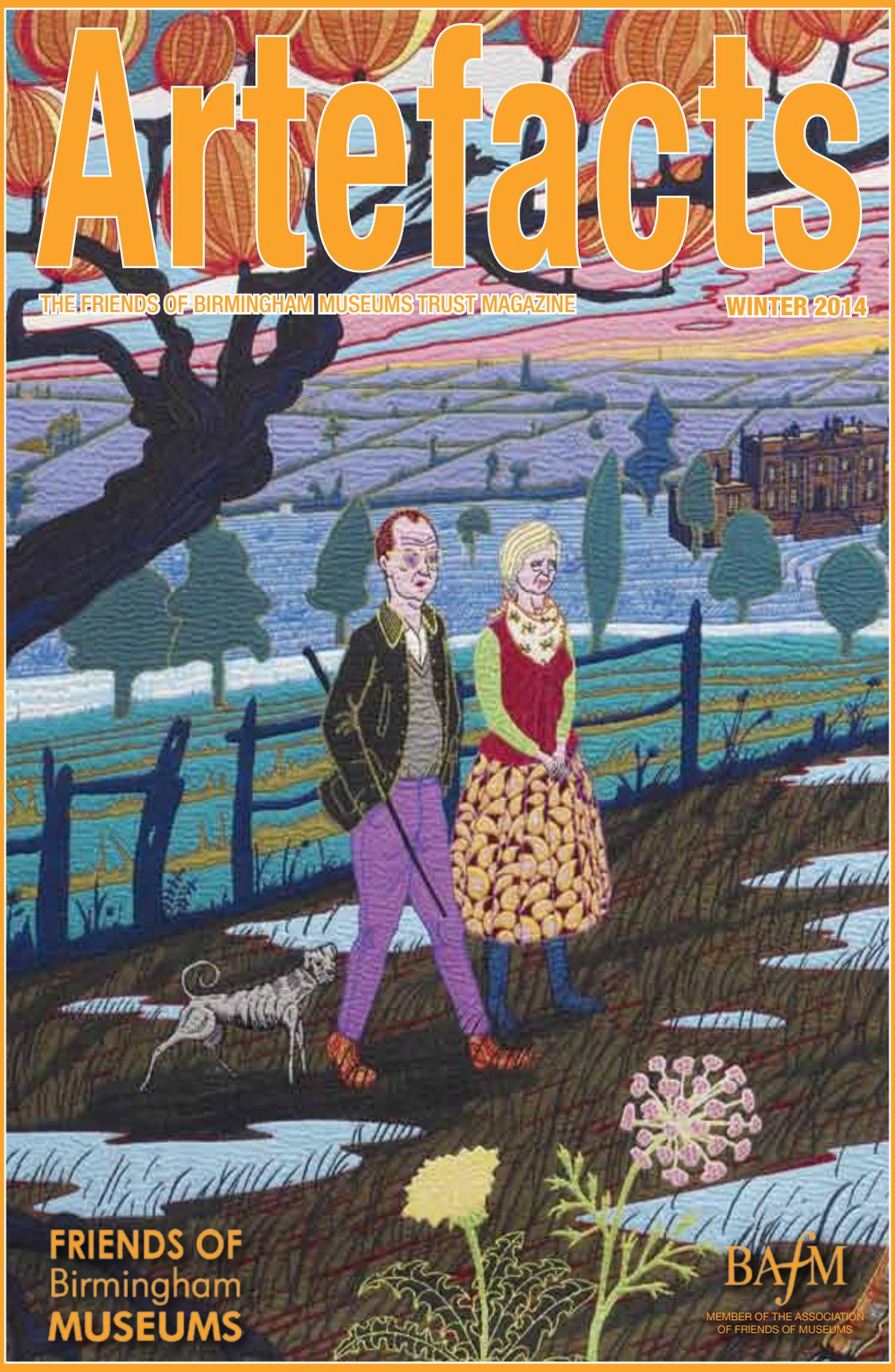


Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

WINTER 2014



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Our Chairman

Deborah de Haes



And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been', as Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote. And certainly there is much for us to welcome about 2014; things that have never been.

There is an exciting programme of exhibitions over the next few months. BMAG is one of the UK tour venues of the Grayson Perry tapestries, *'Vanity of Small Differences'*, based loosely on Hogarth's, *'A Rake's Progress'*. These were made during the filming of his Channel 4 documentary *'All in the Best Possible Taste'*. The Friends have always had an interest in the art of Grayson Perry and I am sure this exhibition will reward and challenge all who visit. This exhibition opens on 14 February (in Gallery 20) and is on until 11 May.

The next Gas Hall exhibition is a celebration of the work of Rowland Emmett. Born in London, he was educated in Birmingham, including at the Birmingham School of Art, and is perhaps most famous for his creation of working automata, such as those used in the film, *'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'*. This is the first major exhibition of his work and also promises to be an exhibition with a difference.

Another welcome development is the opening of the Waterhall as a public gallery once again, with a clear focus on modern and contemporary art. The re-opening took place on 27 January with *'For the Record'*, an exhibition looking at preservation and recording in the work of female artists in BMT's collection, supplemented by Arts Council Collection works.

Thinktank has some exciting interactive exhibitions coming up, including *'Animate It!'* (in partnership with Aardman) at Easter, and *'Come Create'* later in May. Look out for more details.

We have two exciting trips this spring - one to Madresfield and Croome (NT) and the other to Portsmouth. Both should be very interesting so sign up while you can!

Other new opportunities this year include the much greater use of volunteers at the heritage sites. An open

day was held in November and recruitment is taking place now. It is a wonderful opportunity for people to become more closely involved and share their passions with others.

The beginning of a new year is also a time of looking back, and we are sad to announce the death, at the end of December 2013, of our Honorary Life President, Pat Welch. An active and generous member of the Friends for many years, he was also involved with many other activities in the City. An obituary is elsewhere in this magazine. We shall miss his quiet support and send our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Thank you to all who came and supported our annual Christmas party in the Friends' Office. It is always a joy to see Friends and thank you to all of you for all you do, not only within BMAG but out in your communities too, promoting the Trust and the work of the Friends.

As it now appears, this will have been our last Christmas party in these offices, as we have been asked to move to allow Ellen McAdam and her team to be all together in one office. We are hugely grateful to the Trust for giving us accommodation in BMAG, a privilege which we greatly appreciate. Since we moved upstairs just over two years ago, there has been significantly more contact with curators which has helped communication enormously, especially in arranging events. We are not sure about where or when, but we hope to be in our new accommodation by Easter.

So you can see there is much to look forward to this year. As we grimly remember the terrible war that started in 1914, let us focus in 2014 on our shared passions, our common heritage and on the joy of working together to achieve common goals.

With every good wish for 2014. ■

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Grayson Perry, (Detail) The Upper Class at Bay - Tapestry

© The Artist. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London and British Council. Gift of the artist and Victoria Moro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from Alix Partners.'

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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry



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Adults £4

Friends of Birmingham Museums £2

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Walls With Wounds

By
Dale vN Marshall

15 February -
18 May 2014

Admission free

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INSPIRING EXHIBITIONS AT THE HERBERT



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.

College of Food

Thursday 6 March 2014 at 12 noon. We have arranged our annual visit to the 'College of Food' at UCB in Summer Row.

We have selected 3 starters and 3 main courses. Please ensure your selections are clearly indicated on your applications, also any dietary requirements. Desserts will be selected on the day.

Your choices of Starter:

- A. Char grilled guinea fowl on braised puy lentils, mixed leaves and balsamic reduction
- B. Leek and goats cheese tartlet with butternut squash puree
- C. Beetroot cured salmon with celeriac remoulade and pickled beets

Main Courses:

- D. Pan fried fillets of sea bass, creamed fennel and a confit of tomato
- E. Supreme of chicken, white wine, glazed button onions and cocotte potatoes

- F. Roast loin and stuffed belly of pork, braised red cabbage, sauce charcutière

Cost: £21; this includes three courses, wine, coffee and service.

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

Portsmouth - The New Mary Rose Museum

Tuesday 18 March 2014. The exciting, new £27 million Mary Rose Museum opened its doors to visitors on Friday 31 May 2013. Located just metres from Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory and the ships of the modern Royal Navy, the new museum provides one of the most significant insights into Tudor life in the world and creates the new centrepiece to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

The Tudor ship that captured the world's imagination when she was raised from the seabed in 1982 is the only sixteenth century warship on display anywhere in the world and the brand new Museum built around her reunites her with many of her 19,000 artefacts and crew.

We have timed entries for HMS Victory and Mary Rose Museum, your ticket also includes National Museum RN, HMS Warrior 1860, Harbour Tour and Action Stations.

Cost: £39 – Includes coach, driver's tip & a £17.60 'All Attractions' ticket.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 7:45am, Chest Clinic, Gt Charles St @ 8:00am.

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

Madresfield Court & Croome (NT)

Friday 25 April 2014. Madresfield Court is a country house in the village of Madresfield near Malvern. Expect the unexpected - Incredible innovation, devastating loss, remarkable survival and magnificent restoration, all in one place.

The stately home, near the village centre, has been the ancestral home for several centuries of the Lygon family, whose eldest sons took the title of Earl Beauchamp from 1815 until 1979, when the last Earl died. Distinguished collections of furniture, art, and porcelain are housed at Madresfield, which was rated by Sir Simon Jenkins among the 50 best in his book on 1,000 historic houses. The house is managed by the Elmley Foundation, a British registered charity.

From Madresfield we will coach to Croome and step into what remains of a secret wartime air base, now Croome's Visitor Centre, where thousands of people lived and worked in the 1940s. Walk through a masterpiece in landscape design, which is 'Capability' Brown's very first. Over the last 17 years the National Trust have painstakingly restored what was once a lost and overgrown 18th century parkland and they are continuing this work today.

Croome Court, the home of the Earls of Coventry, is at the heart of the park, which has been patiently waiting for its revival. Its time has come in 2014 as 'Croome Redefined' starts to pull this glorious yet faded house back from the brink. Explore un-restored spaces and the intricate repair works which will see the house change forever.

Cost: £29 – Includes coach, driver's tip, tours of Madresfield Court. (Entrance to Croome is not included - NT members don't forget your membership cards, non members pay on the day).

Pickup Points: Margaret St, (side of BMAG) @ 9:15am, Yateley Road @ 9:30am.

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

Evening Talks at Edmunds

At 6:30pm we will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street, for the talk, discussions, a glass of wine and pizza. The talks will finish by 8:30pm.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

Grayson Perry's 'The Vanity of Small Differences' Tapestries - Katie Hall

Tuesday 25 March 2014, 6:30-8:30pm. Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is the first venue in the Midlands to present 'The Vanity of Small Differences' by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry. The exhibition is comprised of a series of six large tapestries (2m x 4m) which tell the story of class mobility and the influence social class has on our aesthetic taste.

Inspired by William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, the six tapestries chart the 'class journey' made by the fictional Tim Rakewell and include many of the characters, incidents and objects that Grayson Perry encountered on his own journeys through Sunderland, Tunbridge Wells and the Cotswolds for the television series '*All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry*'. In the television series Perry went 'on a safari amongst the taste tribes of Britain', to gather inspiration for his artwork, literally weaving the characters he meets into a narrative, with an attention to the minutiae of contemporary taste every bit as acute as that in Hogarth's 18th century artworks.

Alongside the tapestries we are also showing our Grayson Perry vase '*Who Am I?*' which was purchased by the Friends prior to him winning the Turner Prize.

Katie Hall, Exhibitions Officer, will give you an insight into the exhibition and Grayson Perry's work.

'Birmingham Tornado - Lightning & Thunder 2005' **- Pogus Caesar**

Tuesday 8 April 2014, 6:30-8:30pm. At approximately 2:30pm on the afternoon of the 28 July 2005 Pogus Caesar was in his car about to turn into Alcester Road, Kings Heath - suddenly there were thunder claps, lightning and torrential rain, then very quickly it went dark... very dark. The areas of Sparkbrook, Kings Heath, Moseley, Balsall Heath, Small Heath, Quinton and Hall Green were hit by the force of a tornado rated at T3 - T5, that meant wind speeds of between 93 to 130 miles per hour, it only lasted for a few minutes. It sliced a kilometre long path through the neighbourhoods.



Birmingham Tornado: Balsall Heath, Birmingham UK.
From the series 'Lightning & Thunder.'
2005 Pogus Caesar / OOM Gallery Archive. All Rights Reserved.

Terrified residents saw roofs flying through the air, cars lifted and thrown through windows, 1000 trees were uprooted by the ferocious winds, demolishing everything in its path. There was extensive damage to buildings, vehicles and the local community. In the aftermath, hundreds of people were trapped in their homes and isolated from their families. The total cost of the damage was estimated at £40 million.

Emergency services cordoned off many roads and prevented access to damaged property. Approximately 30 people were injured, there were no fatalities.

In the midst of the chaos, Caesar made a record of the unfolding events and took just under 300 black and white photographs. At 6am the following morning he also went

onto the streets, filmed the devastation and interviewed local residents. The archival photographs in *Birmingham Tornado - Lightning & Thunder 2005* documents the aftermath of a violent tornado and the staggering footprint of destruction it left on a shocked community.

'New Art West Midlands' - Lisa Beauchamp

Tuesday 15 April 2014, 6:30-8:30pm. This is the second year of *New Art West Midlands* which sees emerging artists from five of the West Midlands Universities showcase new work across Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, The Barber Institute, Grand Union and Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Twenty-four artists have been selected for this exhibition and the work encompasses a range of media including painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, film and installation. This talk by Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, will be an opportunity to hear about the different graduates' work, the different ideas and narratives explored at each venue and how the artists were selected. She will also discuss the production of the exhibition catalogue and its contents.

'For The Record' - Lisa Beauchamp

Tuesday 29 April 2014, 6:30-8:30pm. This exhibition marks the re-opening of the Waterhall as a permanent collection gallery for modern and contemporary art. The first exhibition includes work from BMT's own collection and a select number of loans from the Arts Council Collection. *For the Record* will explore a range of artwork by female artists, spanning the 20th century to the present day. The exhibition will address themes of recording, documenting and preservation as well as more directly womanhood, identity politics and references to trace and the body. Works include a series of exquisite tempera on panel portraits by Estella Canziani of traditional customs and dress in Italy in the 1910s, a collage by Birmingham Surrealist artist Emmy Bridgwater entitled *Head of a Dog*, a series of photographs by India born photographer Dayanita Singh, Ana Maria Pacheco's painting *In Illo Tempore* as well as key loans from the Arts Council Collection including contemporary artists Alice Channer, Claire Strand and 2013 Turner-prize nominee Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Museum Collections Centre

Friday 21 March 2014. The main warehouse area and the extension will be open for you to look at the fascinating mix of larger items in the collections including cars, engines, sculpture, social history exhibits and many other familiar objects from the past such as the art deco fish and chip fryer.

In addition two of the small object stores will be open: Store 2 which contains over 10,000 ceramic pieces from all over the world and from all periods as well as the Franklin collection of Chinese ceramics, and Store 3 which has a pot pourri of pieces from all areas of the collections - ancient Egypt, African sculpture, radios, tin plate toys, glass, shoes, candlesticks etc.

Tour guides will be available to navigate you around this very large building, point out highlights, answer questions etc.

The Museum Collections Centre (MCC) is located in Dollman Street, Nechells, B7 4RQ, about 200 metres from Duddeston Mill Road. There is plenty of car parking on site. It is also easily accessible by train from New Street to Duddeston station, just 1 stop on the Lichfield Line and there are approximately 4 trains per hour; or by 14 bus towards Chelmsley Wood from Priory Queensway outside the Ex Argos store, alight opposite Duddeston station cross Duddeston Mill Road, turn right into Dollman Street, MCC will be on your left.

Cost: £9, includes tour, tea/coffee and biscuits.

We will meet at the MCC at 11:00am for an 11:30am start.

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

Friends Guided Tours

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £8. Please note that Lunch is not included in these events (see Luncheon Clubs).

Guided Tour (119) 'Who Am I?' by Jane Howell

Friday 14 March 2014. Using the Grayson Perry's pot, 'Who Am I' as a starting point, this tour will look at ways artists explore the identity of individuals and of groups. It will include works such as 'Column on the Move' by Christopher Nevinson and 'The Warrior' by Henry Moore and others. We shall also have a look at the Grayson Perry tapestries which will be on display. We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

Luncheon Clubs

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. You may attend the talk without having the lunch at a cost of £9.

'Grayson Perry Tapestries' by Katie Hall

Tuesday 25 & Friday 28 February 2014. *The Vanity of Small Differences* is a series of six tapestries by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry. They explore his fascination with taste and tell a story of class mobility.

The tapestries were created in response to his Channel 4 television series *All in the Best Possible Taste* and explore British life and aspirations across the locations he visited during filming.

See the Evening Event on page 7 for more information about the exhibition.

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

'Photorealism' by Katie Hall

Friday 7 & Tuesday 11 March 2014. In late 1960s America, a new movement of artists began painting realistic depictions of everyday objects and scenes – gleaming automobiles, iconic highways, storefronts and diners – which at first glance appeared to be photographs. These artists were initially met with intense criticism but the photorealism movement has changed the way we see art forever.

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

AV Room Talk

'The Ultimatum' by David Johnson

Friday 9 May 2014. Portugal is Britain's oldest ally, but the relationship has not always been smooth. In 1890 the two countries almost came to blows over the future of Central Africa, parts of which were claimed by both powers. The ensuing crisis only ended when Britain issued an Ultimatum to Portugal backed by threats of military action. In Britain, these events were quickly forgotten, but many Portuguese remember the Ultimatum with strong feelings. It had far reaching results for Portugal, limiting her colonial ambitions and also leading to the revolution of 1910 which overthrew the monarchy which was felt to be too pro-British. In his talk, David Johnson will describe the background to the events of 1890, including the part played by Cecil Rhodes, and will reveal the secret plans made by the British Government and the Royal Navy to safeguard British interests. The talk is illustrated by portraits of the protagonists, contemporary photographs of the naval ships involved, and maps of the areas in dispute and the British naval deployment.

Cost: £9.

We will meet in the AV Room at the rear of Gas Hall at 10:30am for tea/coffee, the talk will start at 11:00am.

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

Herbert Gallery & Museum in Coventry

'Exposed- The Body in Art' by Victoria Osborne (Curator – Fine Art)

Tuesday 1 April 2014. 'Exposed' is an exhibition that was advertised in the Autumn edition of Artefacts. Composed mainly of works from BMAG's extensive collections, it contains some old favourites amongst many pieces rarely seen.

Victoria Osborne will take us on a tour of this exciting exhibition that explores a range of artistic responses to the human body. At its heart is Burne-Jones's *Pygmalion series* (1878), which brings together the five themes explored in the exhibition: the body as a focus for the artist's observation, the creation of the 'ideal' body, the mutation of the body, art as a means of preserving and memorialising the body, and the body as a vehicle for the artist's imagination and fantasy.

Exposed presents over 60 works spanning 500 years. Artists include Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Rodin, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Gillian Wearing.

Cost: £9, includes tour.

We will meet at the Herbert Art Gallery, Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP, from 10:30am for an 11:00am start.

Getting There: Travel by train from New Street Station to Coventry Station, catch bus 1, 11, or 12 from stop PB in Warwick Road to the left of the station to stop KB in Earl Street, or drive to Park & Ride in Memorial Park, take bus to stop KB in Earl Street.

If you require more travel information add a note to your Application Form and we will include it with your tickets.

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

Birmingham Town Hall

Lunchtime Reception and Organ Concert: Celebrating St David's Day By the City Organist, Thomas Trotter

Monday 3 March 2014. This concert forms part of the THSH Spring Organ season, which offers the chance to hear two of Europe's finest organs played in the Town Hall and Symphony Hall by the City Organist, Thomas Trotter. With its splendid mix of great classics, cherished favourites and outstanding visiting artists, this season promises to raise the roof! The concert includes pieces by JS Bach, Vaughan Williams and Rossini. This occasion is a joint event with the THSH Friends, there will be a buffet and a chance to mingle before the concert, then tea & coffee after.

Cost: £18, includes balcony ticket for the concert, pre-concert buffet and post-concert tea/coffee. Numbers are limited so apply early.

We will meet at the Joseph Hansom suite in the Town Hall at 12:15pm for the buffet.

Things to look forward to

- 8 – 14 April - Holland & The Dutch Masters – This event was advertised in a previous edition and is now full, if you want to be added to the Waiting List contact the Friends Office asap
- 24 June - Canal trip across the Llangollen Viaduct & Erddig (NT)
- 22 July - Friends Annual General Meeting
- 26-29 September – Newcastle Weekend

Dates yet to be confirmed:

- Eastnor Castle
- Broadway - Ashmolean Museum and Snowhill Manor (NT)
- Bentley Priory & the RAF Museum, Hendon

This year escape to Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum for two sublime landscape exhibitions...

MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE



Song of the Sea

The St Ives School of Landscape and Marine Painting

Saturday 8 February – Saturday 26 April



Skylight Landscape

by Paul Nash and David Prentice

Saturday 3 May – Saturday 5 July

Free entry

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

For more information visit

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk
or call 01905 25371



News

From the Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS NEWS BY YVONNE WARNER (TRUSTEE)

Whilst writing this for the first time (during Christmas), it was the perfect time to express appreciation, best wishes and thanks. All of which must be given to Volunteers all the time everywhere, but no more deservedly than in our organisation for the work undertaken by our Volunteers – THANK YOU.

Much work has been undertaken during the previous year to develop the Volunteering function, mainly focusing on the administrative policy side but now we are ready to grow. Hence if you, your family or friends or anyone you know are interested in any of the following roles - *Social Network Assistant, Friends Ambassadors, Administrative Support* for sub-committees or *Desk Volunteering* please get in touch with Shana Fidalgo T: 0121 303 3129 or E: volunteer.coordinator.fbmag@gmail.com

The Trust is also looking for Hall volunteers at Aston, Blakesley, Soho House and Sarehole Mill. If you are interested in these contact: Jane McArdle T: 0121 464 0401 or E: jane.mcardle@birminghammuseums.org.uk

Volunteers meet with Shana Fidalgo (Volunteer Coordinator) and me, supported by other Trustees, now on a regular basis, to develop volunteer opportunities, volunteer experiences and the work programme. For those new volunteers or ones who haven't attended before, please join us on: Wednesday 19 March at 11am, Thursday 29 May at 3pm and Monday 8 September at 1pm in the BMAG Board Room. Also Tuesday 16 December in the Friends Office for our Christmas Party.

And finally... over to you, without whom none of this would be possible, happen, or be as successful as it is. Let me introduce you to Janet King, who has been a volunteer with us for many years and provides us with her memories and experiences of being a volunteer:

SITTING AT THE FRIENDS DESK IN THE INDUSTRIAL GALLERY

Each volunteer works in their own way. The primary purpose is to interest our visitors in joining the Friends and adding to our funds through their contributions in the base of the Infinity Box and elsewhere, besides enabling all our visitors to have a positive experience of our gallery and its helpful staff.

How you do this is up to you

Have you noticed how 3 – 4 year olds love putting pennies/pound coins in the box and like the jingle jangle as they go down? Photographers like to snap the endless corridors in the Box itself. Visitors from an engineering background want to know how it was made or maybe to hear about the feat of 6th century North Indians in making the Buddha in one single pour of the molten bronze – as well as speculating how they kept each part at the same temperature while cooling the statue. And so on...

You need to know where the toilets are, and describe how to get to the Ikon/Jewellery quarter/RBSA etc – Fortunately take away maps are available.

It is useful to know a little about Florence Camm (her work is behind the Friends desk!) and how her work developed through time. Also what else is happening through the gallery – gives you an excuse to go to spend time looking at the latest event before you start on your weekly stint in addition to reading the monthly events bulletin.

When you start at the desk you know very little – but the visitors teach you by the questions they ask – which is why the phone is in the Friends desk along with all sorts of useful information.

When you sit on the desk at the major exhibitions in the Gas Hall it is all the above but in spades, so it is essential to have a quick preview before you start, and a willingness to admit ignorance and to know who to ask.

Reviews

Recent Events



Friends visit to Cheltenham

Friday 15 November, 2013. Why visit Cheltenham? It's not that far from Birmingham, after all. The races – well, no! For the scenery – in November? None of these things. It was the attraction of the Holst Birthplace Museum and the newly reopened city museum which drew a coach-load of Friends on a full day out.

The Holst Birthplace Museum gave us a well-presented impression of a late Victorian terraced house in an affluent town. Four floors (the stairs to which challenged all of us to some degree) from basement to attic showed the full range of living spaces in a house of that time. Specific Holst memorabilia was largely limited to the ground floor, including a beautifully decorated grand piano of the composer's. Much of the furniture came from the collection of the city museum, of which more anon.

An unannounced extra in the day was a visit to All Saints Church. This is a spectacularly decorated High Church of the mid-Victorian period, which was never completely finished – the spire which its architect, John Middleton, specified is still missing! But its interior includes some amazing workmanship in stained glass, metal work and carving.

After a lunch break, among the eateries of central Cheltenham, we visited the city museum, recently re-opened as The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum after a £5million rebuilding programme. Currently much of the new exhibition space is devoted to a special exhibition of the Gloucestershire-based artist Colin Reid, who works in glass. His pieces display a staggering range of colour and shape effects often in optical-quality glass. The exhibition goes to some length, including a continuously-running video, to explain his techniques but this left this observer still bewildered by how he does it! BMAG has a piece of Colin Reid's, which is on loan and displayed in this exhibition.

The Museum has an extensive collection of Arts and Crafts objects now displayed in its galleries. It also has a area commemorating the life of Edward Wilson, after whom the Gallery is named. He is best known as the companion of Capt. Robert Scott who died in the tragic Antarctic expedition of 1912.

The original areas of the Museum use a time-line from the prehistoric to 1900 to show the range of its collection. Historic artefacts, documents, paintings and furniture are placed in their period context to good effect.

David Foster

So it is more fun on the desk than it appears – why not try it and see for yourself?

Janet and David King

Volunteers for the Friends Gas and Industry Hall Desks

IN CLOSING

So anyone reading this magazine, if you are not a Friend of Birmingham Museums, please join and enjoy the experiences on offer, or if you have a few hours each week/month/year to spare, and would love engaging with the Arts and collections in Birmingham, or just simply getting out and sharing experiences with lovely people, please get in contact.

I am sure, in whatever capacity, 'you name it' there is a job somewhere to suit. Our motto for this year is definitely 'more hands make light work'. If not now, but in the future, then keep the contact details and get in touch when you are ready and pass on to family and friends who you think maybe interested.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Kindest Regards

Yvonne Warner
(Trustee)



Director's Report

Dr Ellen McAdam

My first three months as Director passed in a blur of new faces, names and places, which are beginning to make sense. I still find the geography of the city centre somewhat perplexing, but I can walk from Think Tank to the Museum without getting lost.

The Museums team is busy on a range of new initiatives to streamline our planning and reporting processes. This may not be the most glamorous of tasks, but it is essential to the long-term sustainability and success of the organisation. It includes writing a new Business Plan that will set the high-level strategic direction for Birmingham Museums Trust over the next five years, including plans for the future of the Museum and Art Gallery. The Business Plan will be complemented by more detailed annual Business and Service Plans.

This Spring the Conservation team will be hosting the Staffordshire Hoard grouping exercise, bringing all the items from the Hoard together for research for the first time since they were discovered. The Anglo-Saxon finds specialist Chris Fern will spend two weeks studying the Hoard in the hope of identifying joining and related fragments. This will inform phase 2 of the research programme from 2014-15. The Archaeological Institute of America has awarded the Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project its Conservation and Heritage Award for our work on the conservation of these spectacular Anglo-Saxon artefacts.

The Conservation team has a new recruit – Natasha Hall is our first ICON intern, and will be working with the team in 2014, gaining experience and knowledge of conservation by working on military buttons, jewellery and silver items.

The Development team is busy on a range of fundraising priorities including the new Spitfire and Medical Futures galleries at Thinktank and ongoing fundraising for the Staffordshire Hoard.

We have a full exhibitions programme, starting with the Chroma Jewellery Collective exhibition at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, featuring the work of four British emerging contemporary jewellers based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter (18 January-7 June).

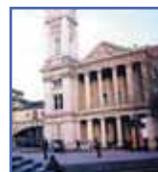
Late January saw the reopening of the Waterhall Gallery as an exhibition space for our growing collection of contemporary art. *For the Record* explores themes of preservation and recording in the work of female artists including Ana Maria Pacheco and Laura Knight.

On Valentine's Day (14 February) we launch an exhibition in BMAG of new work by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry, *The Vanity of Small Differences*, showcasing a series of six tapestries that reveal Perry's fascination with taste and tell a story of class mobility. They were created in response to his Channel 4 series *All in the best possible taste with Grayson Perry*. At the same time we will be showing our annual exhibition *New Art West Midlands*, featuring new work by the best artists graduating from art schools in the West Midlands. This is a multi-site show with simultaneous exhibitions at Grand Union, The Barber Institute and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Easter at Thinktank sees *Animate it!*, a new interactive exhibition in the Kids' City gallery. Aardman Animation's popular Shaun the Sheep introduces under-8s to stop motion animation through hands-on interactives. This is followed in May by *Come Create*. Inspired by the making and tinkering movement, this will encourage visitors to explore their creativity through displays, activities and workshops.

Finally, 2014 sees the centenary of World War I. Birmingham Museums has been working with arts, heritage and educational partners across the city to develop a programme of commemoration that will run until 2019. In April we begin our programme with the exhibition and education project *Blakesley Hall and the First World War: a family's story*, telling the story of the Merry family who lived at the Hall from 1901 to 1932. ■

News From the Office



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Plus discounts at the following venues: BMAG and shops at our Heritage Sites; 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

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at <http://www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag/christmas-gift-membership>. Alternatively, you can complete the standard application form in this magazine with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr SR Freer, Mrs MJ Whitlock, Miss M Gibbons, Mrs JE Porter, Miss C Woodward, Ms A Padgett, Mrs JR Baron, Mrs BJ Bill, Mrs C Paton, Mrs M Purcell, Mrs D Duggan, Mr M Fellows, Mrs R Morgan, Mr L Shough, Mr P & Mrs S Stanford, Ms P Stanier & Mr R Winterton, Dr A Inglis, Mrs M Heath, Mr W Gossage, Ms S Frankish.

APPLICATION FORM: PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES (Please tick)

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CONCESSIONARY RATES

SINGLE £20 [] **DOUBLE** £30 [] **STUDENT** £15 []

[] I enclose a cheque for £_____ or

[] I have transferred £_____ to SORT CODE 30-00-06 A/C NO 00248432

Please tell us where you picked up a copy of Artefacts _____

Yes I am a UK taxpayer and would like this and any future donations to be tax effective under the Gift Aid Scheme until I notify you otherwise. (You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. FBMAAG will claim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.)

Please send this completed form, together with your cheque made payable to F.B.M.A.G. to the address on page 4 of Artefacts.

DATA PROTECTION ACT -

For membership and accounting needs your details are held on a computerised Database for Friends' Office use only.

Pat and Marjorie at Pienza
on a Friends trip to Italy



PATRICK WILLIAM WELCH: 1927 – 2013

Patrick Welch (Pat) was a modest and distinguished West Midlands High Sherriff from 1984 to 1986. He was also the managing director of manufacturing companies in Birmingham. Perhaps in contrast he was also a local preacher in The Methodist Church, and took high office in the Methodist Council.

I can look back at pleasant memories of meeting Pat officially during my career as an architect.

In 1990, he joined a small and long standing, Birmingham Literary group. His presence at the meetings was always a pleasure.

Many of you will remember Pat as Chairman of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery for five years before he became Honorary President in 1999. A memorable citizen in Birmingham's history, his Memorial Service on 17 January filled Selly Oak Methodist Church. ■

Graham Winteringham

Pat's eldest daughter Kate adds: *"Pat was the successful Appeal Director (he may not have personally used that title), for the Fund raising for the Gas Hall. It is good to see the Gas Hall still being used for interesting and varied exhibitions."* ■

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pleased to help.

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Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Opening Hours: Saturday - Thursday 10:00am – 5:00pm and Friday 10:30am – 5:00pm.

Note earlier opening on Sunday.

Contact Number: 0121 303 1966.

Explore over 40 galleries in the Grade II* listed building displaying spectacular art and objects spanning seven centuries.

PHOTOREALISM: 50 YEARS OF HYPERREALISTIC PAINTING

Open daily until Sunday 30 March 2014

Adult: £6.50, Child (age 5+) £3, Concessions - £5.50, Family (2 adults + 2 children) - £16, Unwaged - £2.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery presents *Photorealism: 50 Years of Hyperrealistic Painting*, the first major large-scale retrospective in Europe devoted to Photorealism. Surveying the work of the major US artists considered to have developed the genre, including Chuck Close and John Salt, the exhibition includes the large-scale hyperrealistic paintings of American life with which Photorealism became famous.

Artist's talk: Ben Johnson

Saturday 15 March, 2pm, AV room (Gas Hall).

Ben Johnson gives a personal and illustrated introduction to his own practice and how Photorealism has helped form the direction of his work.

FOR THE RECORD

Open daily at the Waterhall

Free entry

A new exhibition showcasing modern and contemporary artwork by a number of celebrated and lesser well-known female artists is now open at the Waterhall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. *'For the Record'* includes a range of artworks spanning the 20th century to the present day, including works from

Birmingham Museum's Modern and Contemporary Collection and loans from the Arts Council Collection. The exhibition explores themes of preservation, tradition, documentation and recording across a wide range of media including portraiture, landscape, sculpture and installation as well as timely issues concerning womanhood and identity politics. The exhibition also includes new works by West Midlands-based artists Faye Claridge and Barbara Walker.

GRAYSON PERRY: THE VANITY OF SMALL DIFFERENCES

14 February – 11 May 2014

Free entry

A series of six tapestries by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry. Inspired by William Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, the six tapestries chart the "class journey" made by the fictional Tim Rakewell and include many of the characters, incidents and objects that Grayson Perry encountered on his own journeys through Sunderland, Tunbridge Wells and the Cotswolds for the television series *'All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry'*. *The Vanity of Small Differences* has been acquired for the Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London and the British Council. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from Alix Partners.

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

14 February – 18 May 2014

Free entry

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Grand Union and Wolverhampton Art Gallery are working in partnership to present *New Art West Midlands*, an exhibition across four art institutions showcasing the creative talent and new work of emerging artists in the West Midlands region. A Turning Point West Midlands initiative, *New Art West Midlands* exhibits the work of 24 artists, all of whom have graduated from one of the region's

undergraduate and postgraduate fine art degree courses in the past three years: Birmingham City University, Coventry University, Staffordshire University, University of Wolverhampton and University of Worcester. Encompassing four nationally important galleries plus five universities, it is the largest partnership of its kind in England.

ROWLAND EMETT EXHIBITION

10 May – 14 September 2014

Entry charges apply

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's summer exhibition will explore the extraordinary, whimsical kinetic sculptures created by the legendary Rowland Emmett. Cartoonist for Punch magazine, artist, inventor and builder of mechanical 'Things'. Emmett's more famous works are the car and inventions that appeared in the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Community Gallery

MAPPING MY JOURNEY

Open daily until 16 March 2014

Free entry

An exhibition celebrating the history, heritage and personal stories of the transgender community in the West Midlands. Through compelling sound, photos, video, artwork, poetry and artefacts, *'Mapping my Journey'* brings to life the places, events and personal journeys- for some decisive and swift but for others spanning decades - which make up the heritage of the West Midlands' Transgender community. Members of the transgender community worked alongside professional researchers to collect and preserve these hidden histories.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

29 March – 3 August 2014

Free entry

An exhibition of oral history, from women who

migrated from Kashmir / Mirpur in 50s / 60s and young people's responses to these stories.

Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

Birmingham Museum's Heritage sites will reopen on Saturday 12 April 2014. Look out for special events and activities at all sites at www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

Aston Hall

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Open from Saturday 12 April 2014

Entry charges apply to non-members

Aston Hall is one of Birmingham's most treasured buildings. Rediscovered as part of the development project, Aston Hall boasts sumptuous interiors from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including the magnificent Long Gallery.

VICTORIAN SERVANT'S DAY

Wednesday 19 Feb 2014

£2 per person

Meet the Victorian servants preparing Aston Hall for its grand re-opening. Join us for a family fun day with craft activities, re-enactors to meet, dressing up, activities (dolly tub, carpet beaters), handling and more!

Blakesley Hall

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Open from Saturday 12 April 2014

Entry charges apply to non-members

The timber-framed house was built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families. More than 400 years later, beautiful

Blakesley Hall is still a haven; secluded from the avenues of modern houses that lie beyond its gates.

TOM, FRANK AND MAY: BLAKESLEY HALL AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR - A FAMILY'S TALE

12 Apr 14 onwards

Thomas Merry and his wife Elizabeth lived at Blakesley Hall from 1901 to 1932. They had three children Tom, Frank and May, all of whom played part in the struggle of WW1. The exhibition, created in partnership with the descendents of the Merry family will tell this family's war story through displays of original material, uniforms, handling activities and a short film.

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

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

Open all year round

Tues – Sat 10:30am – 5:00pm. Closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.

Tour charges apply to non-members

When the proprietors of the Smith & Pepper jewellery manufacturing firm decided to retire in 1981 they ceased trading and locked the door, unaware they would be leaving a time capsule for future generations. For more information see Heritage Site Focus on page 32.

CHROMA COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY

Open until 4 May 2014

Free entry

Chroma Jewellery Collective is an emerging group of four contemporary jewellers with a shared goal to raise the awareness of contemporary jewellery within Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter and to celebrate their passion for making and wearing vibrant, statement, colourful jewellery. The unique collective aims to promote its makers both individually and collectively through an innovative temporary exhibition at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter.

THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

14 June 2014 onwards

Free entry

Commemorating 100 years since the beginning of the First World War, this exhibition uncovers artefacts, images and oral histories relating to; recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter; adaptation of industries in the Jewellery Quarter; the changing role of women in the industry during war years; and employment of ex-soldiers disabled through war injuries.

Sarehole Mill

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

Open from Saturday 12 April 2014

Entry charges apply to non-members

Sarehole Mill is one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham. The existing building was constructed around 1750, although there was known to be a mill here as early as the Tudor period. Today the mill is best known for its association with the author JRR Tolkien who spent part of his childhood nearby and who used the site and its surroundings as the inspiration for the Shire in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Soho House

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

Open from Saturday 12 April 2014

Entry charges apply to non-members

Soho House was home of industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton from 1766 to 1809. Carefully restored, this fashionable Georgian house features period room interiors with fine collections of ormolu, silver, furniture and paintings.

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Open daily 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission charges apply

Thinktank is a fun and fascinating museum of science and discovery, with more than 200 hands-on exhibits over four floors and a digital Planetarium.

BIRMINGHAM CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

The first Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm at the Jekyll & Hyde (upstairs Gin Palour) 28 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, B4 6BJ. Cafes Scientifique are informal and lively discussion events around contemporary science issues.

For further details visit www.thinktank.ac

THE PLANET IN OUR HANDS: RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Sir Mark Walport and Prof Alice Roberts

26 February 2014 (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

Sir Mark Walport is the Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government. He has a background in immunology and now turns his attentions to the most pressing issue we face as a global society; our climate. He explores what the science tells us, and asks what should we, as a developed nation, do in response? Alice Roberts is the Professor of Public Engagement with Science at the University of Birmingham, journalist, TV presenter and anatomist. Alice will frame the issue of Climate Change with a geological perspective, looking at the natural processes that have taken place over millions of years.

Tickets £5 per person, booking essential.

Please call 0121 202 2222 or visit www.thinktank.ac/ adult for more information and to book tickets

ANIMATE IT!

Opens 12 April 2014

Included in Thinktank ticket price

Visit the new Aardman *Animate It!* studio and become an animator. Find out how moving images are created and star in your own Shaun the Sheep stop motion animation.

COME CREATE

24 May – 7 September 2014

Included in Thinktank ticket price

Inspired by the philosophy of the making and tinkering movement, 'Come Create' will inspire visitors to explore and demonstrate their creativity through displays, hands-on interactives and fun activities. The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of workshops and activities for the whole family.

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



In The Area

Exhibitions & Days Out

The Apple Store Gallery

3 Bridge Sreet
Town Centre
Hereford
HR4 9DF
Tel: 01432 378436
www.applestoregallery.com

FOURTH QUARTER

Until Saturday 1 March 2014. The New Year starts with 'Fourth Quarter' an exhibition featuring artists who are new to the Gallery. Diana Nuttall, Dani Sangway, Gordon Campbell, Ronald Moore, Andrea McLean and Jeanette Faulkener-Clarke will be showing their Paintings alongside Wood Turnings by Kim Davis and Sculpture by Nick Helme.

As usual, we shall be open for your Framing requirements, which includes bespoke mouldings and customised shapes as well as more conventional frames and mounts for 2D and 3D items.

The Gallery is normally open Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30am to 4:30pm and Saturdays, 10:00am to 1:00pm. Other times by arrangement.

The Barber Institute

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

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

Friday 14 February - Sunday 27 April 2014. A feminist re-interpretation of fairytale *Little Red Riding Hood*, the urban landscape, and the relationships between people and their environment and between art and medical science are among the many diverse subjects and

themes explored by emerging artists in this year's New Art West Midlands.

Created in as wide a range of media – including acrylic, screen printing, photography, collage, textiles and found objects – this multi-site, selective award exhibition showcases work by new artists who have graduated in the last three years from the five West Midlands university art schools.

RUBY'S ROOM

Friday 21 February - Monday 26 May 2014. An intriguing eye miniature in the collection of the V&A Museum, London is the starting point for this series of recent work by renowned contemporary photographer Bettina von Zwehl (b. 1971). While producing a series of works inspired by historic painted portrait miniatures in the V&A and Bath's Holburne Museum, Von Zwehl encountered a variant

Continued on page 24



THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

Ruby's Room

Photographic Miniatures by Bettina von Zwehl

21 February – 26 May 2014

ADMISSION FREE
0121 414 7333
www.barber.org.uk
Visit by train: University station

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

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Photography: David Lee; Portrait (Ruby), 2013. Photograph in collaboration with David Lee; Jewellery, © Bettina von Zwehl

J & A FINE ART

Jo and Andy Seger created J&A Fine Art solely for the sale of the spectacular and unique artworks of the world-renowned sculptor Bill Mack. After collecting Bill Mack's works for some years, Jo & Andy contacted Bill to see if he would be interested in having them showcase his work at their beautiful home in Warwickshire.

They visited his home in the US and formed a close friendship with both Bill and his wife Deborah. Bill agreed that the unique concept of enjoying his work in a relaxed homelike atmosphere was an ideal way to introduce his work into the UK. The response has been amazing with collectors, art dealers, interior designers and the general public all seeking an opportunity to visit and purchase his work.

Jo & Andy would like to welcome you to their home to enjoy the Bill Mack experience. Whether you choose to invest or simply go away and tell your friends, you will enjoy their warm hospitality and be made very welcome. They also now work closely with and have on display the works of Willard Wigan MBE and local artist Temper. Please telephone 01564 702216 for more information.

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APPLESTOREGALLERY@BTINTERNET.COM
WWW.APPLESTOREGALLERY.CO.UK



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

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

For bookings please telephone: 0121 666 7671

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

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

Admission Prices:
Gift Aid Adult (8.00) Child (4.00) Family (17.50)
Standard Adult (7.25) Child (3.90) Family (15.90)


National
Trust

of the genre briefly fashionable in early 19th-century England, which featured paintings of single eyes from the members of one family. Ruby's Room (previously seen at the Holburne) is her response – an exploration of her own family connections through immaculate and beautifully composed photographic portraits. The subjects are herself and her young daughter, Ruby, and eye portraits of her husband and Ruby, each mounted into jewellery by designer Laurie Lee. It also includes challenging photographic eye portraits of children from Ruby's primary school, and portraits of herself, Ruby and young girls and women, again inspired by miniatures in the V&A's collection. Ruby's Room. Photographic Miniatures by Bettina von Zwehl'. An exhibition organised by the Holburne Museum. Supported by Arts Council England.

FAITH & FORTUNE

Until Sunday 30 November 2014. Coins have always provided a stage on which the dramas of religion and politics, statehood and rebellion, marriage and succession, and triumph and desperation are played.

In the early 7th-century, the East Roman Emperor Herakleios requisitioned silver from Constantinople's churches to pay his army. The coins bore the petition 'God help the Romans'. A generation later the leader of the first Muslim Empire, the Umayyad Caliph Abd Al-Malik, created a gold coinage emblazoned with Islamic verse, establishing a blueprint for Muslim coinage for centuries.

The origins, meanings and manufacturing processes of coinage in the neighbouring Byzantine and early Muslim empires are explored in this exhibition, while both beautiful and sacred, it also reflect how attitudes to depicting religious subjects differ between Islam and Christianity. The relationship between these two empires was characterised by a constant dialogue of trade, intellectual exchange and military confrontation. This display explores how currency was used by each to assert cultural difference and promote its own concept of the divine.

Curated by Rebecca Darley and Daniel Reynolds, with Ali Mynat and Maria Vrij.

The Commandery

The Commandery

Sidbury

Worcester

WR1 2HU

Tel: 01905 361821

Email: commandery@worcestershire.gov.uk

THE MAGNIFICENT MOTHS BANNER WORKSHOP

Sunday 9 February 2014. Explore the Commandery for inspiration as you design your own banner to be used in *The Magnificent MOTHS Parade* to take place in Worcester City Centre. Suitable for all the family. Workshop participants are invited to be part of the parade carrying their own creation. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**, please call 01905 361821

LOVE WORCESTER 'LIVING HISTORY'

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 February 2014, 10am-5pm both days. Witness life throughout the centuries as reenactors take over the Commandery and its grounds to demonstrate 2000 years of history right up to World War II. The event is part of Love Worcester week and is in partnership with Worcester Re-enactors.

AMAZING ANCESTORS

Saturday 15 – Sunday 23 February 2014, 11am-1pm (excl. Sundays) & 2-4pm. Drop in to enjoy our art & craft activities and complete this half term's Commandery trail, all inspired by our *Amazing Ancestors*. Activities cost £2 + usual admission fee.

THE MAGNIFICENT MOTHS PARADE

Saturday 22 February, Performances from 12 noon Parade starts at 2pm from the Guildhall. Brought to you by Museums Worcestershire and Imagineer Productions as part of Love Worcester, *The Magnificent MOTHS Parade* will take to the streets of Worcester City Centre. A day of magical and surprising performances and events inspired by Museums

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Coins and Wine Auction

Friday 7th March, 10.30am
Antiques, Toys, Collectables
& Fine Art Auction



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24 TO 26 APRIL

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performance by Helen
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20 TO 24 MAY

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Worcestershire's collections, buildings and exhibitions, the parade welcomes back Victorian explorer and collector Winnie Bird and her Magnificent Giant Moths.

RBSA

4 Brook Street
Birmingham
B3 1SA
Tel: 0121 236 4353
www.rbsa.org.uk

THE NIGHT WATCH

Until 22 February 2014. A collection of pencil sketches, pastels and watercolours of owls and other birds of prey.

CUT AWAY

Until Saturday 8 March 2014. Linoprints featuring blocks of colour and line that create clean and spacious compositions with dynamic statements of colour.

ILLUSTRATED POTS OF NATURAL SCOTLAND

Until Saturday 22 March 2014. A collection of new ceramics with imagery influenced by natural forms found in South West Scotland.

MELTING POT CRAFT EXHIBITION

Until Saturday 5 April 2014. Celebrating multicultural modern-day Britain, *Melting Pot* showcases the diverse and eclectic cultural influences present within the British craft scene. The exhibition offers an opportunity to reflect upon the significance of travel, migration and religion for contemporary designer maker craft.

Work on display includes Andrea Thorpe's jewellery exploring Japanese and South African floral motifs, Saima Hussain's pieces inspired by traditional henna patterns, and Malin Winberg's metalwork informed by Finnish folklore.

BIRMINGHAM WATERCOLOUR SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION

Monday 31 March - Saturday 12 April 2014. Founded in 1907, the BWS upholds the finest traditions of

watercolour painting, and promotes excellence through innovation.

FOUND EXHIBITION

Monday 31 March - Saturday 12 April 2014. Second group exhibition held at the Gallery by Quatrefoil artists Jacqueline Calladine, Annette Lucas ARBSA and Stephanie Redfern RBSA.

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

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

Tel: 01905 25371

Email: gallerymuseum@worcestershire.gov.uk

THE MAGNIFICENT MOTHS BANNER WORKSHOP

Saturday 8 February 2014

Explore the Art Gallery & Museum for inspiration as you design your own banner to be used in *The Magnificent MOTHS Parade* to take place in Worcester City Centre. Suitable for all the family. Workshop participants are invited to be part of the parade carrying their own creation.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, please call 01905 25371.

SONG OF THE SEA

Saturday 8 February – Saturday 26 April 2014. Enjoy this glorious exhibition bringing together stunning 20th Century artwork from the St Ives School of Landscape and Marine Painting. Why not send a postcard from the exhibition to a friend or relative – just as the artists might have done themselves from St Ives.

Cost: £1 for postcard and postage. Kindly supported by Friends of Museums Worcestershire.

VALENTINE'S DAY ON THE BALCONY

Friday 14 February 2014, from 7:15pm. Enjoy a



THE FOURTH QUARTER

Until Saturday 1 March 2014
The Apple Store Gallery

romantic evening meal in the tranquil setting of our Balcony Café. Tables are limited so reservations are essential. £25 for a three-course meal, please call 01905 724488 for more details and to book.

LOVE WORCESTER CITY IN MINIATURE

Saturday 15 Saturday - Saturday 22 February 2014, 10:30am-4:30pm, FREE. Help us celebrate the wonderful mix of old and new buildings in Worcester City. Build a miniature 3D cityscape using modelling and scraptastic materials - the possibilities are endless! Suitable for all the family and no booking required. This event is part of Love Worcester.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Lichfield St,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1DU
Tel: 01902 552055
www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

DEAN KELLAND: NO HIDING PLACE

Until Saturday 15 February 2014. Using a combination of performance, film-making, collage and print, Birmingham-based artist Dean Kelland re-visits popular masculine figures from British sitcoms of the 1950s, 60s and 70s in order to explore our collective cultural identities and stereotypical representations of masculinity. His new film, entitled *No Hiding Place* (2013), has been commissioned by Wolverhampton Art Gallery and is influenced by Oscar Rejlander's picture *Rejlander the Photographer introducing Rejlander the Volunteer*. Like Rejlander, Kelland embodies the dual roles of artist and performer to explore shared interests in identity and social divisions.

This is a special commission by Wolverhampton Art Gallery to support our programme of exhibitions and events which celebrate the enduring influence of Victorian photography on artists working today. Join Dean Kelland and Exhibitions Curator Jane Morrow on Saturday 16 November for an 'in conversation' event about Dean's new and recent work - *Artist's Talk: Dean Kelland*. Free entry, no booking required.

A BETTER PLACE TO SHOP: THE STORY OF BEATTIES

Until Saturday 29 March 2014. Since its founding in 1877, Beatties department store went on to become famous for selling high quality merchandise and for providing excellent customer service. To many people of Wolverhampton and beyond, it really was "a better place to shop". The exhibition, which consists of a selection of catalogued material relating to Beatties from the 1870s to the 21st century, ranges from price lists for ladies' mantles (capes) in the 1890s to advice for women on how to dress to please a man in the 1960s. It gives a fascinating insight into the social attitudes prevalent over a hundred plus years of trading. The collection is not only an important addition to the archive collection but also highlights an important part of Wolverhampton's retail history. There will also be the chance to enter a raffle to win a Beattie bear. All proceeds will go to Compton Hospice.

A BIG BANG: THE ORIGINS OF THE POP ART COLLECTION, PART 1

Until Saturday 21 June 2014. The first of a two-part display exploring the reason why art works by some of the biggest names in Pop Art found a home at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. This exhibition features some of the earliest works acquired for the Art Gallery's collection over the last 50 years and tells the story behind the collection, which began with the purchase of the ICA print portfolio in 1964. This included work by Derek Boshier, Peter Philips, Bridget Riley, Peter Blake, Patrick Caulfield and other contemporary artists of the time. In the last 50 years, this collection has become one of the strongest in the UK, with the addition of other stars of the Pop era including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, David Hockney and Pauline Boty.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Until Monday 5 May 2014. The Black Country was home to many large manufacturing companies that have now moved out, closed down or reduced production. Companies such as Goodyear, Courtaulds, Star Aluminium, Ever Ready, Stewarts and Lloyds, GKN, Rubery Owen, FH Lloyds and John Thompson employed thousands of local men and women and formed an important part of their lives and social culture. The exhibition provides a brief history of the companies in words and images and visitors are encouraged to share their own memories with us.



SONG OF THE SEA

Saturday 8 February – Saturday 26 April 2014
Worcester Museum & Art Gallery



Louisa Starr Canziani's Wedding Ring - Date: 1880

For Zelina Garland, Curatorial Manager at Birmingham Museums, diamonds are a girl's best friend

Diamonds, it is said, symbolise everlasting love. Ten diamonds appear in the wedding ring designed by Enrico Canziani for his wife-to-be Louisa Starr, not to mention a large rectangular emerald and two female figures in gold. This item of immense beauty and significance is on display in the Industrial Gallery at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Zelina Garland says: *"This is one of my favourite objects in the collection. For a relatively small and highly personal object, it is so powerful, has such presence, and seems to be symbolic not only of their relationship but also of the character of the wearer, who was a pioneering female artist and a fascinating personality."*

Louisa, who was part of the South Kensington circle of artists in the 19th century, was one of the first women to enter the Royal Academy Schools. *"Her work and career were of central importance to her both before and after her marriage, meaning that she and her husband continued to spend considerable time apart. And she refused to include the 'promise to obey' in the marriage service,"* Zelina explains.

It seems appropriate that such a pioneering spirit would have an original wedding ring which *"is made from gold with a large rectangular bezel-cut emerald in the centre, surrounded by ten diamonds, which appear to be held up by modelled figures, like classical caryatids holding up the architrave of a building."* Enrico, who was Italian, was trained as a civil engineer and Zelina retells his process of designing this much prized piece: *"A series of sketches by him show that he considered different design ideas using these elements in various combinations – the final version is the most successful and integrates the figures into the overall concept, whilst showing off the stones to full effect. He considered the style of the ring carefully, writing in October 1880 to Louisa - 'if the ring is too big and heavy one could put a pearl or an opal instead of the stones, and so have it not so showy for every day. Here (Milan) they wear large rings and those who have three or four rings on one finger must weigh the same as yours'."*

Enrico and Louisa were married in Dover in 1882. Zelina says: *"Exactly a year later Enrico wrote a love letter to her in London saying - 'I want to repeat now, and always, that the day of our marriage is, and will be, the fairest of my life, and I hope of yours too'."* This love affair, did, ultimately last forever as the ten diamonds foretold because more than a hundred years later, the romance lives on through their wedding ring.

The ring forms part of a vast collection donated to the museum by the couple's daughter, Estella Canziani. It includes work by both Louisa and Estella. A beautifully detailed series of paintings by Estella are on display in the current Waterhall exhibition 'For the Record', which Zelina adds: *"will feature works by other women artists from Birmingham's collection, including Helen Chadwick's 'Allegory of Misrule' and Edith Rimmington's 'Cretin', both acquired with the support of the Friends."* ■

By Jane Kubiesa





Heritage Site Focus

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

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

Opening times: 10:30am - 5pm, Tues - Sat

As members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums recently discovered on a tour, the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter has much to offer. Its kaleidoscopic composition of precious metals and Egyptian-inspired designs, of artisan craftsmanship and the stamp of local workers provides a unique insight into the city's past. Property Manager Oliver Buckley explains.

The Museum, formerly the Smith and Pepper factory, holds not just the moment it closed in 1981 frozen in time but represents a slice of jewellery making history dating from the late Victorian era when the business opened. Built around a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop, this time capsule is a very special piece of local heritage as Oliver Buckley explains: *"The oak step of the pit in which Arthur Brewer, the factory's drop-stamper, stood for 30 years is*

worn to a smooth hollow where he worked. The jewellers' raggedy overalls hang like a second skin in a line, just as they were hung up at the end of the last day before the factory closed. It's hard not to feel moved in a place such as this, it's quite a monument to the hard-working lives which have built our wonderful city."

Such lives involved what Oliver terms as *"jealously protected"* jewellery designs which set each factory apart. *"For Smith and Pepper it was the making of bamboo style bracelets, articulated 'Snakes-Head' armlets, and cross-shaped pendants which made their name."* Such Egyptian-themed jewellery can be found on display. It was initially popular in 1922 when the tomb of Tutankhamen was discovered and again in the 1960s with Elizabeth Taylor's Hollywood



film. *"The factory wisely kept all original dies from the twenties, and so could just run off a new batch to feed demand. Genius!"* Oliver rhapsodizes.

industry. He reports: *"We are busy reaching out to local businesses and schools to gather stories and create content for this space!"* ■

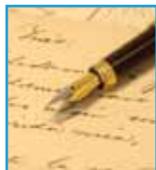
The future of the Museum is equally exciting and the Friends play a large part in that. Oliver says: *"Members regularly attend exhibition launches and support the purchase of items for the collection. The most important item on display which the Friends helped us to acquire is the beautiful High Victorian Gothic Claret Jug made by Hardman & Co."*

By Jane Kubiesa

The Property Manager has also introduced contemporary artwork to the factory *"responding to the distinct appearance and atmosphere"*, the event space has been refurbished, opening hours increased and the education room reinstated.

Alongside the factory site sit two complementary galleries. *"Made in the Jewellery Quarter"* looks at the great quality and diversity of items made in this distinctive area, and *"Earth's Riches"* is an educational display showing the many natural materials used to make jewellery all over the world," Oliver adds. In June there will be an exploration of the impact of the First World War on the Jewellery Quarter. Oliver said this would include the men who fought and the impact on





Friends' Diary Dates

February

- 25 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Grayson Perry Tapestries (1)
- 28 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Grayson Perry Tapestries (2)

March

- 3 * Town Hall – Thomas Trotter – Reception and Organ Recital
- 6 * Annual Lunch at the College of Food, University College Birmingham
- 7 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Photorealism (1)
- 11 * Luncheon Club – Katie Hall – Photorealism (2)
- 14 * Guided Tour (119) – Jane Howell – Who Am I?
- 18 * Portsmouth – The new Mary Rose Museum
- 21 * Museum Collections Centre
- 25 * Evening Event – Katie Hall – Grayson Perry's 'The Vanity of Small Differences' Tapestries

April

- 1 * Herbert Art Gallery – Victoria Osborne - Exposed
- 8 * Evening Event - Pogus Caesar - Birmingham Tornado
- 8-14 ** Holland & The Dutch Masters
- 15 * Evening Event – Lisa Beauchamp – New Art West Midlands
- 25 * Madresfield Court & Croome (NT)
- 29 * Evening Event – Lisa Beauchamp – For The Record

May

- 9 * AV Room Talk - The Ultimatum by David Johnson

June

- 24 + LLangollen Canal Boat Trip and Erddig NT

July

- 22 + Friends Annual General Meeting

September

- 26-29 + Newcastle Weekend

- * 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 Spring 2014
edition will be
published in
April

Barber Evening Concerts



The Ehnes Quartet

5 February 7.30pm

James Ehnes *violin*
Amy Schwartz Moretti *violin*

Richard O'Neill *viola*
Robert deMaine *cello*

Formed in 2010, the Ehnes Quartet, led by internationally celebrated soloist James Ehnes, makes its Barber Institute debut. The programme highlights two works with traditional, folk music influences by Bartók and Suk, and also showcases the quartet's 'talent, intelligence and sensitivity' (*La Presse*) in what has become their signature piece, Ravel's String Quartet in F.



The English Concert

'Godfather, Father and Son'

26 March 7.30pm

Lawrence Cummings *director*
Alfonso Leal del Ojo *viola*

Lisa Beznosiuk *flute*
Katharina Spreckelsen *oboe*

The English Concert, one of the world's leading period instrument ensembles, perform works by Telemann, J S Bach and C P E Bach. The English Concert has worked at the forefront of the Baroque and Classical music revival and comprises many of Europe's finest baroque musicians.



Stephen Hough *piano*

7 May 7.30pm

Programme includes:
Brahms
Seven Fantasias, Op. 116
Bruckner
Erinnerungen

Schoenberg
Six Little Pieces, Op. 19
Wagner
Albumbblatt

Stephen Hough, named as 'arguably the finest, certainly the most intelligent and technically impressive British pianist on the circuit' (New York Times), returns to the Barber with a mixed programme of German and Austrian composers. This recital also includes one of his own compositions, Piano Sonata No. 2.

**FREE CONCERTS
EVERY FRIDAY!**

The Barber Lunchtime Concert series features some of the UK's finest chamber ensembles and recitalists every Friday from 1.10pm - 2pm in the Barber's stunning Art Deco concert hall. No booking required. See website for details.

Barber Concert Hall, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS.
Admission: £15, £12 concessions, £8 Barber Friends, £5 students

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