof. The Government Art Collection has been created to promote the nation

through displays in government buildings, particularly British embassies, around the world, providing a backdrop for global political meetings and events. For more information about this exhibition see What's On Museum Events.

Friends will meet in Gas Hall Reception at 11:00am.

**Contemporary Paintings & Sculpture
by Katie Hall (Exhibitions Officer)**

Friday 11 & Tuesday 22 January 2013. This exhibition in Gallery 20 features Ana Maria Pacheco's *Man and his Sheep*, her multi-figure group of polychrome sculptures carved from wood. Included amongst the other art displayed are works by Simon Callery, Sean Scully, Jane Harris and Craigie Aitchison.

Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11:00am.

The End of Empire: The Barbarian Conquest of Roman Spain and Portugal

Tuesday 4 December 2012. A Talk in the AV Room by David Johnson. In April 2011, before the Friends' Lisbon trip, David gave us a very interesting talk on The Romans in Lusitania. Continuing the story, at the end of the 4th century, the future Spain and Portugal remained largely peaceful and prosperous parts of the Roman Empire. By the year 500, the empire had disintegrated and the Iberian Peninsula was in the hands of barbarians, notably the Visigoths and the Suevi. This talk will explain how these world-changing events unfolded, and how the Visigoths came to rule the whole of Iberia. The talk will also explore the parallels between events in Iberia and the end of Roman rule in Britain. David Johnson will illustrate his lecture with his own photographs of buildings and artefacts surviving from the Visigothic era.

We will meet in the AV Room at 10:45am for an 11:00am start.

Cost: £7 includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

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

The Nutcracker "Live" on the Giant Screen at Millennium Point

Thursday 13 December 2012. Peter Wright's classic production, first seen at Covent Garden in 1984, is an essential part of Christmas for audiences of all ages. From the very first notes of Tchaikovsky's overture to The Nutcracker, there is a sense of mystery and magic as Herr Drosselmeyer sets in train the events that will see his beloved nephew, Hans Peter, freed from the enchantment of the evil Mouse King by the resourceful Clara. The Royal Ballet Company - Principal dancers: Sugar Plum Fairy Roberta Marquez, The Prince Steven McRae, with music played by The Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

We will meet at 6:00pm in the Events Suite on Level 3 of Millennium Point for refreshments; at 6:45pm we will move to the Giant Screen for the performance that starts at 7pm.

Cost: £19 includes tea, coffee, cakes and entrance to the Giant Screen.

The Government Art Collection in London

Tuesday 5 February 2013. With over 13,500 works of art spanning five centuries, the Government Art Collection (GAC) is the most dispersed collection of British art in the world. Placed in offices and official residences, two thirds of the works are on display in British Government buildings in nearly every capital city. Dating from 1898, the Collection helps promote British art and history while contributing to cultural diplomacy.

Over the last century, the GAC has acquired works of art by mainly British artists from the 16th century to

the present day. The Collection holds a broad range of media: paintings, sculpture, watercolours, prints, photographs, video and textiles. Artists represented in the Collection include William Hogarth, Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable, Vanessa Bell, Barbara Hepworth, Paul Nash, Lucian Freud, Paula Rego, Richard Long, Gillian Wearing, Zarina Bhimji and Tracey Emin.

Cost: £25 includes coach and driver's tip.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 7:30am or Chest Clinic, Gt. Charles St. @ 7:45am.

Dates For Your Diary

Art in the Bronte Country

Friday 7 - Monday 10 June 2013. Join our Director Ann Sumner for a Weekend in Yorkshire, centred upon the newly refurbished Bronte Parsonage Museum at Haworth, the art of Charlotte Bronte and the contemporary programme there.

We will visit Harewood House with its magnificent portraits by Reynolds and old masters (Ann was Senior Curator in the 1990s), Cartwright Hall in Bradford which boasts works by Rossetti, Clausen & Maddox-Brown, as well as Lowry's painting of the Church at Haworth; an afternoon at the David Hockney 1858 Gallery at Saltaire, with time to view the 19th C model village - now a world heritage site; a walk at Bolton Abbey, a site which attracted so many artists including Turner & visit East Riddlesden Hall where the latest TV adaptation of Wuthering Heights was filmed.



Prof. Ann Sumner

Autumn Report

What a wonderful summer we have all had with the success of the Olympics and the Paralympics Games!

Some of you may have seen our staff ringing bells on the front steps of the Museum & Art Gallery at exactly 8:12am on Friday 27 July. Led by Toby Watley, our Head of Programming, we all rang in the Olympics in Chamberlain Square, as part of Turner Prize winning artist Martin Creed's collaborative work across Britain. We were standing in front of the brilliant knitted intervention on the façade pillars, by Knit 2 Together, reflecting the colours of the American and Jamaican flags, as we welcomed the two Olympic teams who based themselves in Birmingham. Wasn't it wonderful that both Bolt and Blake mentioned Birmingham so positively trackside after their victories, not once but twice! The Jamaica at 50 exhibition in the Community Gallery continued to be very popular over the summer, as did *Style Africa*, the textile show that was officially part of the Cultural Olympiad. At the Museum & Art Gallery we have also seen two major new displays open with the new 20th century metalwork show in gallery 10, and a display from our modern and contemporary collection including the popular sculpture piece by Ana Maria Pacheco in Gallery 20. The latter was selected by our new Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Lisa Beauchamp. The *Pharaoh* exhibition continued to attract the crowds and great interest, including a visit from the Lord Mayor, who enjoyed a tour with Andy Horn, Exhibitions Manager; Adam Jaffer, World Curator and myself.

At Thinktank the innovative exciting new Science Garden, continued to prove popular, despite the rainy weather, and the Inside DNA show shed new light on genetics for our visitors. *Curious Visitors: the Arts Council Collection* at Aston Hall was so popular that it was extended for a further month until the end of September.

The early autumn saw a most successful private view on 6 September for *Love and Death: Victorian Paintings* from Tate, which was opened by Penelope Curtis,

Director of Tate Britain. The show looks very fine hung in the newly re-painted Galleries 12 and 13 and has proved particularly popular with the public who have been eager to see the iconic *Lady of Shallott* by J W Waterhouse. The evening was enlivened by a preview of the song *The Lady of Shallott* by the singer Deborah Ross, from her forthcoming album.



Penelope Curtis, Ann Sumner and Penelope Johnson at the Love and Death Launch

Then on 15 September we were delighted to welcome Sir Mervyn King on a beautiful sunny summer day to Soho House to officially re-open the visitor centre and splendid new exhibition space at Soho House. Sir Mervyn, a great enthusiast for Matthew Boulton, gave an inspiring speech and we were absolutely delighted



Ann Sumner, Mervyn King and Karina at the Soho House Launch

to have Sir Albert Bore and Sir Nicholas Goodison amongst our guests.

The work of textile artist Karina Thompson, whose hand stitched digital embroidery pieces Moon Phases were admired by Sir Mervyn, if you have seen it do look out for them on your travel around the house. Please note that all our historic house sites remain open slightly longer this year until Sunday 4 November.

We were also pleased that Christie's hosted a private viewing on 19 September, of the exhibition *Curious Visitors: the Arts Council* at Aston Hall, when the curator of the show Martin Ellis took us all on an excellent guided tour of the installations. The evening was hosted by Ricky Roundell, Deputy Chairman, who gave a speech celebrating their sponsorship of the project. The next evening we had the Friends Annual Lecture. The former Birmingham Post journalist Terry Grimley took the opportunity to interview me Then I delivered the annual lecture on the Welsh landscape artist Thomas Jones, a pupil of Richard Wilson, after you had all had adequate time to view our own two Jones paintings, which Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art) kindly displayed on an easel in the Round Room and discussed with you all. They will be going back on display in a couple of months' time. We were delighted that Councillor Anita Ward, the Deputy Lord Mayor was in attendance as well. As I mentioned that night, I am really looking forward to getting to know some of you a little better during a weekend away with the Friends and Patrons in June 2013. Please see page 11 for further details of the proposed trip to Bronte Country. Then on 26 September, broadcaster Fiona Bruce was in Birmingham, opening the Water Hall exhibition John Myatt: Provenance organised by Washington Green.

During this busy period we have also begun our strategic visioning process, as we move to establish our new Mission, Vision and Strategic

Goals for the new organisation, Birmingham Museums Trust. This began with three Visioning Days with our Trustees and then five Staff Conferences. We are presenting our thoughts and ideas to the Friends Committee and are also very keen to talk to and to arrange a focus group, so if you are interested in hearing more about the opportunities we have as a new organisation, Birmingham Museums Trust, the challenges and complexities we face and the wider membership, the values we want to cherish, please do contact Gillian McCurdy (Gillian.mccurdy@birminghammuseums.org.uk) who is arranging a Focus Group for the Friends in November. Numbers are limited, so it will be on a first come, first served basis. This is a very exciting time for us in Birmingham and on 18 and 19 October the Leader of the Council Sir Albert Bore has called a Culture Summit. Chris Rice and I will deliver break out discussion sessions.

On 11 October we opened the Birmingham History Galleries. This major project is very exciting and was much anticipated. The 1, 500 objects have all been installed and the new art commission by Keiko Mukaide and Ronnie Watt is now in situ. This project is the culmination of many years work, originally spearheaded by Rita McLean and her team, and I am delighted that we are now able to enjoy it and also that Benjamin Zephaniah opened the exhibition. All the staff have worked extremely hard to deliver such a complex exciting show.

Kids' Park is set to open this autumn providing a much needed, high quality play area for families living near Thinktank, as well as for families visiting Birmingham. The area aims to encourage children to think about science from a young age, and encourage families to visit Thinktank and take part in further science and heritage activities.

Later this autumn, we have a spectacular free exhibition coming to the Gas Hall in November – *Revealed: Government Art Collection* which we know you are all going to enjoy. The selectors for the show include Simon Sharma and Cornelius Parker. We look forward to seeing you there and hope you will enjoy *Love and Death* at the same time. If you are in London and can get to Tate, do visit the Pre-Raphaelite show *Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Avant-Garde*. You will see we have lent no less than 15 works to this fabulous show. All the great favourites are there! Our pictures look grand and there is a fantastic accompanying catalogue too. I attended the opening dinner, which was a wonderful occasion. Please also look out for special celebratory events around the launch of the film *The Hobbit* in December.

I am delighted to announce that thanks to a range of grants and individual donations we have raised the funding to acquire Sir Joshua Reynolds' late, great portrait of Dr Ash. The original purchase price was at £900,000 but the Queen Elizabeth Birmingham Hospitals Charity has generously agreed to reduce this to £875,000 to enable Birmingham Museums to successfully complete the acquisition.

Coming hard on the heels of Dr Ash, our next challenge is to raise £275,000 to acquire a fine portrait of Erasmus Darwin by Joseph Wright of Derby. Physician, philosopher, inventor and poet, Erasmus was co-founder of the Lunar Society with Matthew Bouton. He is credited with some early ideas on evolution which were later developed and expounded by his grandson Charles. Although another challenging fundraising target, the success of our Dr Ash campaign does give us confidence to take on this very worthwhile cause.

Many thanks again to the Friends for their support during this transitional period which has been very busy indeed, especially for me (!) and particularly to Debby de Haas who has been so very helpful to me, as the

new girl on the block, both in her capacity as Chairman of the Friends and as a Trustee. Debby has joined the Finance and Operations Committee of the Trustees and I'm most grateful for the time she gives and expertise she brings to the table.

Finally, I am pleased to announce our new and impressive board of Trustees for Birmingham Museums, who include:

Muhammed Afzal - Local Politician

Graham Allen - former head of Birmingham Museums Service

Penelope Cobham - Chairwoman of VisitEngland

Deborah de Haes - Consultant

Mark Jones - former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum;

David Lewis - Businessman

Alice Roberts - Professor of public engagement in science at Birmingham University

Jan Teo - Banker

The selected Trustees bring a wide range of skills and experience to the board and a passionate enthusiasm for collections and sites managed by the new trust. ■

Professor Ann Sumner
Director of Birmingham Museums Trust

GreenStage Gallery

contemporary

original



Doug Eaton



Brian Addison



Beth Richardson

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Times: Mon - Thurs and Sat 10am - 5pm, Fri 10:30 am
- 5:00 pm, Sun 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

Telephone Numbers: Control Room 0121 303 4215,
Reception 0121 303 2834

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



BIRMINGHAM ITS PEOPLE ITS HISTORY

Now Open

Free Exhibition

Immerse yourself in over 900 years of life, passion, strife and achievement in the new *Birmingham: its people*, its history galleries. Come and explore the city's global heritage from medieval times and the industrial revolution, through the World Wars – to the technology-led life of the 21st century.

From models and interactive displays to dramatic architecture, this hands-on exhibition is set to captivate visitors; and is an experience which brings the city into sharp focus and reflects how the people of Birmingham and its industries have shaped not only the city, but the world as we know it today.

BIRMINGHAM ITS PEOPLE, ITS HISTORY - TALKS

Tuesdays, 1pm

Charged Activity - £2

A series of talks about Birmingham's fascinating history from Medieval times, the Victorian era, the first World War to the introduction of modern suburbia.

LOVE AND DEATH: VICTORIAN PAINTINGS FROM TATE

Now open until 13 January 2013

*Gallery 12 & 13 – Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Free Exhibition*

See eleven of the most spectacular paintings in the national collection come to Birmingham. Displaying iconic paintings from Tate alongside related works from Birmingham's own collection, *Love and Death* includes John William Waterhouse's *The Lady of Shalott* (1888), one of Tate's most famous and popular works, which rarely travels outside London. The exhibition also features classical paintings by great 19th Century artists Lawrence Alma-Tadema and Frederic Leighton exploring themes of love, beauty, tragedy and death; these powerful and moving paintings will create a spectacular display.



LOVE AND DEATH EXHIBITION TOURS

Sunday 28 October and 16 December 2012,

11:15am – 12:30pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Charged Activity - £6

THEMES OF LOVE AND DEATH IN THE 1860S – TALK

Sunday 18 November 2012, 2.00pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Charged Activity - £6

Specialist in 19th Century British Art, Christopher Newall will explore themes of love and death in the work of a range of artists of the 1860s.

J W WATERHOUSE AND THE TEMPESTUOUS LOVELINESS OF TERROR - TALK

Sunday 2 December 2012, 2pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Charged Activity - £6

Biographer Peter Trippi will discuss the profound interconnections between women and death in the work of J W Waterhouse (1849 – 1917)



REVEALED: GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION

17 November 2012 – 24 February 2013

Gall Hall – Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Free Exhibition

Revealed brings together a diverse selection of nearly

200 works, from historical to contemporary, which form part of the Government Art Collection. For the first time, see this outstanding collection from across the world, brought together at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

This intriguing exhibition will tell the remarkable story of the Government Art Collection and includes important works by such distinguished artists such as Andy Warhol, L.S. Lowry, Bridget Riley, Grayson Perry and London 2012 Festival 'All the Bells' artist Martin Creed.

REVEALED GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION – TALKS

Wednesday 21 November, 12 December 2012

and 16 January 2013, 1:00pm

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Charged Activity £2

A series of lunchtime talks given by curators from Government Art Collection.

FROM WALPOLE TO WALLINGER FROM THE WARSAW EMBASSY TO NO. 10

Thursday 24 January 2013, 6:00pm

The Waterhall – Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

£6/£4 for Art Fund Members

Discover the intriguing history of the Government Art Collection with Julia Toffolo, Deputy Director and Senior Registrar of the Collection

Booking is essential for all paid events, call 0121 303 1966

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

COMING SOON: WE MADE IT

Opens February 2013

Free to Thinktank ticket holders

Come along and explore our brand new gallery, where you can discover the amazing variety of nuts, bolts and gadgets and gizmos manufactured in Birmingham.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS GROTTTO

24 and 25 November

1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 December

Saturdays 11:00am – 4:00pm

Sundays 12:30 – 4:30pm

Charged Activity - £3 per child

Accompanying adults are free. The ticket price includes a small gift and you are welcome to take photographs.

NATIVITY TRAIL

1 December 2012 – 6 January 2013

Details TBC

Blakesley Hall

CHRISTMAS TOURS

3 -7 December, 11:00am

Charged activity - £6

A chance to see Blakesley Hal decorated for Christmas and discover Christmas customs from the past.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

15 December, 12:00 – 3:00pm

Charged Activity – Adults £8, Concession £6 (Pre-booking is essential)

Blakesley's annual Christmas celebration goes Victorian. Meet costumed characters, hear the choir and hand bell ringers.

Soho House

CAROLS AT SOHO

1 December, 7:00pm – 8:45pm

Charged Activity - £9 per person

Get in the mood for the festive season with warming winter refreshments, Christmas carols and a chance to see Soho in all its splendour.

CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS

6 and 20 December, 11:00am

Charged Activity - £9

See Soho House decorated for Christmas, take a tour of the House and learn how 19th Century England would have celebrated the Christmas holiday.

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

8 December 2012, 10:30am

Charged Activity – tbc

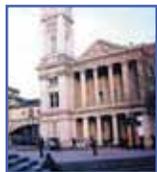
Costumed guided tours, carol singing and festive refreshments in the tea room.

For more information on all Birmingham Museums exhibitions and events visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk



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News From the Office

CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available throughout the year and includes 3 extra months free. Christmas Gift Membership (valid 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014) could make an ideal Christmas present to a friend or relative. There is an application form in this magazine, or download the Gift Membership form at www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag/christmas-gift-membership. Please apply by Thursday 13 December.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall
- Free entry to all our Historic Houses
- Artefacts magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings

Plus discounts at the following venues:

- BM&AG and shops at our Historic Houses
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point www.thinktank.ac
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices) www.shakespeare.org.uk
- Ironbridge Gorge Trust shops providing a minimum

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

- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café's www.museums.stoke.gov.uk

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr SM Russell, Mrs J Smith, Mr L Shore, Mr K James, Mrs D James, Ms M Brown, Ms S Howes, Mr D & Mrs P Humphries, Mrs A Gee, Mr A Eggington, Dr CA & Mrs JM Barson, Mr J & Mrs JE Burgess, Mrs JM Barwick, Mr TB & Mrs EC Waters, Mr S & Mrs L Harland, Miss HM Berry, Revd CJ Carson, Mrs VM Austwick, Mrs L Crisari, Mrs J McCormick, Mrs M Twist, Mr E Mushett Cole, Mr L & Mrs K Harvey, Mr JG & Mrs P Defty, Mr M Colman, Ms V Plant, Miss RE Lambert, Mrs M Long, Mr P & Mrs C Billington, Mrs A McCall, Mr JN & Mrs JA Faulkner.

Many thanks to our volunteers on the Friends' Desk in Gas Hall during *Pharaoh: King of Egypt*, which has played a large part in attracting 36 new members since July. The contribution of all our volunteers to the Friends is very much appreciated.



The Friends History Gallery Installation by Keiko Mukaide and Ronnie Watt

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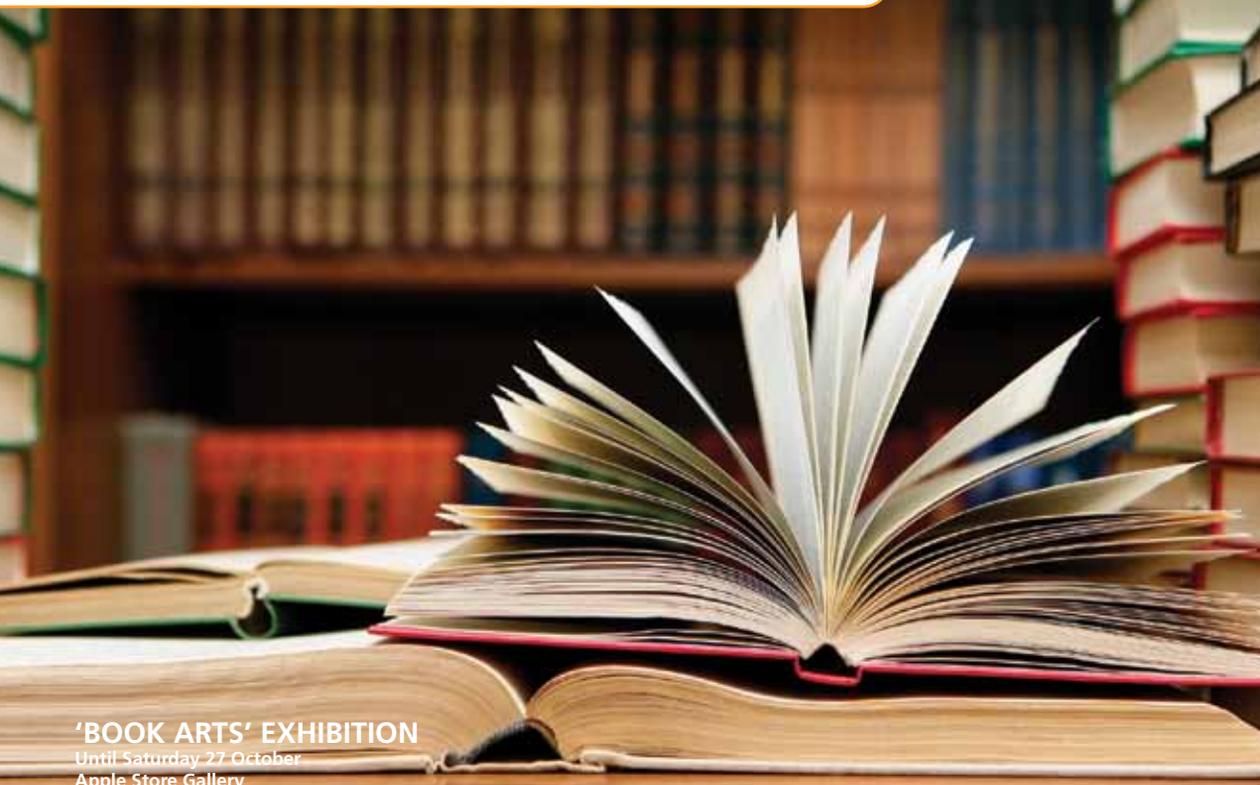
Passion, pleasure and participation in the Arts





In The Area

News and Events



'BOOK ARTS' EXHIBITION

Until Saturday 27 October
Apple Store Gallery

Apple Store Gallery

3 Bridge Street, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 9DF
Tel: 01432 378 436
Email: applestoregallery@btinternet.com

'BOOK ARTS' EXHIBITION

Until Saturday 27 October. Tuesdays - Fridays: 9.30am - 4.30pm. Saturdays: 10.00am - 4.00pm.

'A FEST OF PHOTOGRAPHY'

30 October - 24 November. Tuesdays - Fridays: 9.30am - 4.30pm. Saturdays: 10.00am to 4.00pm.

'CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION'

27 November - 22 December, Tuesdays - Fridays, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Saturdays: 10.00am - 4.00pm.

'THIRD SERVINGS'

8 January - 23 February 2013, Tuesdays - Fridays: 9.30am to 4.30pm, Saturdays: 10.00am to 4.00pm.
A Group Exhibition featuring artists new to ASG and some of our regulars

DOUG EATON - TECHNIQUES WITH ACRYLICS

Sunday 14 October, 10.00am to 4.00pm. £55 including lunch and refreshments

POETRY AND IMAGE PERFORMANCE

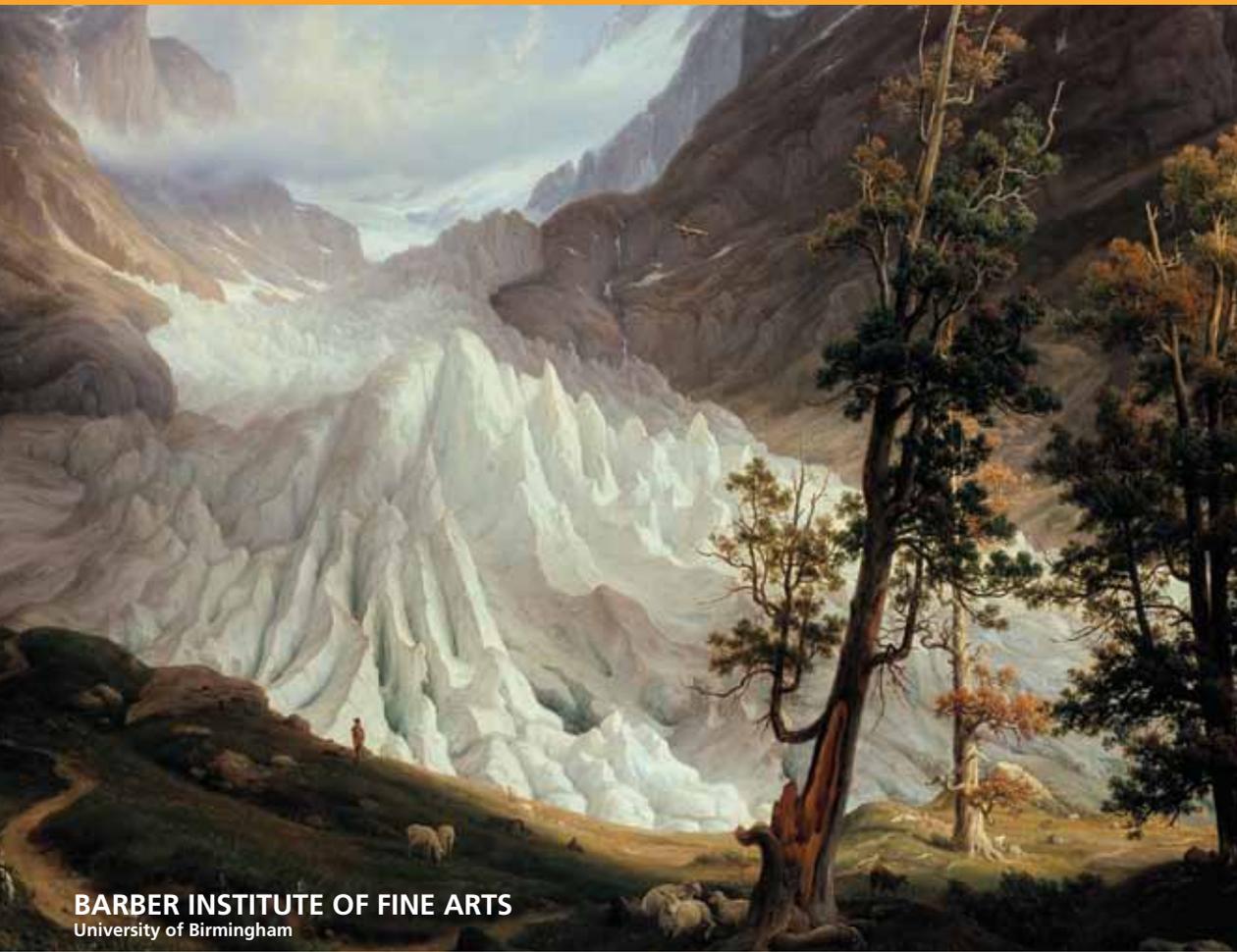
'Proposals and Sputtor' by Allen Fisher

Wednesday 17 October, 7pm to 8.30pm.
Part of h.Energy Week

POETRY EVENING

LIVE, NEUTRAL, EARTH

Thursday 18 October, 7pm to 8.30pm.
Part of h.Energy Week



BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS
University of Birmingham

Barber Institute of Fine Arts

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Tel: 0121 414 7333 Email: info@barber.org.uk

CITYSCAPES

Until 6 October 2013. Panoramic Views on European Coins and Medals. London, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Barcelona, Venice and Budapest. Explore the historical landscapes of all these cities – and more – in Cityscapes: Panoramic Views on European Coins and Medals at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

The third in a series of prestigious shows organised in collaboration with the British Museum, Cityscapes highlights how, between the mid 16th century to the early 19th century, many of the great cities of Europe applied the artistic tradition of the city view to their own

coins and medals – the most circulated art medium. In a world dominated by dynasties and kings, these gave physical expression in silver and gold to urban pride and civic power and showcase the exquisite skill of engravers working without modern technology.

The absorbing exhibition includes 100 loans from the British Museum, as well as objects from the Barber's own coin collection – one of the finest collections of Roman, Byzantine and medieval Islamic coins in the world. The wonderfully intricate images in Cityscapes feature churches, citadels, fortifications, harbours, civic buildings, houses and suburbs, emphasising military or commercial power, wealth, strength and above all, divine protection and favour.

The exhibition at the Barber is accompanied by a rich and diverse programme of educational activities, lectures, gallery talks, concerts and film screenings. Admission: FREE.



HISTORY WEST MIDLANDS

LIVING CITY

Until 2 December. Held in the Print Bay, Green Gallery. The city and the relationship between its people and its architecture are the starting point for Sarah Taylor Silverwood's finely detailed drawings and text-based works. Living City refers to the 19th-century idea of the flâneur – someone who walks the streets of the city in order to experience it – and the writings of literary masters such as Charles Baudelaire and Walter Benjamin, as well as contemporary comic books. These delicate and intimate drawings are presented alongside the in-depth research that informs them, including the artist's maps and sketchbooks, and historical texts, all of which explore our complex and ever-changing connection with the metropolis. Sarah Taylor Silverwood is currently artist-in-residence at the University of Birmingham. Admission: FREE.

HORSES!

Until 20 January 2013. Equestrian Themes in the Barber's Collection of Works on Paper at the Print Bay, Beige

Gallery. The domesticated horse has enjoyed a special relationship with man for millennia as a crucial partner in warfare, hunting, agriculture, leisure and other major aspects of our existence. This display of prints from the Barber collection explores our relationship with this animal, prized for its strength, speed, and sometimes its wildness. Horses also held a special place in the affections of Sir Henry and Lady Barber, themselves keen equestrians, and photographs from the Barber's archive of the pair, proudly mounted on their own prize steeds, will also be included. Admission: FREE

History West Midlands

HISTORY WEST MIDLANDS

An exciting initiative exploring our region's history. Register for your free copy. History West Midlands is a new publishing venture, in print and online, aimed at



JS BACH CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Saturday 24 November 2012, 7.00pm
Lichfield Cathedral

everyone interested in the history of our region. Exploring the rich and absorbing past of the historic counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, History West Midlands will uncover the history of the people, events and ideas that shaped the west midlands – and the world beyond.

Led by Editor-in-Chief, Dr Malcolm Dick, this high quality magazine and free access website will bring people and events to life under the guidance of a distinguished editorial board.

The first issue of the magazine will be published early next year and will focus on the West Midlands' Enlightenment, that period when new ideas flourished in the region during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century. In further issues you can explore the region's rich inheritance of glass and glassmaking skills and – coinciding with the opening of the new Library of Birmingham next year – celebrate the transmission

of the written and spoken word in the west midlands.

You can register to receive a free copy of the first edition of History West Midlands by visiting the website at www.historywm.com and clicking the Register button.

Lichfield Cathedral

19A The Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7LD
Tel: 01543 306100

JS BACH CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Saturday 24 November 2012 at 7.00pm. In Lichfield Cathedral. With Baroque Chamber Orchestra & Soloists. Tickets from £12 (concessions £9) from The (Lichfield) Cathedral Bookshop Tel: 01543 306150 or Ticket Secretary, Birmingham Bach Choir, 71 Woodfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B13 9UL with cheque and SAE. Further details www.birmingham.bachchoir.com



THE CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION

Starts Saturday 10 November 2012
Old Chapel Gallery

Old Chapel Gallery

East Street, Pembridge, Herefordshire

The gallery is open daily Monday to Saturday 11 - 5 and from 11 - 4 on Sundays.

Established in 1989 by Yasmin Strube in the setting of a Victorian Chapel, the Gallery has gone from strength to strength and has established itself as a centre of excellence where casual browsers and serious collectors of contemporary art and crafts alike can find work by both established local and nationally-known artists and makers alongside innovative work by talented newcomers. Exhibitions are held throughout the year, the next being our Christmas show.

THE CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION 2012

Starts Saturday 10 November 2012. With a dazzling

collection of hand picked, hand made delights! Give the High Street a miss this Christmas and shop for unique British made presents in the calm and tranquil atmosphere of the gallery. Enjoy a truly delightful shopping experience.

We will be featuring a cornucopia of wonderful Christmas present ideas from the best of British artists and makers, many from Herefordshire and surrounds - something for everyone, from handmade cards, candles and soaps, Christmas tree decorations in copper, brass, glass and ceramic, jewellery in silver, acrylic, pearls and semi-precious stones, glass and stained glass, ceramics - functional and decorative, ironwork - including pokers, snuffers and candle holders, bronzes, sculpture - both for inside and the garden, original paintings, prints; including limited edition etchings and photographs, wide range of textiles to include jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, cushions. We will have a new collection of lino and silkscreen limited edition prints from Angela Harding, jackets and



AUTUMN ARBORETUM BY PHILLIP LAKE

Photographic Image

coats by Terry Macey, jewellery by Anne Farag, stoneware sculpture by Simon Griffiths including a Fox, Kestrel and Tawny Owl, chunky sweaters for men in lambs wool and silk, felted lambs wool jackets in a fabulous collection of colours and much more. Don't delay your visit, you won't be disappointed! Gift wrapping service available, so all you have to do is decide what to give! For more information or to join the mailing list go to www.oldchapelgallery.co.uk or ring 01544 388842. Like us on Facebook at Old Chapel Gallery. Follow us on Twitter @chapelgallery

Photographic Image

Photographic Image is a photography gallery based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire and dedicated purely to the art of photography. Opened in 2006, it has exhibited and sold many photographs by local, national and international photographers.

Currently part of the space is showing a series of stunning landscape prints by Phillip Lake and Gary Groucutt. These show the UK landscape at it's very best; from Shropshire, The Lake District and Scotland.

As well as exhibiting photography the gallery also has a large selection of books, many from the wonderful publisher TASCHEN including the signed Collector Editions. Subjects covered are Photography, Art & Design, Travel and Lifestyle. Along side the books from TASCHEN are other modern and classic titles, many 1st editions.

They also have a selection of analogue cameras from LOMOGRAPHY and THE IMPOSSIBLE PROJECT on display and for sale along with a collection of 35mm LEICA'S, OLYMPUS TRIPS and many vintage cameras from the iconic KODAK BOX BROWNIE onwards.

Please visit www.photographicimage.co.uk for more details.

Historic Ho

Address: Soho Avenue, Handsworth, B18 5LB

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm,
from Easter - End of October



Soho House

There is nothing more exciting than walking in the footsteps of historical figures and now, thanks to recent major refurbishment works at Soho House totalling around £162,000, that experience is even more fascinating.

Visitors to the Second City's historic former home of eighteenth century industrialist Matthew Boulton can revel in the newly introduced exhibition *'Matthew*

Boulton: Selling what all the world desires', can marvel at Boulton's sphinxes back in their original home for the first time in around 200 years and can experience his home, like never before, as a truly domestic environment restored to its former glory.

The interactive display, named after Boulton's famous quote, showcases his achievements as an important figure in industrial history and as a prominent citizen of Birmingham. Visitors to Soho House can also enjoy newly restored rooms which recreate the period

ouse Focus

domestic spaces of this grade II listed home, including the uncovering of two previously hidden fireplaces. There is also a newly commissioned scale model of Soho, showing Boulton's Manufactory, Mint and 200-acre estate. A further display showcases some of the finest Soho-made silverware, Sheffield Plate and Ormolu of the Georgian period.

The Soho Sphinxes, two large stone sphinxes by E. Gray Saunders, are now in residence at Soho House in Handsworth, as originally intended by Boulton. Oliver Buckley, Curator Manager at Soho House, explains: *"The story of the sphinxes is that they were created by Boulton for his garden. After his death they were sold to a country house and forgotten."*

"When they came up for sale on the open market they were identified as the Soho Sphinxes from scale drawings. We raised the money to purchase them ten or twelve years ago and now they have been returned to the house after 200 years."

The acquisition was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Lottery Fund and now the statues have found a home facing the gardens, as part of the visitor centre. The addition of the sphinxes is not the only refurbishment work there, as Oliver explained, the visitor centre has almost doubled in size following the renovation works and can now accommodate coach parties and host functions and commercial events.

This work was funded with support from Birmingham City Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and the DCMS Wolfson Fund.

The Georgian house's pedigree as a home for Boulton, between 1766 and 1809, is further confirmed by its use as a meeting place for the luminaries, great thinkers and members of the legendary Lunar Society, founded by Boulton. These eminent visitors included Joseph Priestly, Erasmus Darwin, James Watt and Josiah Wedgwood and now visitors can follow in their footsteps.

Oliver adds: *"We're really excited about welcoming visitors to Soho House to come and see the improvements. There has never been a better time to visit and to experience Soho in its industrial prime."* ■

by Jane Kubiesa





Honeysuckle Fabric Design

Artist: William Morris Date: 1876

Andy Horn, Exhibitions Manager, takes a trip down memory lane to reveal one of his most treasured BMAG pieces.

The combination of bringing art into the home and the familiarisation of design through everyday use is a powerful one, so much so that today William Morris is remembered more widely for his designs for wallpaper and upholstery than for his painting or writing. This is one of the key reasons that Morris has a special place in Andy Horn's heart, and an association with his life growing up. Morris' honeysuckle pattern in particular is the one Andy prizes above others.

He explains: *"In my grandmother's house she had two chairs upholstered in this fabric and I had an attachment to them. It is this personal experience and a sense of nostalgia and familiarity which draws you to these designs in particular, and to art in general."*

Morris' piece, which is in the form of a paper drawing and is part-coloured, uses subtle pale pink, light greys and light blues as the basis for a design to be used for the printing of fabric for upholstery and curtains. It appeals to Andy because this design is highly worked and uses soft and muted



shades in applying prints to a coloured background; a technique, he notes, which is still popular in design today.

"This represents his talent as a fabric designer and it is one of his many designs," Andy asserts. *"Each of his designs looks different on the face of things, but they are similar in that they are all taken from nature."*

The fascination with plants and flowers was at the heart of the Arts and Crafts movement and personal to Morris' style, however, Andy's admiration for Morris goes much deeper: *"I admire Morris as a person because he represents someone who works in a certain way, in design terms and more importantly because he set up his own design business, Morris & Co. He had that creative control over*

his work. This was unusual because other designers would have worked for companies."

That creative control and entrepreneurial spirit ensured the survival of William Morris' designs to this day and his company, Morris & Co. is still in operation (www.william-morris.co.uk).

Since this design was acquired around 1941, it has been displayed on rotation to prevent sun damage to what is essentially a fragile item. It forms part of a collection of 30,000 drawings and prints housed in the museum's Print Room.

Works not currently on display can be accessed via a personal visit, Monday to Friday. This service is free and by appointment only. The Print Room houses a selection of works by Morris as well as his friends and contemporaries Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, in what is the world's largest public collection of Pre-Raphaelite art.

From all of these works of art, the honeysuckle fabric design is the piece which stands head and shoulders above the rest for Andy, who adds: *"If the museum was on fire, this is what I'd save first."* ■

by Jane Kubiesa

Artists' Palette Classifieds



Visiting

Apple Store Gallery



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applestoregallery@btinternet.com
www.applestoregallery.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE



The Birmingham Art Circle is a group of accomplished artists working in a wide range of two and three dimensional media and represents the best of Midlands art societies. Their main annual exhibition has been held at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' Gallery for over one hundred years.

Interested artists are very welcome to the monthly Art Circle meetings as guests. For information, including election to membership, please contact our Membership Secretary: Janet Groves, tel: 01736 361659, e-mail jaybee@talktalk.net or Hon. Secretary: Rachel David, tel: 0121 3553380, e-mail rmcdavid@globalnet.co.uk

www.birminghamartcircle.co.uk

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Reviews

Recent Events



Deborah De Haes, Terry Grimley and Prof. Ann Sumner

Annual Lecture

Ann Sumner introduces herself and her enthusiasms at the Friends Annual Lecture on Thursday Sept 20th.

“Birmingham has so much to be proud of”, the new Director of Birmingham Museums - Ann Sumner said. With her enthusiasm, wide connections and much experience, Ann plans to turn a bright spotlight on Birmingham and raise its profile.

Much may be gathered about Ann’s abilities from the fact that her first position after leaving Newnham College Cambridge,, was at the National Portrait Gallery.

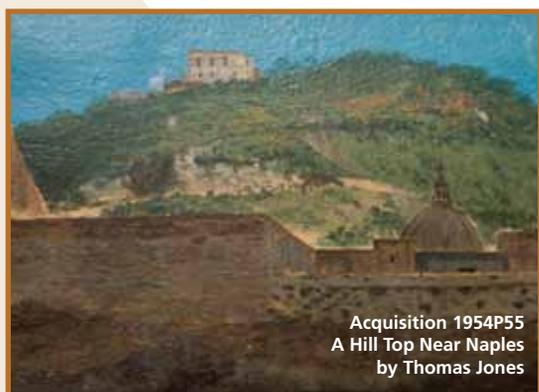
Among other things since then she has had curatorial roles at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, Dulwich Picture Gallery and was ‘Head of Fine Art’ at the National Museum of Wales for 8 years before being Director of the Barber Institute. She has written and edited several books. Her enthusiasms are very many and particularly relevant was her experience at Cardiff, working in a family of multi discipline sites. See: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/members/?member=Birmingham

“Why did you feel you wanted to come to work at Birmingham Museum Trust?” was one of the very interesting questions put by her (gentle) interviewer, Terry Grimley (recently the Arts editor of Birmingham

Post). Many things attracted her to the role she replied – Our wonderful Collection of art and artefacts, our unique and pioneering scientific and industrial heritage, wonderfully preserved sites such as Aston Hall and, after the relatively recent discovery of the ‘Saxon Hoard’, she hopes to develop the ‘Mercian Trail’ showing craftsmanship and Saxon life all over our area, (and of course the gallery had the foresight to acquire two pictures by Thomas Jones).

The interview with Terry Grimley concluded, Ann then gave her lecture.

Ann Sumner told us about Thomas Jones, a Welsh landscape painter of the late 18th century. Jones was born into a well-to-do family, but insisted on making a living as an artist. As well as conventional commissions he made many oil sketches for private enjoyment - BMAG has two. Unusually many were of humble real-life scenes, thereby anticipating the interests of artists a century later. He was also unusual in writing in detail about his (colourful) life. When his diaries were published in the 1950s, and the oil sketches revealed, the art world woke up to his achievements.



Acquisition 1954P55
A Hill Top Near Naples
by Thomas Jones

Friends’ Discussion Group

15 September 2012. The Discussion Group this time was loosely based on the topic ‘Education’ and was again led by Sharon Tavener. For those considering

joining this group, the feedback below from one of the participants may be persuasive:

‘What a lovely opportunity to give our own thoughts and ideas about pictures - some of which I would usually just pass by. The session really made me stop and look at a variety of pictures of different periods, brought together by our guide under the theme, ‘education’. It was sensible to choose mainly portraits and there were certainly many similarities between the pictures. Thank you for a very thought-provoking hour’

Janet King

The Evening Workshops

“I rather like this picture... (It was a picture of the *Flight from Egypt*)... Joseph looks so very tired after having a baby!” I remarked. I was holding a sketch pad in front of me and wondering where to put the first mark on it.



Discussion's at Edmunds.
Photo by Tjark Schoenfeld

“But that’s not the way the artist was thinking” replied Ian Andrews. He swiftly drew some lines on his sketch pad to show the structure of the picture. Well, I had come to the workshop to try to gain a greater understanding of the way a picture was structured and what the artist might be thinking. So I made my first marks on my sketch pad too. They were very simple lines to show how the artist held the picture together and made it more powerful – and I WAS

able to do it. We went on to find the main areas of light and dark – and I could do that too! This was the first evening workshop run by Ian Andrews from Birmingham Metropolitan College, who inspired the group with his positive enthusiasm. We were looking at the abstract structure that held a picture together, then using a pencil to make our understanding clearer. Ian’s enthusiasm was infectious and we all produced something that could be looked at and discussed at Edmunds over a glass of wine and a slice of pizza. Graham Lawler, an art historian, showed us slides of pictures of the Last Supper and we considered the way these structure lines affected the pictures.

In the second workshop - on hands and faces - we considered the way the artist measured the proportions of faces and made our own basic lines on a sketch pad to indicate these. Again it was only mark making and we didn’t have the time (or in my case certainly the expertise) to produce something more than just the basic shapes of faces based on the pictures in front of us. Again there was such positive enthusiasm from Ian to help me do this that I was totally amazed when the time was up and we had to go to Edmunds for the second part of the workshop. There we looked at the proportions that artists have used historically to make portraits and humans look accurate and achieve their goal. There was plenty of discussion and Graham answered our questions and listened to our comments in a way that drew us all into talking confidently.

My objective was to have a greater understanding of what was going on behind the painting of a picture, and I got this. Ian and Graham’s objective was to get us more confident about drawing and encourage people to begin to draw and I feel they certainly did. In fact I’m beginning to wonder if there is a great artist in me struggling to get out!

Liz Walking

Quotes from Friends Evening Events

'Victoria's enthusiasm was well conveyed – such a lot of informative insights.'

Liz Walkling – the Tessa Sidey Bequest Evening Event, Victoria Osborne, 20th February 2012

'Great to hear about the process of collecting and curating – and to handle the fabrics.'

Barbara Fogarty – 'Style Africa' Evening Event, Adam Jaffer, 1st May 2012

'A fitting tribute to a remarkable woman.'

Michael Cullen – the Tessa Sidey Bequest Evening Event, Victoria Osborne, 20th February 2012

'Informative and provocative.'

Barbara Fogarty – 'Children's Lives' Evening Event, Andy Horn, 22nd May 2012

'Super evening – the presentation and model were inspiring and will be awaited with baited breath! Elegant and beautiful in form.'

Anne Cruchley – the Friends History Gallery Commission Evening Event, Keiko Mukaide and Ronnie Watt, 12th March 2012

'Excellent presentation – brought the exhibition to life.'

John Nodding – 'Children's Lives' Evening Event, Andy Horn, 22nd May 2012

'Very interesting evening - it was great to meet the artists/designers. Can't wait to see the design in situ. BMAG will be very proud benefactors.'

Yvonne Warner – the Friends History Gallery Commission Evening Event, Keiko Mukaide and Ronnie Watt, 12th March 2012

'Andy really helped me to see the exhibition in a new light. I so enjoyed it, and the discussion afterwards.'

Deborah de Haes – 'Children's Lives' Evening Event, Andy Horn, 22nd May 2012

'So interesting to meet the designers and "hear their thoughts".'

Irene McKenzie – the Friends History Gallery Commission Evening Event, Keiko Mukaide and Ronnie Watt, 12th March 2012

'The pizza and wine idea is super – more please!'

Audrey Randall – Pugin, Alton and the St John's Rood Screen Evening Event, Martin Ellis, 11th July 2012

'I always feel that Martin's talks are always from the tip of the iceberg of his knowledge!'

Margaret Lister – Pugin, Alton and the St John's Rood Screen Evening Event, Martin Ellis, 11th July 2012

'His depth of knowledge made it so brilliant – could offer an answer to any question!'

Liz Walkling – 'Mummification' Evening Event, Adam Jaffer, 3rd April 2012

'Inspiring – thank you!'

Barbara and Melanie Paradise – Hands and Faces Workshop, Birmingham Metropolitan College, 24th September 2012

Friends' Diary Dates



November

- 13 * Evening Event – Chris Upton – New Lamps for Old: Crime, Law and Order in Victorian Birmingham
- 16 ** Cardiff - National Museum Wales with Prof. Ann Sumner
- 20 * The De Morgan Centre & Dulwich Picture Gallery
- 20 * Evening Event – Toby Watley - The Fast Paced World of Programming!
- 26 * Evening Event – Birmingham Metropolitan College – Drawing from Epstein
- 27 * Evening Event - Andy Horn - Revealed: Government Art Collection
- 30 * Luncheon Club – Victoria Osborne – Love & Death (1)

December

- 4 * AV Room Talk – David Johnson – The End of Empire: The Barbarian Conquest of Roman Spain and Portugal
- 4 * Evening Event – Victoria Osborne – Love & Death
- 7 * Worcester Porcelain
- 13 * Giant Screen at Millenium Point - The Nutcracker “Live” from The Royal Opera House
- 14 * Luncheon Club – Victoria Osborne – Love & Death (2)

2013 - January

- 7 * Luncheon Club – Andy Horn – Revealed: Government Art Collection (1)
- 8 * Luncheon Club – Andy Horn – Revealed: Government Art Collection (2)
- 11 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Contemporary Painting & Sculpture (1)
- 18 * Guided Tour (113) – Jane Howell – “In Three Dimensions”
- 22 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Contemporary Painting & Sculpture (2)

February

- 5 * The Government Art Collection in London

April

- 19-25 # Malta – Its History and Heritage

June

- 7-10 + Art in the Bronte Country with Ann Sumner

- * 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
- + Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing
- # Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available
- \$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included

The next Artefacts
the Winter 2013
edition will be published
in January

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