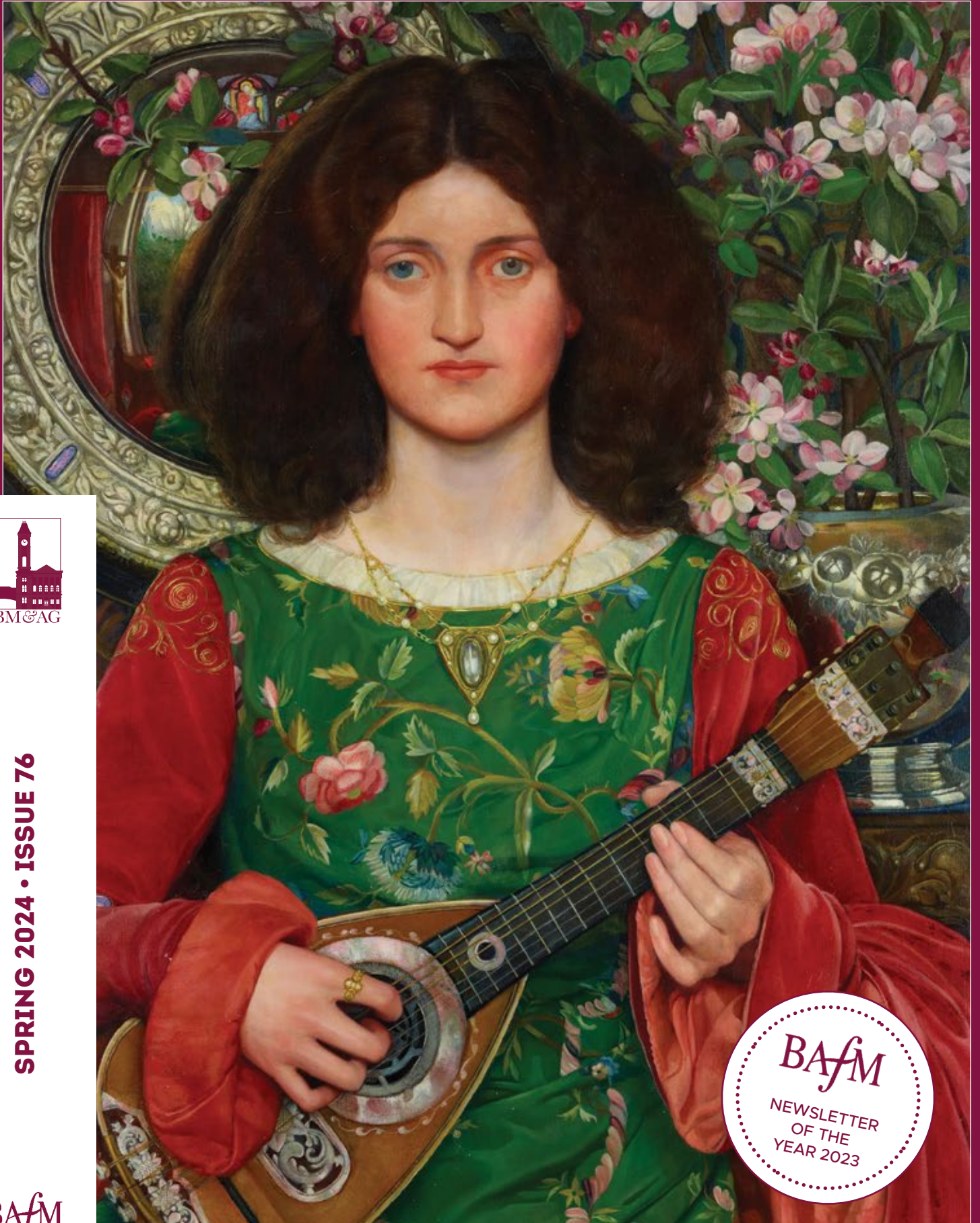


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SPRING 2024 • ISSUE 76

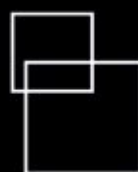


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FRIENDS' ACQUISITIONS: MYRA LOUISE BUNCE

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'Musica' by Kate Elizabeth Bunce, Oil on canvas,
1895-97; 1897P17; Presented by Sir John Holder,
Bt., 1897; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust,
licensed under CCO





CHAIR'S OBSERVATIONS

BY PETER MILES

I am writing this on Twelfth Night which, as we all know, celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the Stable. They brought with them the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The ancient ceremony of the monarch presenting these gifts takes place on the feast of Epiphany, on 6 January, at the Chapel Royal in St James Palace in London. The service, because it is a religious service, begins with a contingent of the King's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard (not to be confused with Beefeaters of the Tower of London as the uniform is similar) marching into the Chapel Royal with a large silver gilt alms dish on which are gold sovereigns, frankincense and myrrh.

The dish is presented to the Dean of the Chapel Royal (by tradition the Bishop of London) and solemnly laid on the altar. And the service begins. I have been fortunate to be invited a number of times. It is a strange experience sitting in the pews following the service from order books presented to the Chapel by George VI.

And looking around one is very conscious of the history: the Chapel where Charles I prayed on his way to his execution; the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert; and Princess Diana's body lay in the Chapel after being brought back from Paris.

Sir Edward Burne-Jones famously portrayed this event in 'The Star of Bethlehem', which is in Birmingham's collection. Unfortunately this painting is just too large to be moved down to the Gas Hall for the 'Victorian Radicals' exhibition, but there will be many other gems from Birmingham's Pre-Raphaelite collection on display. The Friends are delighted to be supporting the phased reopening of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. And remember that Members of the Friends will have FREE entry to the 'Victorian Radical's exhibition on presentation of your valid Membership card, so do make the most of this opportunity and encourage your friends to join to receive the same benefit!

It was good to see so many Members come to Aston Hall at the beginning of December for our 'Advent event'. It seems, from the number of thanks that have been received from those Members who attended, that Kate Round talking about Cameo Glass was a great success and we will, I'm sure, be inviting her to a return match.

What was also gratifying was the level of donations we received on the day. One of our Committee Members brought along a very generous anonymous

donation and we also received another substantial donation towards the costs of the day. Members also individually contributed on the day itself, which was very kind and much appreciated. A big thank to you to everyone.

And finally, Christmas cards. Some of you will remember from a previous Chair's Observations that I track the iconography of cards. This year robins on cards have almost disappeared but, surprisingly, there has been a surge in religious cards. I don't think my friends and acquaintances have found religion – perhaps it could be that greeting card companies are thinking more about the true meaning of Christmas?

I would like to say a big thank you for your continued support, to wish you a prosperous 2024, and enjoy the gradual reopening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery this year, starting with 'Victorian Radicals'! ■

LEFT: 'The Star of Bethlehem' by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, 1887-1891; 1891P75; Commissioned by the Corporation of Birmingham, 1887, and purchased through the Art Gallery Purchase Fund, 1891; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO. **RIGHT:** 'The Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, London'. Engraving by W. Wise after R. B. Schnebbelie, 1816. Wellcome Collection. Source: Wellcome Collection.





DAME LAURA KNIGHT

I Paint Today

13 Jan – 30 June 2024

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

Celebrating the wonderful work of Dame Laura Knight, focussing on key events, characters and achievements which helped to shape her life and career.

Includes sumptuous landscapes inspired by Laura Knight's love of the Worcestershire countryside.

For more information on opening times and admission prices please visit
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk Now open on Sundays



FRIENDS' EVENTS

HOW TO BOOK EVENTS - EITHER BY EMAIL OR BY POST

BY EMAIL

Send an email to friendsofbmag@gmail.com listing: all the events you would like to go to, how many tickets you would like for each event, and whether the tickets are for members or non-members. Please include your membership number if applicable.

You will be sent an email reply and information about how to pay for the events by bank transfer. Once the bank transfer has been received you will receive a further email confirming your booking.

BY POST

Write to us including: all the events you would like to go to, how many tickets you would like for each event, and whether the tickets are for members or non-members. Please include your membership number if applicable.

Please work out the total amount due and send a cheque, made payable to 'FBMAG', to: The Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, North Lodge, Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Birmingham, B6 6JD. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so we can issue you with your ticket(s) and confirm your booking(s).



'MAKERS AND MACHINES: CREATIVITY IN THE COMPUTER AGE' AT THINKTANK

Date: Wednesday 7 February 2024, 2pm for 2.15pm

Venue: Thinktank - Birmingham Science Museum, Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Speaker: Felicity McWilliams, Curator of Science and Industry, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £8 members, £10 non-members (includes a talk, tour and tea/coffee and cake)

How to get there: By car - parking: The closest car park is Millennium Point Multi-Storey Car Park on Howe Street, B4 7AP. By train: 10 minutes walk from Moor Street station, 15 minutes from New Street. By bus: Catch numbers 14 and 94 from The Priory Queensway (in front of B&M) in the city centre to Jennens Road.

[NB. This event was advertised in the Winter 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Come and join us for a talk and tour of this fascinating exhibition that covers everything from William Morris and weaving to Artificial Intelligence. Relive the joys of coding on punch cards and the delights of the now fashionably retro games Tetris and Pac-Man. In the new exhibition space being developed by BMT at Thinktank, this particular exhibition showcases creative and pioneering figures from a variety of fields related to coding,

many of them female such as Dame Stephanie Shirley. There will be a wide range of artefacts on display including the ZX Spectrum and one of the oldest electronic computers, the Hollerith, as well as William Morris tapestries.



'THE SCREW KINGS'

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2024, 11am

Venue: Winterbourne House and Gardens, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2RT

Speaker: Henrietta Lockhart, Curator, Winterbourne House

Cost: £10 members, £14 non-members (NB. Cost does not include entrance fee to Winterbourne. This should be paid at reception on arrival - adults £8.20, over 65s £7.20. This entrance fee does not apply to Winterbourne members.)

Meeting Point: The reception in Winterbourne at 10.45am for an 11am start

How to get there: By car from city centre: Along the Bristol Road, turn right into Edgbaston Park Rd and then past the University. Winterbourne is on the right. There is a 50 space car park and 2 blue badge spaces beside the house. By bus: The X21 and X22 buses stop just round the corner from Winterbourne. They pick up from the city centre by Moor Street station. More details about frequency and other stops can be found at the National Express website: www.nxbus.co.uk

[NB. This event was advertised in the Winter 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]



In the late 19th century, the screw market was dominated by the Nettlefold and Chamberlain families, the self-styled 'Screw Kings'! In 1900, the merged company Guest, Keen & Nettlefold (GKN) was born, and went on to become one of the world's largest engineering conglomerates. Winterbourne House in Edgbaston, built by John Sutton

Nettlefold, has always celebrated its historical connection to GKN, and now has a significant GKN archive and exhibition. This talk will explore the company history and its connection to Winterbourne, and the process of creating the exhibition. After the talk, you can see objects from the archive up close, and enjoy a guided visit to the exhibition.

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



TOUR OF SELLY MANOR MUSEUM AND BOURNVILLE VILLAGE

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024, 10.45am for an 11am start
Venue: Selly Manor, Maple Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2AE

This event was advertised in the Winter 2023 edition of 'Artefacts' and is now FULLY BOOKED.



WALKING TOUR AROUND THE MOOR POOL ESTATE

Date: Friday 21 June 2024, 1.15 pm for a 1.30pm start
Cost: £10 members, £14 non-members (includes refreshments)

Meeting Point: Moor Pool Hall on The Circle on the Moor Pool Estate, B17 9DY

By car: There are no parking restrictions on the roads around Moor Pool. By bus: The Number 11 bus comes along the Lordwood Road and drops off at the top of Carless Avenue, which is a 10 minute walk from The Circle. The 23 and 24 buses drop off in Harborne High Street, which is approximately 15 minutes to Moor Pool. From the High Street, turn onto Station Road and then Wentworth Road. Turn right onto Wentworth Gate, which will bring you onto The Circle. [NB. This event was advertised in the Winter 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Step back in time with a walking tour around the Moor Pool Estate in Harborne. Built at the beginning of the twentieth century, this hidden Birmingham gem was the brainchild of John Sutton Nettlefold, town-planning pioneer and wealthy industrialist. This Garden Suburb has survived virtually intact for over one hundred years, and is the perfect combination of heritage, nature and community. Visitors will take a gentle stroll around the Estate, which is virtually unchanged since its completion in 1912. At the end of the tour visitors have the opportunity to have a game of skittles in the original Edwardian bowling alley! This is a predominantly outdoor excursion and Moor Pool is an undulating area. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing to suit the weather conditions and advise us of any additional needs you may have.



Moor Pool maypole, 1909



VICTORIAN RADICALS: FROM THE PRE-RAPHAELITES TO THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Dates: Tuesday 5 March, Monday 25 March, Tuesday 16 April and Monday 20 May 2024

Tour Guide: Jane Howell

Cost: £10 but Members are encouraged to make an extra donation of £5 towards the museum reopening costs. Members only.

Meeting Point: The Gas Hall Foyer entering by the lift at 10.45am for an 11am start

Please note: the exhibition is closed to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays so these four special tours offer an exclusive opportunity for Members to admire these remarkable works of art in the company of Jane Howell, an experienced and knowledgeable guide. Each tour is limited to a maximum number of 20 to allow participants a closer view than is normally possible.

This major exhibition sees Birmingham's world-famous collection of Pre-Raphaelite art on display in the city for the first time in over five years. 'Victorian Radicals' gives visitors the chance to discover the story of the Pre-Raphaelites – Britain's first modern art movement – and its influence on artists and craft workers well into the twentieth century. This tour will explore, in detail, a few of the 160 of Birmingham's most loved works, rarely seen all in one place at the same time.



'Pretty Baa-Lambs'
by Ford Madox Brown,
1851-59



VISIT TO THE WEST MIDLANDS POLICE MUSEUM - TALK ON FORENSICS PROCEDURES

Date: Saturday 13 July 2024, 10.30am

Venue: West Midlands Police Museum, The Lock Up, 40 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham City Centre, B4 6BJ (Opposite The Children's Hospital). Disabled access with lifts and ramps is available alongside in Coleridge Passage.

Cost: £15 members, £19 non-members (includes refreshments)

A return visit to the fascinating Police Museum has been arranged to include a talk on the development of forensic procedures and how scientific techniques have been used in the pursuit of justice. There will also be an opportunity for participants to further explore the lock up cells and to discover what life was like both for those who worked there and those who were incarcerated there including, of course, the infamous "Peaky Blinders".

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery

Unfortunately, due to the continued flooding in Soho House's cellar, in January the Friends office had to be moved! However we are delighted to now be based in the North Lodge at Aston Hall.

Please send any written correspondence to us at our new address: The Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, North Lodge, Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Birmingham, B6 6JD. Alternatively you can email Melissa at melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com or Sarah at fbmagmembership@gmail.com; or ring: 0121 348 8330 (our office is open on a Tuesday).

The Friends are delighted to be supporting 'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts & Crafts Movement', which will be opening in the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 10 February 2024. The exhibition will be open from Wednesday until Sunday from 10am – 5pm. Members of the Friends will have FREE entry to the exhibition on presentation of their valid Membership card, but you must pre-book a timed ticket before arriving. Please visit the BMT website to book your tickets: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/exhibitions/victorian-radicals.

Since our formation in 1931, the Friends have enhanced Birmingham's collections by supporting the purchase of over 2,700 acquisitions.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new Members: Ms Mary Botham, Ms Rita Taylor, Mr Michael & Mrs Elaine Jackson, Mrs Gillian Payne, Mr Dennis & Mrs Fiona Minchin, Mr Matthew Enstone, Mr Jonathan & Miss Lorna Harrington, and Mr Ian Shearman.

Our Friends' Acquisitions database provides a comprehensive list of all these acquisitions and can be found on the 'Publications' page of our website: www.fbmt.org.uk. To celebrate over 90 years of support for Birmingham's Museums, each week one of these works is added to the Friends' Facebook page, to showcase the Friends' contributions to Birmingham's world class collections. Please visit our Facebook page - FriendsBMAG - to follow our updates.

Joining the Friends will give you the following benefits (T&Cs apply):

- Free entry to Birmingham Museums' Historic properties: Soho House, Sarehole Mill, Blakesley Hall, Aston Hall and Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. Please check birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices
- 'Artefacts' magazine, which is published quarterly, and the Friends' E-Newsletter
- The opportunity to join the Friends' social events and outings
- Discounts in the shops and cafés at BMAG, Thinktank and the Historic properties
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- 10% discount at the Birmingham and Midland Institute's Coffee Lounge on production of a valid Friends membership card
- 10% discount off purchases in both the shop and the café at Potteries Museum & Art Gallery and Gladstone Pottery Museum: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at: www.fbmt.org.uk/subscriptions/. Alternatively, you can complete the form below with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

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

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ or ☐ I have transferred £

Please sign below and send to: The Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, North Lodge, Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Birmingham B6 6JD., together with your cheque (if applicable) made payable to 'FBMAG'

giftaid it

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

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

☐ **SINGLE** £32

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

CONCESSIONARY RATES (60+/unwaged)

☐ **SINGLE** £21

☐ **DOUBLE** £32

☐ **STUDENT** £15

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I can be contacted about donations for Birmingham Museums: Yes ☐ No ☐

HELLO FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Director of Development for Birmingham Museums Trust.

I've been lucky enough to have spent my career working for some incredible organisations, most recently at National Museums Liverpool where I spent the past five years heading up their Development operation. I now have the great honour of joining the hugely talented and passionate team here at Birmingham Museums Trust.

As I've been getting to know the organisation I've been visiting the sites and getting to know the teams. A highlight has been spending some time at the Museum Collection Centre, which shows just what an extensive and fascinating collection we have here. It's an encyclopaedia of Birmingham and its people. This is one of the many reasons so many of us care deeply about museums; our collections and how we share them help us understand our history, ask questions, share memories and wonder at the extraordinary.

It has also been a challenging time to join as the Trust continue to navigate the

current situation with Birmingham City Council following the filing of a Section 114 notice and effective bankruptcy. The stretch on the Council's funds is significant however we have an agreement in place securing our funding until April 2026 as a minimum. It remains a very difficult time financially and this year our focus is to develop a new business plan that responds to our current environment, ensures a sustainable future for the Trust and furthers the great work that we do to care for and connect visitors to our collections and venues. Support from those who care deeply about the Trust will play an even more vital role in our future and we are hugely grateful for the ongoing support of you all as Friends.

There are also exciting times ahead with the phased reopening of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG). The rewiring work is now complete and collections are back on site which is a huge achievement. In February

we open 'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Craft movement' in the Gas Hall which has been curated by our incredibly knowledgeable Curator of Fine Art Victoria Osborne (read more on page 10). Welcoming home these much-loved art works is a very fitting first step in the opening of BMAG which will be followed by the opening of further galleries later in the year. Watch this space for more announcements! A sincere thank you to the Friends for your support towards BMAG, which has made a real difference in getting the building open and leveraging additional funding.

If you see me around please do come and say hello. It's always a pleasure to meet people who really care about museums and galleries and I'd love to hear some of your stories. ■

By Rowena Dean
Director of Development



VICTORIAN RADICALS:

FROM THE PRE-RAPHAELITES TO THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Birmingham's Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts collections return to the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 10 February 2024 in a major exhibition. Victoria Osborne, BMT's Curator of Fine Art and co-curator of 'Victorian Radicals', previews the show.

Organised by Birmingham Museums and the American Federation of Arts, and generously supported by the Friends for its Birmingham showing, 'Victorian Radicals' brings together paintings, sculpture, works on paper and decorative art from the city's collection to explore one of the most dynamic and exciting periods of British art and design. It tells the story of how three generations of artists, designers and makers working between 1840 and 1910 – the Pre-Raphaelites, William Morris and his circle, and the Arts and Crafts movement – transformed the visual arts. The exhibition integrates decorative and fine art throughout, presenting paintings and drawings alongside jewellery, glass, textiles and metalwork to draw out connections, relationships and shared ideals. It traces the influence of the Pre-Raphaelites and their circle on artists and makers into the 20th century, and explores how the 'Victorian radicals' responded to an age of rapid technological and social change with their own vision for the future, arguing for the vital place of art and creativity in society and reaffirming the value of beauty and the handmade.

The exhibition was co-curated with Martin Ellis, formerly Curator of Applied Art and head of the curatorial team at Birmingham Museums, and Professor Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art at Yale University. It travelled to seven museums in the USA between 2018 and early 2022, reaching nearly 168,000 people in spite of the restrictions of the pandemic and winning a Global Fine Arts Award. The Gas Hall exhibition will be its only showing in the UK and features several works unique to the Birmingham exhibition. They include Alexander Munro's marble relief portrait of the young John Everett Millais, an acquisition supported by the Friends in 2020 which will be on display for the first time.

Although it tells a national story the exhibition has a distinctive Birmingham flavour, both because its content is



shaped by the strength and depth of the city's own 19th-century collections and because it highlights the importance of Birmingham itself in the Arts and Crafts movement. Its Municipal School of Art was arguably the leading centre for progressive art practice in the UK at the turn of the last century, and as early as 1887 Birmingham was described by 'The Magazine of Art' in London as 'perhaps the most artistic town in England'. Women designer-makers played a central role alongside their male peers, working across a wide range of media and exhibiting their work nationally and internationally.

When we came to select a lead image to promote 'Victorian Radicals', first for the US tour and now for the Gas Hall exhibition, we chose a work that suggests the richness and variety of the exhibition as a whole while also representing these Birmingham stories. Kate Bunce's 'Musica' depicts a young woman playing a lute in an interior densely filled with flowers and decorative objects. Bunce and her sister Myra had both studied at Birmingham School of Art in the 1880s, and the model (once thought to be an image of Myra) was probably their fellow artist A. Mary Powell. The objects in the painting—particularly the silver repoussé mirror and necklace—recall the productions of Birmingham Arts and Crafts makers. By bringing together painting, metalwork and jewellery in a picture both by and depicting Birmingham women, the image is a celebration of the city's distinctive artistic identity while standing for the versatility and radical ideals of all the artists in this exhibition.

Alongside 'Victorian Radicals' there will be opportunities to join the conversation about how the 19th-century art and design collections will be displayed and interpreted in the future, as we consult with visitors and the wider public ahead of the phased reopening of the permanent galleries at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. We will be sharing some of the work BMT has been co-leading since 2020 to explore the global histories and contexts of its 19th-century art and design collections through the British Art Network research group Race, Empire & the Pre-Raphaelites, with a view to telling more of the complex and nuanced stories of these historical objects in our displays. An area of the Gas Hall will highlight five pieces from the collection, suggesting some ways of thinking about them that open up fresh perspectives, and there will also be special events as part of the exhibition's public programme to prompt further conversation. We hope Friends will join us to help shape future displays of these important collections, and meanwhile are looking forward to welcoming you back to the Gas Hall for the Pre-Raphaelites' return. ■

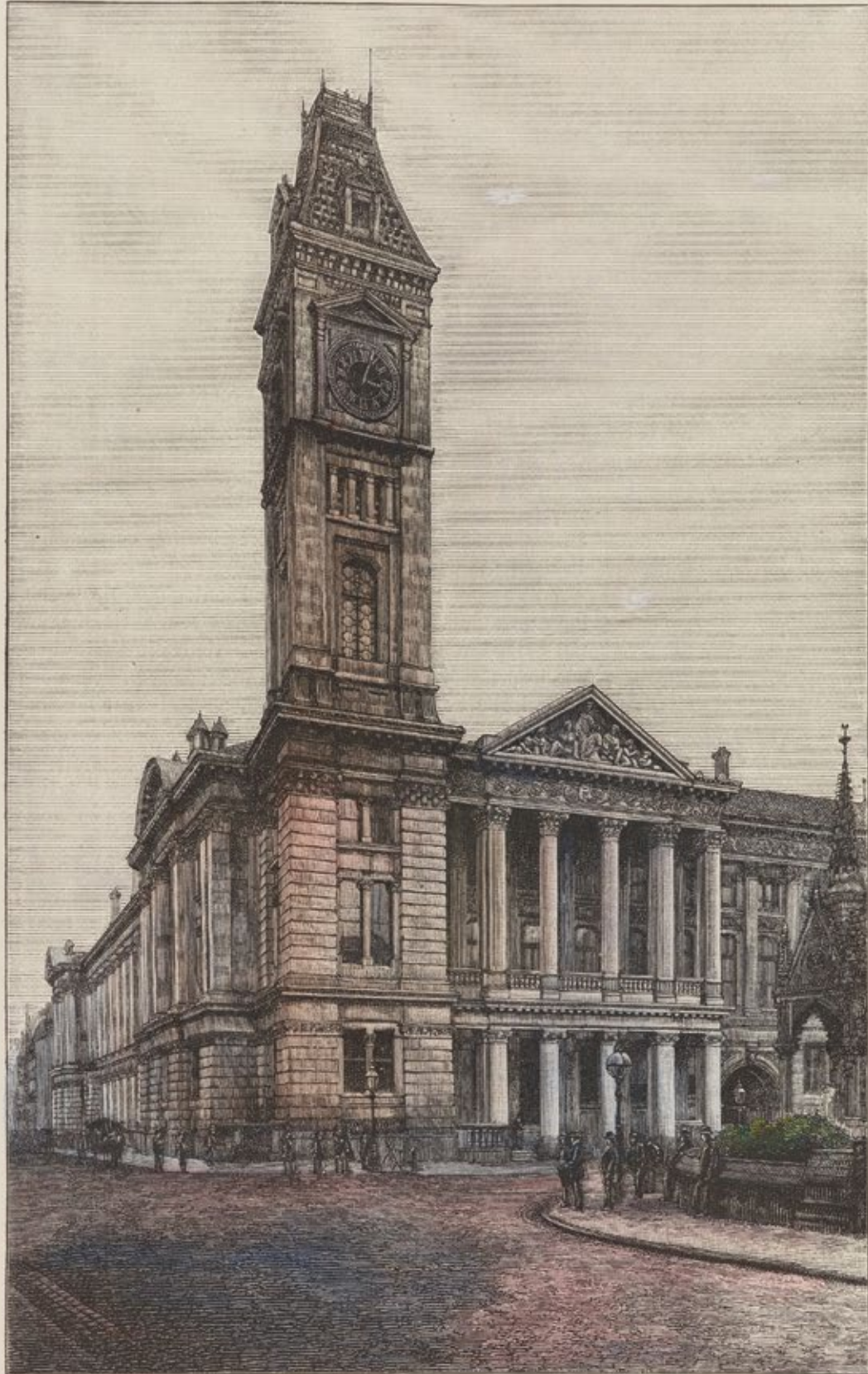
By Victoria Osborne, Birmingham Museums Trust's Curator of Fine Art and co-curator of 'Victorian Radicals'

'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts & Crafts Movement'
Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 10 February 2024
Organised by Birmingham Museums Trust and the American Federation of Arts
Supported by the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery

ABOVE: 'The Life School at Birmingham's Central School of Art' by an unknown photographer, c.1889-90; 1981P83; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0. The artists in this photograph include Kate Bunce (seated on chair second from right, wearing floral apron) and Myra Bunce (seated on chair on the left, in glasses). Sitting at Kate's feet is A. Mary Powell who, based on her resemblance to the figure in 'Musica', was probably modelled for the painting.

RIGHT: 'Musica' by Kate Elizabeth Bunce, Oil on canvas, 1895-97; 1897P17; Presented by Sir John Holder, Bt., 1897; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0





*The New Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham.
Engraved by J. D. Cooper, from a Photograph by Mr. Thrupp, Birmingham.*

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery opened in 1885, two years before Stanford arrived in Birmingham. With his belief in education and self-improvement it seems likely that he may have visited as it was within walking distance of the Baptist Chapel in Hope Street.

CHANGING BIRMINGHAM ~ ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES

HOPE IN HIGHGATE

As we can see from 'Birmingham from Highgate Fields' by Henry Burn (below), in the 1830s Highgate was a rural area. Now it is probably best known for its skyline of Birmingham Central Mosque and the earlier building of St Alban's.

As the nineteenth century progressed, Highgate became densely populated, with back to backs and small workshops becoming the dominant features. It is this period which we are going to examine during which time Highgate was the neighbourhood in which two important firsts took place.



On 18th May 1889, the Baptist Chapel in Hope Street wrote to a Reverend Peter Stanford (left): 'it was unanimously decided that we, the members and congregation

attending the above place of worship, invite you to become our pastor.' The significance of this letter was that this working-class community was inviting Birmingham's first African American Preacher, who had been born into slavery, to be their spiritual leader. Stanford had arrived in Birmingham in 1887 and was welcomed into a Baptist Chapel in Small Heath by the Reverend Charles Joseph, who became Stanford's firm friend and supporter. He married a local woman from Smethwick and became a major part of the non-conformist circuit. But what attracted Stanford to Birmingham? Gail Richards, writing in a recent article about Stanford, feels that: 'Birmingham as a city had a worldwide reputation for justice, equality and enterprise, had been at the forefront of the campaign against slavery.' Birmingham was no stranger to African Americans with Stanford's hero, Frederick Douglas, having visited the city in 1846 and debated with Joseph Sturge on how to abolish slavery in the United States.

One campaigner who came to Birmingham whilst Stanford was at Hope Street was Ida B Wells. She was campaigning against lynching in the Southern USA states, speaking in Birmingham on 17th May 1894 at the Young Men's Christian Association and Methodist Central Hall, and staying at 66 Gough Street, Edgbaston. A few days later on the 21st May there was a public meeting addressed by Stanford at the



Wilberforce Memorial Church on the topic of 'Lynch law and the Negro'. The result was a successful petition to financially support Stanford to visit the USA, enabling him to investigate and campaign on the issue. The petition was signed by many well-known Birmingham individuals including Samuel Lloyd, Richard Cadbury and J.A. Langford, plus many Councillors and church leaders. In 1895 Stanford, with his wife and daughter Carrie, travelled to the USA and he became a Pastor in Boston. We are indebted to the Reverend Paul Walker at Highgate Baptist Church (previously Hope Street Chapel) whose research has brought this story to contemporary understanding, with Stanford commemorated by a blue plaque at the church.

Whilst a pastor at Hope Street Chapel, Stanford would have been able to walk up the hill from Sherlock Street to enjoy the newly opened Highgate Park. This was Birmingham's first truly municipal park, initiated solely by Birmingham Corporation, purchased at a cost of £8,100, and laid out for a further £4,500. Originally charity land, it had become increasingly a place for dumped rubbish and illegal gambling and so from the 1850s there had been a campaign for it to become a park. Part of the Joseph Chamberlain municipal revolution,

Chamberlain opened Highgate Park on 2nd June 1876, making the case for public parks: 'to keep alive in hearts and minds of the people some sense of beauty - then the provision of trees with green foliage, of shrubs... was as necessary to their elevation as schools, and libraries and galleries of art'. That elevation in Highgate Park consisted of a children's playground in the area at the base of the sloping park, with a terrace connecting to an upper area of green open space with plenty of trees and shrubs, complete with a piped watering system. All the work was overseen by the Baths and Parks Committee and Mr Rodway, the Parks Superintendent, and their diligence lives on in the current park in the heart of the city. ■

By Jim Wells, Friends Trustee

For more information, sources and further background reading please visit our website: fbmt.org.uk/publications.

LEFT: 'The New Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham' by J D Cooper and Mr Thrupp, 1885, Engraving; 1988V775; Topographical view of Birmingham, from the Birmingham Museums Trust collection; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO.
TOP LEFT: Reverend Peter Stanford as featured in 'Birmingham Faces & Places', Volume 6, April 1994, W Baker. Reproduced by permission of the Library of Birmingham.
ABOVE: Birmingham from Highgate Fields' by Henry Burn, 1845; 1935V62; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO

MAIN AND CENTRE: 'Sketchbook, watercolours', 1875-1877 by Myra Louisa Bunce (1854-1919); 2001P21; Presented by the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, 2001; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0.

TOP CENTRE: 'Untitled (The Sitting Room)', Myra Louise Bunce, 1887; 1977P60; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0

FRIENDS' ACQUISITIONS

MYRA LOUISE BUNCE

'SKETCHES OF NORTH WALES AND BOURNEMOUTH', 1875-77

In 2001, the Friends purchased the Sketchbook of Myra Bunce's watercolour and pencil sketches of North Wales and Bournemouth from 1875-1877.

For the Spring 2024 edition of 'Artefacts' I have chosen to look at Myra Louisa Bunce's (1854-1919) 'Sketches of North Wales and Bournemouth', 1875-77 as she was an English designer and painter associated with the Arts and Crafts movement and the Pre-Raphaelites, and we will be celebrating Birmingham's Pre-Raphaelite collections over the next few months with the opening of 'Victorian Radicals' in the Gas Hall from 10 February 2024.

Myra Bunce was born in Birmingham, one of four daughters of Rebecca Ann (d.1891) and John Thackray Bunce (1828-1899). The Bunce family was one of Birmingham's most prominent artistic families of the late Victorian/Edwardian period. John Bunce was editor of the 'Birmingham Daily Post' for nearly forty years and was closely associated with the new municipal Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery as well as being a Board member of the Birmingham Municipal School of Art. He was given 'Freedom of the City' on 7th March 1899 for his services to art. John Bunce had a progressive outlook, and spoke in favour of allowing women an arts education equivalent to their male counterparts. Birmingham School of Art's Headmaster, E.R. Taylor, welcomed female artists and Myra and her elder sister Kate Bunce (1856-1927) were two of the first women to study there in the 1880s. Elsewhere, female artists were prevented from accessing life drawing classes but the Bunce sisters attended these classes at the School of Art, as can be seen in a photo entitled: 'The Life Class, Birmingham School of Art', which includes both sisters and is in Birmingham's collection. This photo is reproduced in the 'Victorian Radicals' feature on page 10 and Myra is seated in the second row, second from the left with glasses; and Kate is also seated in the second row, second from the right.

It has been argued that preventing female artists from having access to such classes was intended to stop them from producing works within the highly esteemed genres of historical and allegorical paintings, which included naked bodies.

John Bunce's support of female artists assisted both his daughters in achieving a comprehensive artistic education. Birmingham's School of Art's progressive approach to art education meant that the sisters studied a wide variety of disciplines including embroidery and



metalwork alongside drawing and painting, with the decorative arts being taught on an equal footing to the traditional 'fine' arts.

Myra's watercolour and pencil sketches of North Wales and Bournemouth, dating from 1875-77 and purchased by the Friends for Birmingham in 2001, demonstrate her skills using watercolour. She captures the light and details with her brushstrokes. On one of the pages, she has written: 'M L Bunce Bristol Road Birmingham. 1875. If anyone finds this book please return it to the above address'.

Myra's skills as a watercolourist are also shown in her depiction of a completely different subject in 'Untitled (The Sitting Room)', a watercolour on card dating from 1887, which is also in Birmingham's collection. In this painting a woman is seated on a chair in a wealthy environment – a sitting room which opens on to a conservatory. Myra depicts and celebrates handmade arts and crafts, from stained glass and ceramics to patterned rugs and demonstrates her talent at painting a variety of different materials.

Whilst also making jewellery, Myra was particularly renowned for her metalwork. She designed frames for some of her sister's paintings, including the frame which holds 'The Keepsake' (1901), which is also in Birmingham's collection. The material requirements of Myra's metalwork made it necessary for her to have a dedicated workspace within her home. This disturbed the conventional expectation of the time – that females produced their artwork, which was limited to embroidery, drawings, small watercolours, or similar – in a discreet domestic parlour setting within the living spaces of the home, not in a separate space such as a home workshop. The sisters' home was both a private as well as a professional space.

The sisters were both devout High-Church Anglicans and they worked collaboratively on decorative murals, altarpieces and reredos for churches, including St Alban the Martyr in Birmingham. Birmingham's collection includes three works by Myra's sister, Kate.

Myra's work exemplifies the spirit of The Arts and Crafts movement. They rejected mass-production, advocating a return to the handmade and to individual craftsmanship in the decorative and 'useful' arts.

Myra Bunce made a valuable contribution to the Arts and Crafts movement. Her specialism in metalwork exemplified the pioneering approach of Birmingham School of Art. Supported by her family, she was able to challenge the gender stereotypes of the time, being educated in and engaging in artistic pursuits which were previously seen to be exclusively for men, helping to break boundaries and forge the way for subsequent female artists. ■

By Melissa Hughes,
Artefacts' Editor and
Friends' Administrator

THE ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL ARTISTS

The Association of Animal Artists is excited to present yet another stunning collection of animal artwork that is as diverse as nature itself.



With members depicting a plethora of animals in an array of mediums and styles - from realistic British Wildlife in acrylics and oils to gestural big cats in watercolour as well as amazing 3D artwork - there is something for the whole family to enjoy in this wonderful exhibition. Set in the stunning grounds of Shifnal's Weston Park, the Rose Paterson Gallery is a beautiful venue which we are thrilled to be returning to. The Association of Animal Artists (AAA) hopes to inspire all visitors to reconnect with nature and realise the unique beauty of the animals we share the planet with through the wonderful artwork of our members. All of the stunning artworks are available for sale and artists will also have a number of limited edition fine art prints available. A portion of each sale is donated to the AAA's charity partner.

Set in over 1000 acres of parkland in Weston-under-Lizard near Shifnal, Weston Park is also home to a stunning historic house, landscaped parkland, the

Granary Restaurant as well as holiday cottages, outdoor events and a wedding venue – Weston Park is a perfect day out in the Shropshire countryside. The Rose Paterson Art Gallery is situated in the same building as the Granary Restaurant and Brasserie.

The AAA is so proud to be supporting Secret World Wildlife Rescue in 2024 towards their work in rescuing, caring for and rehabilitating wildlife – as well as educating other wildlife rehabilitation professionals. As always, the AAA will be raising funds for Secret World Wildlife Rescue throughout the year at their Spring, Autumn and Online Exhibitions, as well as their mid-year art auction. Secret World Wildlife Rescue say “What a fantastic opportunity. We would be honoured to work with [the Association of Animal Artists] as your charity partner.”

The AAA is always looking for animal artists to join and become members. We offer members various benefits

including exhibition opportunities, weekly socials and a supportive and helpful community. The ethos of AAA is that all the artists are encouraged to create and exhibit artwork of absolutely any animal; in the air, on the land or in water, in any medium and style. Artists are positively encouraged to explore and enjoy their creativity which leads to varied and dynamic exhibitions. In addition, AAA is committed to supporting its animal charity partners and actively works to promote them. You can find out more about the association by visiting our website (www.associationofanimalartists.com).

The Spring Exhibition will run from Thursday 28 March until Thursday 25 April - is free to enter and is open daily from 11am until 4pm. You can view the exhibition at the Rose Paterson Gallery, Weston Park, Shifnal, TF11 8LE.

TOP LEFT: 'White Eye' by Isabel Conradi
TOP RIGHT: 'Home' by Vesa
BOTTOM RIGHT: 'Sorry' by Marianne Schipper

ASSOCIATION OF  ANIMAL ARTISTS

Spring Exhibition

By Melanie Renaux

Proudly supporting



Secret World
Wildlife Rescue

**28th March -
25th April**

Open 11am - 4pm Daily
FREE ENTRY

Rose Paterson Gallery, Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE

www.associationofanimalartists.com

SHOP RADICAL

**Purchase unique items based on Birmingham's important and unrivalled Pre-Raphaelite collection –
'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement'**

Selected from the city of Birmingham's outstanding collection, 'Victorian Radicals' presents vibrant paintings and exquisite drawings alongside jewellery, glass, textiles and metalwork to explore their radical vision for art and society.

Alongside the exhibition, Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) has created some gorgeous new merchandise, enabling you to take a piece of the artwork home with you.

Victorian Radicals 1000-Piece Jigsaw

BMT has reimagined 'Musica', one of the few known easel paintings by the artist Kate Elizabeth Bunce, into a 1000-piece jigsaw. But that's not all – a selection of other Pre-Raphaelite jigsaws are available too, from 'Travelling Companions' to 'Medea and Proserpine'.

Victorian Radicals Set of 3 Notebooks

Get creative with this delightful set of notebooks, inspired by the delicate flowers in the painting of 'Musica'. Whether you are sketching, writing or even compiling a shopping list, these are sure to inspire you to draw on your creative side too!

Victorian Radicals Tin Plate Magnet

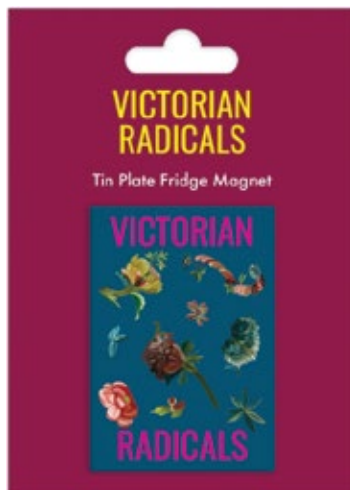
Take a piece of Pre-Raphaelite artwork home with you! The design of these magnets has been inspired by Kate Bunce's intricately painted embellishments on the dress of 'Musica' and make a perfect addition to any kitchen.

Victorian Radicals Coaster Set

Bring the ambiance of the Pre-Raphaelites into your home. Inspired by 'Musica', these coasters are sure to bring a touch of the 19th century, with a contemporary twist, into any room in which they are placed.

The Blind Girl Cushion

Make any sofa, chair or bed in your home feel like a piece of 19th Century Fine Art with this beautiful cushion, featuring John Everett Millais's 'Blind Girl'.



Proserpine Shopper Pad

When you're jotting down your next shopping list this handy shopper pad will help make sure you don't miss a thing. Inspired by 'Proserpine', Rossetti's beautiful painting on display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, this will be a charming addition to any kitchen.

Gaskin Brooch

The 'Fiammetta' Georgie Gaskin Brooch is an exquisite item you won't find anywhere else. The striking design is influenced by Birmingham's very own Arthur Gaskin, and his tempera painting of his wife and fellow artist, Georgie. Originally enamelled on copper and framed with silver wire, our brooch retains these finishes in its design, making it the perfect gift for lovers of Pre-Raphaelite art and adding a unique flourish to any lapel.

Iconic Art Prints

For the art lover in your life choose a print from a breath-taking range of iconic works from Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Be it a Pre-Raphaelite masterpiece, a William Morris design or a charming watercolour by Birmingham artist David Cox there are hundreds of artworks to choose from, starting from £27.80.

Browse BMT's Pre-Raphaelite inspired collection at: shop.birminghammuseums.org.uk/collections/pre-raphaelites

Explore the full range of gifts available in the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and in Birmingham Museums online shop at shop.birminghammuseums.org.uk/. Every purchase helps Birmingham Museums Trust preserve its world-renowned collections and historic venues. ■

Birmingham Museums offers members of the Friends a 10% discount on all items - both online and when showing your membership card when instore. If you wish to purchase anything online, please contact the Friends' office for your code (contact details on page 3).

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET



© Manvir Rai

Director Carlos Acosta

Sir Peter Wright's

The Sleeping Beauty

21 February – 2 March

“Stunning”

The Telegraph

H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

birminghamhippodrome.com

 Birmingham
City Council



Supported and funded by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



DRAWING ON THE RBSA COLLECTION: DRY MEDIA WORKS 1822-2022

Selected from the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) Collection, this exhibition offers a broad cross section of works on paper by Members and Associates of the RBSA from the Victorian period to the present. The show concentrates on dry media: drawing materials that are not based on water or oil.

Drawing with dry media is as old as mankind. Ochre and charcoal dust were blown through straws onto cave walls by the first artists. In more recent times, the dry media of pencil, pastel and willow charcoal were favoured by travelling artists as ideal for drawing with minimum of fuss on-site, in sketchbooks or portfolios. They were the basic means through which European artists recorded, prepared, studied and imagined, often as a prelude to painting or engraving. Dry media was central to professional art training but also accessible to amateurs. For many of us, the pencils and crayons of childhood were our first contact with the creative process and the world of art.

Fine drawings are valued not just for their subtle qualities but also for the insights they offer into the artist's imagination. Works shown here cover the whole range of expression from the delicately drawn 'Dovecote' in pastel by James Valentine Jelley (1856 – 1950) to the bold and strident 'Hippopotamus Amphibius' by David Walton (b.1943) in graphite and charcoal. The humble pencil has been used in the UK from the late 16th century when pure graphite deposits were discovered in Cumbria, corresponding with the establishment of paper mills in England able to supply the increasing demand from artists for affordable, standardised papers. The informal pencil portraits made by Edward Samuel Harper (1854 – 1941) of his fellow RBSA Members made during Society meetings are, in many cases, the only surviving likeness

we have of the men who dominated the Birmingham art scene in the late Victorian and Edwardian period. They are one of the treasures of the RBSA Collection.

Other fine examples of pencil drawing are represented by the exquisite landscapes of the Lines family who, in Victorian Birmingham, developed a trademark style of lively, accurate, observational drawing. Some of them reveal a new and intense curiosity about the appearance of the natural world, made more so by encroaching industrialisation as the artists watched the relentless expansion of their town into the surrounding countryside. Another aspect of industrial progress is seen in 'Dead Locomotive' by Laurence Hammonds (1930 – 94), the carcass of the old engine left to rust amongst the weeds and tall grasses. The artist loved trains and was a founder member, with Terence Cuneo, of the Guild of Railway Artists. This expressive *conté* drawing is his lament for the passing of the age of steam.

Pastels made of coloured pigment bound with gum give the artist the whole range of colours available to the watercolourist and oil painter. Two contrasting examples here are the 'Wild Beauty of Cleve' by Claire Spencer (b.1937) and the radiant 'Vitalism 2' by Janette Summerfield (b.1963). The view of 'The Old Portico of the RBSA on New Street' by Joseph Southall (1861 - 1944) captures the appearance of the Corinthian edifice prior to demolition in 1913. He skilfully combines pencil, charcoal and pastel on tinted paper, demonstrating how well dry media can work together.

The suffuse quality and texture of pastel often lends itself to poetic and romantic subjects, for example 'Melrose Abbey, South Transept' by Herbert Alcott (1880 – 1951). Alcott captures something of the melancholy quality of the gothic abbey, once the burial place of Scottish kings and the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce, now a ruin standing open to the sky. There is a touch of magic in the pastel 'Winter at the Chase' by Linda Neville (b.1952), an atmospheric view of Cannock Chase which local folklore says is the haunt of elves and sprites. J.R.R. Tolkien was stationed there in 1915 and began to conceive the idea of Middle-Earth. It's a special place that has inspired generations of artists.

The exhibition also includes a fine crayon drawing, 'A Newlyn Woman' by William Arthur Breakspeare (1855 – 1914), one of the group of 'Birmingham Boys' led by Walter Langley, who migrated to Newlyn in the 1880s. For them, it was a last outpost of the pre-industrial age and they set out to record, as honestly as possible, the daily life of the local fisher folk. In a bold, strongly outlined drawing, the artist not only captures the details of the woman's costume but a sense of the vitality of the figure in motion. ■

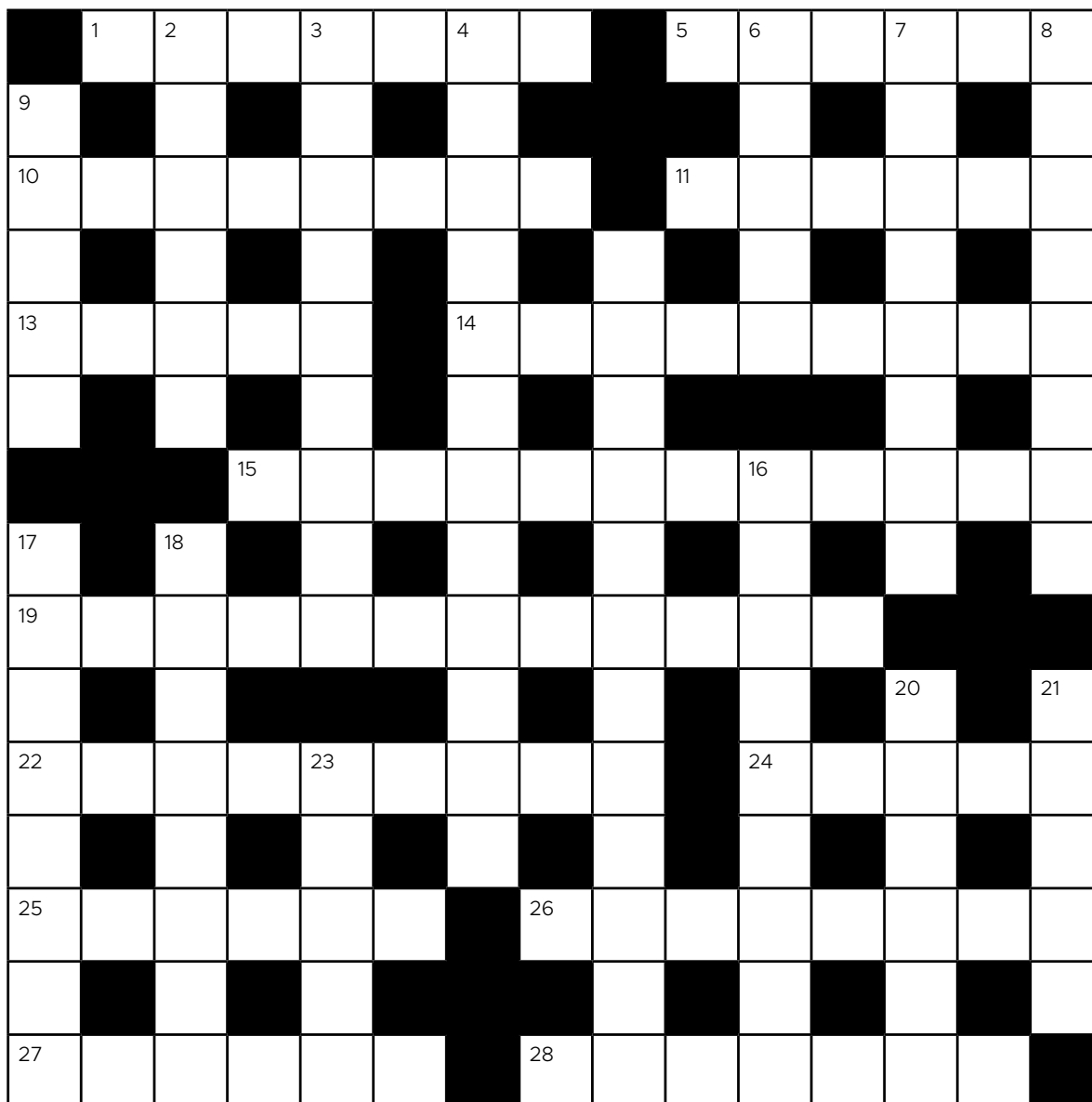
Drawing on the RBSA Collection:

Dry Media Works 1822-2022

29 February - 6 April 2024

The exhibition has been curated by Nigel Priddey RBSA Archivist and Brendan Flynn Professor of Art History.

LEFT: James Valentine Jelley
CENTRE: David Walton
RIGHT: Janette Summerfield



FRIENDS' CROSSWORD

BY COLIN JONES

ACROSS

1. Newman's religious community now in Edgbaston, or a way with words (7)
5. Cut into pieces (4,2)
10. Completely engrossing, or a task carried out by metalworker perhaps ? (8)
11. More equitable (6)
13. Appreciate the worth of (5)
14. Followed an indirect course (9)
15. Birmingham district, whose name derives from a Charles I address there to his soldiers (12)
19. Hillary, Tenzing and 'Brummie' Stokes for example (12)
22. A general term for an eminent European artist who lived between 1300 and 1800 (3,6)
24. A style of painting developed in the 1960s that uses geometric forms to create visual effects and illusions (2,3)
25. Van Gogh's floral masterpiece (6)
26. Warwickshire town, birthplace of George Eliot (8)
27. Whitney Houston and Aretha Franklin both sang this type of music as children (6)
28. A particular version of a published text (7)

DOWN

2. Wat Tyler led one of these in 1381 (6)
3. 'As fully as possible', originally the only part of a sword left visible when fully plunged into a foe ! (2,3,4)
4. Belgian surrealist whose 'The Flavour of Tears' is exhibited in the Barber (4,8)
6. A hidden stock of money or other valued objects (5)
7. Erasmus Darwin by Joseph Wright is an example of this kind of painting (8)
8. A fixed set of assumptions or way of looking at things that may needed to be 'shifted' to achieve change. (8)
9. An exclamation of approval for a good performance (5)
12. Flanders Field for example (12)
16. Most thin (9)
17. Forcing something on one (8)
18. In accounting, a grouping of miscellaneous small expenses (8)
20. A military entertainment of marching, tunes and displays (6)
21. To make amends for something bad (5)
23. Singer who may count 19,21,25,and 30 amongst her favourite numbers (5)

ACROSS: 1. Oratory 5. Chop up 10. Riveting 11. Fairer 13. Value 14. Meandered 15. Kingstanding 19. Mountaineers 22. Old Master 24. Op Art 25. Irides 26. Nuneaton 27. Gospel 28. Edition
DOWN: 2. Revolt 3. To the hilt 4. Rene Magritte 6. Hoard 7. Portrait 8. Paradigm 9. Bravo 12. Battleground 16. Narrowest 17. Imposing 18. Sundries 20. Tattoo 21. Atone 23. Adele



BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS WHAT'S ON

Sarehole Mill

Please visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date information about opening hours.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices. A number of the events are listed below, but please see the website for more details and more events as they are added.

Please note all events are subject to change of dates due to Aston Villa FC. Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion.

Aston Arts Club

Saturday 3 February 2024, 12noon-3pm; Saturday 2 March 2024, 12noon-3pm; Saturday 6 April 2024, 10am-1pm. Make something inspired by Aston Hall and its incredible history. A completely free, drop-in club open to all to relax and create together. Suitable for adults and children alike. Spaces are offered on first come first serve basis.

Hunt for the Lost Time Machine

Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 February 2024. Price: £65; Age: 9-12 years. Something strange is happening at Aston Hall and it's up to our intrepid team of time travellers to discover what... Birmingham Rep and Aston Hall invite you to take part in a brand-new project for those aged 9-12 this February half term. Expect twists and turns, shocks and surprises as you discover if there really are lost instructions on how to build a time machine! Discover the secrets of Aston Hall guided by the renowned time detective Phileas T. Darkmatter before heading to The Rep to solve the puzzle. Finish the week back at Aston Hall where you'll take over the place in an exciting and epic conclusion which everyone can get involved in!

The project will run 10am – 3pm every day at two sites: Tuesday 13 February: Meet at the entrance to Aston Hall; Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 February: Meet at stage door at Birmingham Rep; Friday 16 February: Meet at the entrance to Aston Hall. Parents and carers are invited to take part in the epic conclusion with the group at 2pm.

More information and tickets available via Birmingham Rep: www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/hunt-for-the-lost-time-machine/

Tall Tales from Around the World: Rapunzel

Saturday 17 February 2024, 11:15am and 1pm. Price: Tickets from £6 - £10; Concessions available. Age: Suitable for children aged 3-8 years and accompanying adults. Family storytelling exploring Aston Hall with a well-loved tale. Take part in our interactive storytelling in the Hall to discover the well-loved tale of Rapunzel!

Begin by decorating your own Rapunzel tower to take home. Then set off on an adventure around the Hall, led by our experienced storyteller, to hear the famous story. There will be plenty of chances to join in and help bring our story to life! Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand.

Feel free to join in the fun by getting dressed up, but please remember that Aston Hall is a historic building and sensible footwear is advisable for all. We will be venturing upstairs

together during the storytelling tour and there is no lift at Aston Hall. Spaces are limited, pre-booking is essential.

Your ticket includes the story tour, craft and general entrance into Aston Hall. Explore the Hall from 12noon until 4pm either side of your story tour. Tickets are non-refundable.



MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BIRMINGHAM

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Please note: The main museum and art gallery building will continue to be closed following maintenance work. ONLY the Gas Hall will open from 10 February 2024 for the 'Victorian Radicals' exhibition. See birminghammuseums.org.uk to book your tickets.

Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement

Opens 10 February 2024, Wednesday - Sunday, 10am-5pm. In the Gas Hall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Adult: £11; Concession: £6; Child (up to 15): Free; Friends: Free. This exhibition is free to members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery on presentation of your valid Membership card, but you must pre-book a timed ticket before arriving.

Three generations of British artists, designers and makers revolutionised the visual arts in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Pre-Raphaelites, William Morris and his circle and the men and women of the Arts and Crafts movement transformed art and design.

Selected from the city of Birmingham's outstanding collection, 'Victorian Radicals' presents vibrant paintings and exquisite drawings alongside jewellery, glass, textiles and metalwork to explore their radical vision for art and society.

Fresh from an award-winning tour of the US, 'Victorian Radicals' is the first comprehensive showing of the city's Pre-Raphaelite and Arts and Crafts collections in Birmingham for over five years. Discover the story of the Pre-Raphaelites themselves and their influence on artists and makers well into the twentieth century – especially in Birmingham itself. Paintings made by artists including Kate Bunce, Joseph Southall and Arthur Gaskin combined the poetry and intensity of the Pre-Raphaelites' work with a distinctive identity all their own.

This exhibition is organised by Birmingham Museums Trust and the American Federation of Arts. Supported by the Friends of Birmingham Museums.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Please note: Blakesley Hall is closed to the general public for the Winter period from 5 November 2023, except for special one-off events, room hire and school group bookings. The site will reopen for the 2024 summer season – dates TBC. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date information.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

Blakesley Hall is a picture-perfect timber-framed Tudor house with beautiful gardens, situated just a few miles from the centre of Birmingham. It was built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families.

Explore Blakesley

Sunday 18 February 2024, 11am-4pm (Half Term), Hall open 12noon-4pm. Free. Come and explore Blakesley Hall on this free admission day!

Tudor Women guided tour for International Women's Day

Sunday 3 March 2024, 11am, 2pm. Adult: £8; Concession: £6. Find out about Tudor life and traditions for women in this specialist guided tour of Blakesley Hall to celebrate International Women's Day.



**MUSEUM
COLLECTIONS
CENTRE**

25 Dollman Street, Nechells, Birmingham, B7 4RQ

The Museum Collection Centre is open for the public to explore on Friday afternoons only from 12.30pm - 2.30pm. Pre-booking is essential, there are no spaces available on the day. See birminghammuseums.org.uk to book.



**MUSEUM OF THE
JEWELLERY QTR**

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

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices. Please note: Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is currently closed except for special events.



**SAREHOLE
MILL**

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, B13 0BD

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices. The shop, tea room and grounds are open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am - 4pm. Guided tours of Mill are on Fridays (1.30pm), Saturdays* (11.30am and 1.30pm) and Sundays (1.30pm). Pre-booking advised. The inside of the Mill is not open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. *First Saturday of the month the Mill is open 11am - 4pm (no guided tour). Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the mill that has connections with Matthew Boulton and inspired famous author JRR Tolkien.

Kids Jewellery Workshop at Sarehole Mill

Thursday 15 February 2024, 11am-1pm and 2-4pm. Price: £18 per child. Ages 8+. The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is going on tour, bringing its popular Kids Jewellery Workshop to Sarehole Mill. A site of making and industry, the Mill inspired the imagination of author J.R.R Tolkien so is a great location to get creative! Have a go at making your own piece of jewellery with the help of our friendly Learning Officers in this special children's jewellery workshop activity. Design and create either a bracelet or pendant, learn and use real jewellers' techniques like texturing metal, hammering, stamping and enamelling to make something unique and personal to take home with you. Pre-booking is essential as places are limited. Recommended

for ages 8 and up. For safety reasons we cannot accommodate under-5s. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Due to limitations on space, strictly only one adult per booking. Workshop lasts 2 hours. Please be advised the workshop can be noisy. Ear defenders can be provided or bring your own.

Nature Explorers: Woodland Art

Saturday 9 March 2024, 11am-1pm; 2-4pm. Child: £5. Nature Explorers encourages children and their grown up to get hands on with nature in the grounds of Sarehole Mill and the wider area. Join our Learning Officer in exploring the natural world on your doorstep. In this session we'll use found treasures from the natural world to get creative. Suitable for children aged 5 - 10. Each workshop is 2 hours long.

World Water Day Activities

Saturday 23 March 2024, 11am. From powering the waterwheels in the past to providing a home for nature today, water is an incredibly important feature of Sarehole Mill. Sat between the Mill Pond and the River Cole we're practically surrounded by the stuff! Join us for World Water Day to learn more about water as a habitat and a source of power, and crucially how we can all play our part in preserving this precious resource.

Drop-in activities will include: pond dipping to see what is living in our Mill Pond compared to our local river; making water powered rockets in our courtyard; learning about the power of water with our hands-on waterwheel model and watch the historic wheel in action; create a water creature in the classroom; and meet local experts working to protect and improve our water. Activities will run from 11am-4pm and are first come first served. Drop-in at anytime, stay as long as you like. Access to the grounds is free, a small charge applies to children taking part in the activities. Extend your visit by booking a Guided Tour of the Mill.



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB

Please note: Soho House is closed to the general public, except for special one-off events, room hire and school group bookings. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices.



WEOLEY CASTLE

Alwold Road, Birmingham, B29 5RX

Weoley Castle ruins can be seen from a viewing platform throughout the year in daylight hours. Access to the ruins and visitor centre takes place on event days.

The ruins of an exquisite fortified manor house built 750 years ago.

Castle Kids Playgroup

Every Tuesday in Term Time. Free. A drop in playgroup suitable from birth to 4 years.

Saturday guided tour and craft activity

Saturday 3 February 2024, 11am. £5 per person. Join us for an informative guided walk around Weoley Castle and see archaeological finds from the site on display.

Kids Warhammer Club

Saturday 3 February 2024 and Saturday 2 March 2024, 1-4pm; Tuesday 13 February 2024 and Tuesday 26 March 2024, 9.30am-1pm. A free, fun, table-top gaming club for kids all about Warhammer. There will be spaces for painting, modelling and gaming. Bring your own models along, hang out and paint/play with fellow Warhammer enthusiasts. On site we will have a select range of paints and brushes for you to use. If you do bring any of your own, make sure to put your name on your model/paint/brush etc.

We welcome any format of playing be it 40K, Age of Sigmar, Underworlds, Warcry, Kill Team or Horus Heresy, come play and enjoy on the site of a ruined Medieval Castle! We aim to be friendly and inclusive to all. So, if this is your first foray into tabletop gaming or haven't played much before, we will have some models to test painting and will run simple games to help you get to speed with the rules. We have played many of the games listed here, but if we don't know the rules to the game you hope to play, then we will learn alongside you and support your play.

Saturday guided tour and craft activity

Saturday 2 March 2024, 11am. £5 per person. Join us for an informative guided walk around Weoley Castle and see archaeological finds from the site on display.



Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

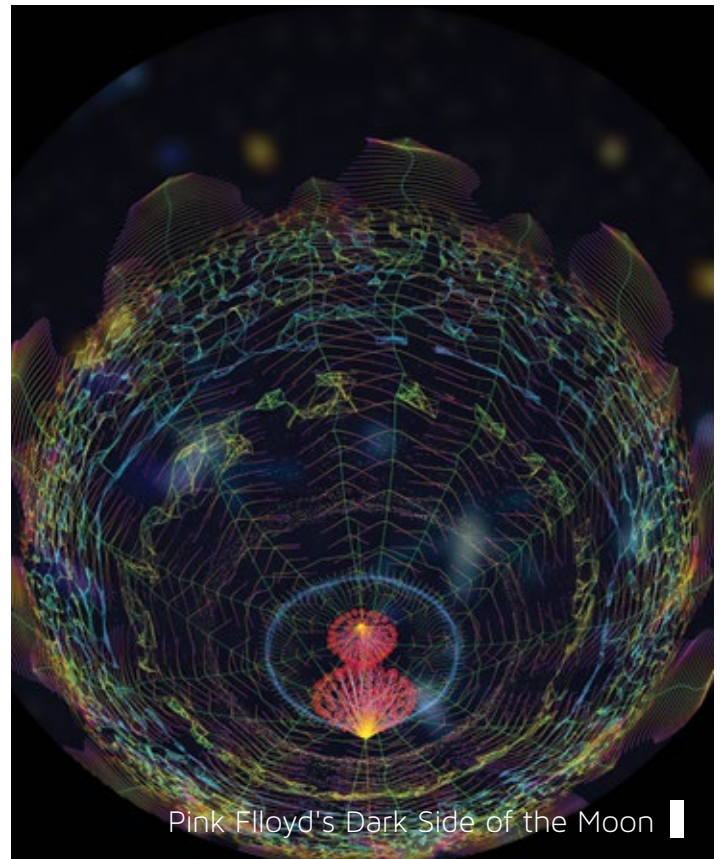
Birmingham term time: Open Wednesday – Sunday, 10am - 5pm. Birmingham school holidays: Open Monday – Sunday, 10am - 5pm. Half price entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members. Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to a talking robot, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology.

Pink Floyd's The Dark Side of the Moon:

50th Anniversary Special – Matinee

Saturday 10 February, Monday 12 - Friday 16 February, Saturday 24 February & Saturday 23 March 2024, all shows begin at 4pm. Price: £15 per person. Age: Suitable for 16+. Join the Planetarium for a matinee showing of the new, fulldome experience featuring 10 tracks from 'The Dark Side of the Moon' set to stunning 360° visuals.

Originally released in March 1973, Pink Floyd's iconic album turns 50, and what more fitting a place to celebrate and experience it than in a Planetarium, through the music set to visuals. Originally launched in London Planetarium, the idea of a show combining breath-taking views of the solar system and beyond, played out to 42 minutes of 'The Dark Side of the Moon' in surround sound, has been embraced by the band. NSC Creative has led the visual production efforts, working closely with Pink Floyd's long time creative collaborator Aubrey Powell from Hipgnosis. Each song has a different theme; some futuristically looking forward and some a retro acknowledgment to Pink Floyd's visual history, all relating to a time and space experience, embracing up to the minute technology that only a Planetarium can



offer. A truly immersive and all-encompassing surround sound and visual treat that will transcend reality and take you way beyond the realms of 2D experience.

You can enter Thinktank from 2.30pm. The show will start promptly at 4pm with no late entry permitted; tickets are non-refundable. This spectacular fulldome film is inspired by the music of Pink Floyd, and contains non-astronomy content. It contains infrequent use of strong language, some flashing images, and visuals which may cause some people to feel a sensation of movement. Pre-booking is essential.

Makers and Machines: Creativity in the Computer Age

Until 28 April 2024. Thinktank's new exhibition explores the surprising long history of coding and tells the incredible stories of local people, past and present, who use coding in their work.

The exhibition looks at how local weavers and knitters, mathematicians and scientists, and artists and gamers all use coding in their work. And it also explores the implications of new technology such as AI for human creativity. Can you find the three object labels that have been written by an AI chatbot rather than a human curator?

You'll also have the opportunity to see rare and important objects such as the HEC computer, one of the oldest surviving electronic computers in the world. There will be a range of digital and analogue devices on display, plus the chance to see some classic game designs, learn how punched cards worked, and design your own weaving pattern. The exhibition is open during Thinktank opening hours and is included the admission price.

For all events visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on for further information and to book.



Exodus Crooks, 'Epiphany (Temporaire)'. 9 February – 21 April 2024 at IKON.

Exodus Crooks, 'The Confession: Part 1' (2022). Installation view. 'Epiphany (Temporaire)' Courtesy ICF and Ort Gallery Photo by Katarzyna Perlak

IN THE AREA

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

For tickets and more information visit:

www.birmingham.bachchoir.com or Eventbrite.

Bach: St Matthew Passion

Saturday 9 March 2024, 7pm at Lichfield Cathedral. A cast of soloists, orchestra and choirs will perform 'the greatest work created by the human mind' (Paul Spicer). Conductor: Paul Spicer; Soloists: Thomas Hobbs: Evangelist, Henry Waddington: Christus, Sophie Bevan: Soprano, Lawrence Zazzo: Counter-tenor, Stephan Loges: Bass. Birmingham Bach Choir and The Musical & Amicable Society: baroque style orchestra. Ripieno Choir: choristers from Lichfield Cathedral & Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Santorum. For tickets and more details: www.birmingham.bachchoir.com or Eventbrite or Lichfield Garrick Theatre.

Come & Sing with us! Puccini: Missi di Gloria

Saturday 27 April 2024, 2-6pm at Wylde Green United Reform Church, Britwell Road, B73 5SW. An afternoon of singing this glorious Puccini work with Paul Spicer & Birmingham Bach Choir. Come & be inspired! All singers are welcome. Tickets for singers: £17 (including tea and homemade cakes). Music hire: £3. Friends & family of singers welcome to come and hear the informal performance at 5pm - no charge. For details and tickets: www.birmingham.bachchoir.com or Eventbrite.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE

9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

www.bmi.org.uk

Study Day – Anne Brontë's 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' (1848)

9 February 2024. Employing distinct narrative voices, the novel has at its core a resilient woman. Helen breaks free from an abusive husband to protect her child and forge an independent life in a gossip- and prejudice-filled world. To book a place please email: studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

Study Day – Lynne Reid Banks' 'The L-Shaped Room' (1960) & Margaret Drabble's 'The Millstone' (1965)

23 February 2024. These novels had immediate impact and were both also filmed in the sixties. They explore the challenges for young unmarried women who become pregnant and confront conventional and uncompromising attitudes in the context of burgeoning social change. To book a place please email: studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

Monday Lunchtime Lecture –

Birmingham People's History Archive

26 February 2024. Tickets £5 for non-members. Please visit www.bmi.org.uk for more details or to reserve your ticket.

Study Day – Medieval Drama

8 March 2024. Medieval drama charts the gradual secularisation of theatrical activity, moving out of the church into the street. Groups of workers give expression to their faith and demonstrate their craft in the vivid enactment of stories from the Bible. Dramatic episodes will develop into plays with ordinary people as protagonists. To book a place please email studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

Monday Lunchtime Lecture –

'Plato's ideas concerning art' with Maxwell White

11 March 2024. Tickets £5 for non-members. Please visit www.bmi.org.uk for more details or to reserve your ticket.

Study Day – E.M. Forster, 'A Passage to India' (1924)

22 March 2024. Based on his own experience in India, Forster explores the relationship between four characters, examining cultural conflict and matters of truth and perception.

A century after publication, it feels timely to revisit the questions surrounding the visit to the Marabar Caves. To book

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

Exhibitions at MAC

Quilt Art: Material Evidence

Open daily until Mon 27 May
Arena Gallery | Free entry

Featuring textile art by members of the pan-European group Quilt Art. The exhibition celebrates the adventurous spirit and rich heritage of women who make art through stitching and is inspired by Mary Fogg, a founder member of Quilt Art and pioneering textile artist.

mac
Midlands Arts Centre

0121 446 3232

macbirmingham.co.uk

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH



© Sue Hitchkiss, Origlia

Free
entry

Tatiana Wolska:
Leisure as Resistance
Sat 9 March - Sun 2 June

Wolska's first solo UK exhibition, using recycled materials to breathe new life into discarded objects. Kindly supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, The Radcliffe Foundation and The Roughley Trust.

GRAIN Projects:
New Narratives in Photography
Thu 8 February - Mon 27 May

Featuring new work from Pakistan. Each artist explores narratives of community, public space and diaspora. Supported by British Council.

Made at MAC:
Celebrating Ceramics
Sat 20 Jan - Sun 2 June

Showcasing the wonderful creativity and skill of participants, tutors and artist pass holders who create work at MAC.

Find out more macbirmingham.co.uk

WHICH ARTIST ONCE SAID:
"Creativity takes courage"

(THE ANSWER IS BELOW)

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Tatiana Wolska: 'Leisure as Resistance', 9 March – 2 June 2024 at Midlands Art Centre
Tatiana Wolska, 2021 04 (photo Amélie Bataille, courtesy the Artist and Irène Laub gallery)

a place please email studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

**Monday Lunchtime Lecture –
'The Birmingham Library' with Lois Wignall**

25 March 2024. Tickets £5 for non-members. Please visit www.bmi.org.uk for more details or to reserve your ticket.

**Monday Lunchtime Lecture –
with Chamber of Commerce CEO Henrietta Brealey**

8 April 2024. Tickets £5 for non-members. Please visit www.bmi.org.uk for more details or to reserve your ticket.

Study Day – Henrik Ibsen, 'A Doll's House' (1879)

12 April 2024. Nora turns her back on her husband and walks out of her marital home. To what extent is Ibsen slamming shut the door on established theatrical tradition and reimagining twentieth-century drama? To book a place please email studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

Monday Lunchtime Lecture – 'Birmingham and Black Country Geology' with Graham Worton

22 April 2024. Tickets £5 for non-members. Please visit www.bmi.org.uk for more details or to reserve your ticket.

Study Day – William Shakespeare, 'As You Like It' (1599) & 'The Comedy of Errors' (1592)

26 April 2024. To book a place please email studydays@deliveringshakespeare.com or call 01827 712132.

**Exhibition: Sarah Fortes Mayer –
'The Invisibility of the older person'**

13-22 March 2024. Sculpture exhibition, free to all. Open 10am – 4pm.

Exhibition: Brendan Handley – 'What do you see'

8 April until mid May 2024. Free exhibition. Open daily 10am – 4pm.

HERBERT ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP
theherbert.org

Dipp – E VR

Until 31 March 2024, £5. Immerse yourself in the 175-million-year journey of the Herbert's ichthyosaur skull and experience

the power of interactive storytelling, with this powerful VR experience! From its initial discovery in a quarry, to when the ichthyosaur was swimming through Warwickshire's Jurassic, this is a great experience for any Dino-superfan!

Wildlife Photographer of the year

Until 1 April 2024. The world-renowned 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, opened at the Herbert Gallery on 27 October 2023. The 59th edition of this annual exhibition will once again feature exceptional images which capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breath-taking diversity of the natural world. Using photography's unique emotive power to engage and inspire audiences, the images shine a light on stories and species around the world and encourage a future of advocating for the planet.

'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, providing a global platform that showcases some of the best photography talent from around the world for over 55 years. Launching in 1965, today the competition receives entries from over 90 countries all over the world, highlighting its enduring appeal.

IKON

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS
www.ikon-gallery.org

Free entry. Open Wednesday until Sunday, 11am-5pm

Exodus Crooks, 'Epiphany (Temporaire)'

9 February - 21 April 2024. Ikon hosts Midlands-based artist Exodus Crooks' exhibition 'Epiphany (Temporaire)', commissioned by Ort Gallery and International Curators Forum (ICF), and curated by Orphée Kashala. Originally presented at Block 336, London, in Summer 2023, the exhibition includes sculpture, film, text and sculptural installation.

For 'Epiphany (Temporaire)', Exodus has invested in a process of carving out (sometimes literally) dialogues from the layers of history, heritage and culture around them. Through an interrogation of domestic and familiar surfaces, Exodus is investigating the embodiment and repository of memories,

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE



THE FORGOTTEN SCARLATTI TOUR

8 February 2024, 7.30pm • Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil

12 February 2024, 7.30pm • Birmingham Town Hall (with Rachel Podger)

If you love both the splendid choral grandeur of Bach and Handel, but also the polychoral works of the Venetian Baroque and the ornate spacial complexity of Tallis' Spem in Alium, this programme of Francesco Scarlatti's rarely performed masterpieces in exclusive brand new editions by Dr Geoffrey Webber, are not be missed.

This Birmingham Town Hall performance is generously supported by Mr John Osborn CBE.



LOVE HANDELS

22 March 2024, 7.30pm • The Court House, Warwick

After the popularity of this programme, we decided to give our audience an additional treat of this gem, Love Handels, which encompasses some of the most beautiful arias and duets from the Baroque period woven together with poems and stories exploring love through the centuries.



MOZART 'GREAT MASS IN C MINOR'/JS BACH MAGNIFICAT IN D BWV 243

12 April 2024, 7.30pm Malvern Theatres

13 April 2024, 7.30pm Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

Demonstrating the huge influence of Bach and Handel who Mozart was studying at the time, his Great Mass in C minor is regarded by many to be one of his greatest works. Reflecting the pomp and solemnity which was characteristic at the time in Salzburg where it was first performed, it is a masterpiece in the realms of mass settings across the centuries.

Generously co-sponsored by Braunston Marina and Derek and Rosemary Holding



OZ & ARMONICO: ALE-LELUJAH

23 May 2024, 7.30pm Royal Pump Room, Leamington Spa

Join Britain's best-loved booze brain on a Quest for the Holy Ale. Oz Clarke returns for another evening of music, mayhem, and mild malt liquor: Mixing in a four thousand year-old Hymn to the Goddess of Beer, with Purcell's 'Drunken Poet', Bach, Weelkes, and some Hopular Hits of the Beerhalls, Oz will assiduously guide you from bar to bar. This programme will suit all palates, from part-time tipplers and querulous quaffers, to the upper echelons of the inebriati.

Generously sponsored by Roger Medwell DL, MBE, President of Armonico Consort

ARMONICO CONSORT

TICKETS

www.armonico.org.uk

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BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE



THE TELEGRAPH



Hartlebury Castle

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MUSEUM
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Discovery

- Uncover captivating stories
- Explore stunning rooms and collections
- Relax in beautiful grounds and gardens



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www.hartleburycastle.com

Hartlebury Castle,
Worcestershire,
DY11 7XZ



histories and traditions, inherited, stored and transferred through time and shared space. A succession of profound experiences converges within the exhibition to form an allegory of personal stories of love, loss and pain. This exhibition is presented as part of Ikon's 60th anniversary year.

'Start the Press!'

9 February - 21 April 2024. The centrepiece of 'Start the Press!' is an antique, flatbed printing press from Wolverhampton School of Art, taking its position in the gallery as a form of occupation in the tradition of the student art-school sit-ins of the 1960s, and in response to the current challenging economic landscape.

A cohort of West Midlands printmakers will operate the press: establishing a functioning printmaking workshop, producing original prints and filling the gallery walls as artwork is made in real time. Regional printmakers include Taiba Akhtar, Haseebah Ali, Simon Harris, Fae Kilburn, Karen McLean, Laura Onions, Satinder Parhar and Heather Peak.

'Start the Press!' also includes a display of printmaking, featuring artworks by Lubaina Himid, David Hockney, Yinka Shonibare and Catherine Yass loaned from the Jerwood Collection. In addition, Ikon shows a series of prints by artist Pamela Scott Wilkie who first exhibited at Ikon in 1966. With funding from Freelands Foundation, Ikon Youth Programme and other educational groups will be introduced to the printmaking processes preserved in regional art schools. This exhibition is presented as part of Ikon's 60th anniversary year.

MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE – MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH
macbirmingham.co.uk

Quilt Art: 'Material Evidence'

Until 27 May 2024. Arena Gallery, free entry. 'Material Evidence' is an exhibition of textile art by current and former members of the pan-European group Quilt Art. It celebrates the adventurous spirit and rich heritage of women who make art through stitching and is inspired by the life and work of Mary Fogg, a founder member of Quilt Art and pioneering textile artist, who died in 2016 at the age of 95. Fogg called her work 'a celebration of cloth in all the wonderful variety available to us: colour, pattern, texture, flexibility, and the way it reflects light'.

Each featured artist takes a unique approach to Fogg's legacy, presenting cutting-edge work which aims to transcend people's ideas of what quilting can do. They are united by their passion for fabric, stitch, texture and colour, and the limitless creative possibilities of the textile surface. The exhibition will be accompanied by a book featuring the artworks and giving an insight into the working processes of each artist. 'Material Evidence' is curated by Roma Piotrowska.

Featured artists: Eszter Bornemisza, Elizabeth Brimelow, Jette Clover, Yael David-Cohen, Fenella Davies, Dirkje van der Horst-Beetsma, Sue Hotchkis, Inge Hueber, Sara Impey, Cheryllyn Martin, Sandra Meech, Gabi Mett, Dominie Nash, Mirjam Pet-Jacobs, Karina Thompson, Janet Twinn, Isabelle Weissler, Charlotte Yde.

HARTLEBURY CASTLE, IN THE HEART OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE



Set in the heart of the Worcestershire countryside, Hartlebury Castle is the perfect place to escape and spend time with friends and family. Discover the historic house that was home to the Bishops of Worcester for 1000 years and the fascinating lives of those who lived there. Explore the story of Worcestershire through amazing objects and exhibitions in the Worcestershire County Museum and relax in the picturesque grounds and gardens.

Hartlebury Castle's history is full of unique stories; two of Worcester's Bishops were burnt at the stake, Queen Elizabeth I dined in the Great Hall and a butler went on to star in Doctor Who.

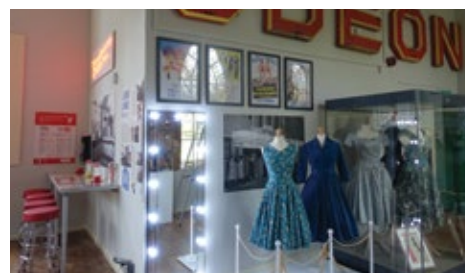
Behind the doors of the Bishop's Palace talking portraits and a charming audio guide take you on a journey around grand State rooms, a beautiful chapel, and the unique Hurd library. Built in 1782 by Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester the Library is the only example of an Anglican bishop's library remaining on its original shelves in the room built for it.

Hartlebury Castle is home to the Worcestershire County Museum where you can explore the history of Worcestershire through fascinating museum collections including costume, archaeology and agriculture. Step back to Victorian times in the schoolroom and scullery, take a tour of the 1950s in the Lavish Living exhibition and enjoy three centuries of fashion in the

Captivating Costume gallery - from the extravagant frocks of the Georgians to the miniskirts of the 1960s.

A relaxing walk around the peaceful grounds of Hartlebury Castle reveals the historic moat, the flora's colours of the seasons and a 280-year-old mulberry tree. Hayley's Kitchen café serves delicious meals, cakes and hot drinks. There's also plenty of space to picnic in the grounds.

Hartlebury Castle is situated just off the A449 between Worcester and Kidderminster with free parking on site. It is open from 1 February to 22 December, Tuesday to Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 11am - 5pm. Visit www.hartleburycastle.com for more information and put Hartlebury Castle on your list of places to visit this year. ■



Tatiana Wolska: 'Leisure as Resistance'

9 March – 2 June 2024. First Floor Gallery, free entry. 'Leisure as Resistance' marks Tatiana Wolska's first institutional solo exhibition in the UK. Born in 1977, Wolska utilises recycled materials, invoking the resourcefulness ingrained in her during her childhood in communist Poland, where recycling became a necessity due to the scarcity of goods.

The exhibition will showcase some of her signature recycled plastic bottle sculptures and several new commissions, including reclaimed wood pallet sculptures, large-scale drawings, monumental makeshift hut made using scrap wood and a mural a site-specific wall drawing. One of Wolska's plastic bottles sculptures will be on display in MAC's Outdoor Terrace.

Wolska, describing herself as a 'junk collector', breathes new life into discarded plastic bottles, salvaged timber, rusty nails and foam from old mattresses. She transforms these once-polluting materials into captivating sculptures. Wolska's drawings mirror her sculptures, crafted with ink, pen, pencil, and paint, revealing enigmatic forms with ribbed surfaces and folds.

Wolska has designed the space with a strong emphasis on facilitating and promoting meetings, workshops and discussions centred around critical topics such as the regeneration of natural resources, climate crisis or the concept of resistance through leisure. Audiences will be invited to activate this space through community activities such as reading groups, knitting clubs, clothes swaps, repair cafés, and meditation-through-drawing sessions. MAC's further programming for the exhibition, including related community outreach events, will be announced at a later date. 'Leisure as Resistance' is curated by Roma Piotrowska.

'New Narratives in Photography'

3 February – 6 May 2024. Community Gallery. Opening February 2024, 'New Narratives in Photography' presents a body of work by four photography artists, using their medium in new and innovative ways to comment on our lives today. The exhibition explores the prevalent themes of social justice, identity, gender, diaspora and home.

The exhibition is the culmination of an international collaboration to support diverse, marginalised and emerging Pakistani artists by GRAIN Projects (Birmingham, UK) and Tasweerghar (Lahore, Pakistan). Each artist presents work created during their individual residency projects (2023 – 2024), offering a unique and personal approach to their craft.

'New Narratives in Photography' is curated by Roma Piotrowska as part of the British Council Pakistan Arts Residency Grants Programme. Featured artists: Asad Ali, Hira Noor, Ume Laila and Waleed Zafar.

RBSA GALLERY

4 Brook Street, St. Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1SA
www.rbsa.org.uk

The Black Country: Photographs by Phil Loach 1970s-1990s
13 - 24 February 2024. A retrospective of work by the late photographer Phil Loach. 'The Black Country: Photographs by Phil Loach 1970s-1990s' showcases a collection of images from Phil's personal archive, all taken around his home region over the course of three decades.

Drawing on the RBSA Collection: Dry Media Works 1822-2022

29 February - 6 April 2024. A showcase of exquisite graphite, charcoal, pastel, and coloured pencil works, taken from the RBSA's permanent collection (see page 20 for more details).

RBSA Print Prize

29 February - 6 April 2024. The RBSA Print Prize is a biennial exhibition celebrating all forms of print making, which supports artists from across the UK and further afield. With a significant number of print works held in the RBSA Collection, print making is firmly intertwined with the history of the RBSA and many current Members and Associates work primarily in this media.

With both contemporary and traditional techniques and approaches on display, including screen printing, linocut, monoprint, etching, woodcut, lithography, and dry point, the exhibition is a wonderfully diverse show championing a medium that is often overshadowed by others.

SELLY MANOR MUSEUM

Maple Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2AE
www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk

Black Tudors: New Narratives

26 January - 22 March 2024. A new exhibition opens at Selly Manor in celebration of Black Tudors. To paint a true picture of Tudor England, it's important that the stories of Black Tudors are explored and represented. People of African origin have been part of the British story for a long time.

New Narratives has been created in collaboration with young, local artists of Black Heritage, to explore people of African origin who lived in England during the Tudor Era. This exhibition focuses on four Black Tudors and invites visitors to see their culture and history reflected back to them. Exhibition included in museum entry ticket.

Black Tudors: Half-term Family Activities

Join us from 12 until 16 February and take part in a children's trail, storytelling, 'Zine craft activity, and printing workshops for February half-term. See the website for full details.

STOURBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM

Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley, DY8 4FB (For Satnav please use DY8 4AZ)
www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

Contemporary Pâte de Verre: The material of Time

27th January – 23rd June 2024. A unique exhibition of internationally acclaimed Pâte de Verre glass artists from several countries and continents. The exhibition is based on the comprehensive book "Pâte de Verre: The Material of Time" (2022) by Dr Max Stewart and Tone Ørvik. Including the work of Emma Varga (Australia), Alicia Lomné (US), Keith Cummings (UK) and other pioneers of contemporary Pâte de Verre.

For this exhibition Stourbridge Glass Museum is cooperating with the Contemporary Pâte de Verre Association. CPdVA works to support new investigations into Pâte de Verre and what this glass technique can do in sculpture and new narratives for our rapidly changing world. CPdVA was started by Stewart and Ørvik with US-based glass artists Evelyn Gottschall Baker and Tali Grinshpan, and offers conferences, workshops, and exhibitions worldwide.

DAME LAURA KNIGHT: "I PAINT TODAY"

'Dame Laura Knight - I Paint Today' is on display at Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum
from Saturday 13 January – Sunday 30 June 2024

Curated by Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum, 'Dame Laura Knight - I Paint Today' pays homage to this significant artist who was the first female artist welcomed into the Royal Academy and whose love of Worcestershire and the Malvern Hills inspired her art throughout the later years of her life.

'I Paint Today' brings a stirring selection of Knight's work to Worcestershire and focuses on key events, characters and achievements which helped to shape her life and career. Works from the Worcester City collection are displayed alongside loans from regional and national museums including the Imperial War Museum, London Transport Museum and Wolverhampton Art Gallery, to help tell the story of a woman who grew out of the Victorian era and developed and adapted her craft through a period of tumultuous change.

From 1933 Laura Knight and her husband, Harold were frequent visitors to Malvern and fell in love with the dramatic landscape of the Malvern Hills which became a subject of her much-loved paintings. Laura Knight claimed she did her best landscapes in Malvern and her paintings of this period demonstrate her love of the countryside in all seasons. She would start her day with a walk over the Malvern Hills, using make-shift studios around the hills to create from, and then meet fellow artists to 'take the water'.

Through the 1920s and 1930s Knight was known for painting theatrical scenes, keen to show all aspects of performance. 'The Yellow Dress', a much-loved artwork in the Worcester City collection and featured in the exhibition, shows the costume-making studio at the Royal Shakespeare Company, capturing colour and artistry with thick brushstrokes.

At the outbreak of World War Two, Laura Knight enlisted with the War Artists Advisory Committee. From the slopes of the Malvern Hills, she watched the bombings of Coventry and Birmingham. Laura painted many iconic images of the war including a pictorial record of the Nuremburg trials.

Despite moving back to London after Harold's death, familiar echoes of the Malvern landscape that Dame Laura Knight loved so much can be detected in her paintings right up until the end of her life.

Deborah Fox, Museums Worcestershire Senior Curator commented: "Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum is committed to bringing great art and artists to the region. We are very excited to celebrate the extraordinary life and prolific work of Dame Laura Knight and are particularly pleased to revisit her connection with our beautiful county."

The exhibition is accompanied by a programme of talks and tours including

an introduction to the life and work of Dame Laura Knight and the 'I Paint Today' exhibition on Tuesday 12 March, 2pm and a bite size talk on Dame Laura Knight's links to Worcestershire with author Heather Whatley on Tuesday 11 June, 2pm. Booking via www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Pre-booked Group Tours are also available, for details please email: gallerymuseum@museumsworcestershire.org.uk

An illustrated map of Dame Laura Knight's links to Malvern has been produced especially for the exhibition and can be purchased from Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum and Malvern Tourist Information Centre. ■

'Dame Laura Knight - I Paint Today'
Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum
Saturday 13 January – Sunday 30 June
Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm and
Sunday 10am – 3pm

Ticket prices: Standard £6; Worcester residents £4; Children up to 16 FREE; Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum Members FREE; Art Fund Members £3

Booking and further information:
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

ABOVE: 'Sundown', c.1955 (oil on canvas), Knight, Laura (1877-1970) / Wolverhampton Art Gallery, West Midlands, UK / © Wolverhampton Art Gallery / © Estate of Dame Laura Knight. All rights reserved 2023 / Bridgeman Images



© RiverStudios Richard Battye

Castle Bromwich
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10 acres Grade II* formal gardens
+ 30 acres Parkland Local Nature Reserve

snowdrops and daffodils
blossom picnics
Forest School
foraging and rewilding
Easter egg hunts

EVENTS ACROSS THE YEAR:
musical offerings
garden talks
markets & fairs



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Bach: *St Matthew Passion*

Saturday 9 March 7pm
Lichfield Cathedral

Paul Spicer conducts
a magnificent line up
of soloists, orchestra,
and choirs

"Outstanding"
(David Barton, June '22)



BIRMINGHAM
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Inspiring Performances

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1



2



5



3



7



9

FRIENDS' QUIZ

BY JIM WELLS

1. This building, now to be part of the HS2 station, was the original terminus for the London to Birmingham Railway, what is it commonly called?

2. The magnificent windows of St Philip's Cathedral should be fully restored by the time we have gone to print, but who was the original manufacturer?

3. This beautiful design by John Hardman & Co in 1898 for Moseley Baptist Church has recently been put onto Birmingham Museums Trust's Digital Asset Resource but which religious building is the Hardman family closely associated with in Birmingham City Centre?

4. Ikon Gallery will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2024, currently located in Oozells Square, but where was its previous location in a street named after a famous MP for Birmingham?

5. This is a nineteenth century engraving of the Birmingham Triennial Music festival in the Town Hall, but which piece of music by Mendelsohn premiered at the festival at the Town Hall in 1846?

6. The Friends recently had a fascinating visit to the Acme whistle factory in the Jewellery Quarter but what is the original family name associated with the Company?

a) Smith b) Edwards c) Hudson

7. The painter of this picture was from a significant Quaker family in Birmingham perhaps best known for the wall

painting as you ascend the stairs of Birmingham Museum and Gallery. Who was he?

8. A venue where Black Sabbath played their first gig is set to be restored after being derelict for many years. It is called the:

a) The Crown b) The Golden Lion c) The Wellington

9. Purchased by the Friends in 1935 this watercolour is by a Birmingham artist born in Deritend and son of a blacksmith. Who was he?

10. Ida Wells, an African American activist, visited Birmingham on the 17 May 1895 and spoke at the Birmingham YMCA in Needles Alley and at Central Hall. She stayed at 66 Gough Street in Edgbaston, where there is a blue plaque. What injustice was she campaigning against in the USA on this tour, something recognised later in the song 'Strange Fruit' sung by Billie Holiday?

1. Engraving, Topographical Views - Wilkinson Collection Vol III, 1839, Transferred from Birmingham Reference Library, 1996; 1996V145.12. 2. 'The North Prospect of St Philip's Church in Birmingham, 1825-1875, By Thomas Underwood, after William Westley; Presented by Dr Edmund Wilkinson, 1937V841. 3. 'Design for Stained Glass Window for Baptist Church, Moseley'; 1898; Ink on paper; Designed and manufactured by John Hardman & Co; 1970M238.2504; Acquired from John Hardman Studios, 1970. 5. Engraving from newspaper - 'The Birmingham Grand Musical Festival, Town Hall', 19th Century, Wilkinson Collection Vol II; 1996V146.37; Transferred from Birmingham Reference Library. 7. 'The Sleeping Beauty', 1903; 1908P303; Presented by an anonymous donor, 1908. 9. 'Waiting for the Ferry', 1845; 1885P2493; Presented by Frederick Nettlefold in accordance with the wishes of his brother, the late Joseph Henry Nettlefold, 1882




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To access BMT's Digital Image Resource please visit: dams.birminghammuseums.org.uk
On the BMT website there is an option to purchase framed prints of many of the pictures held in the collection.

1) Curzon Street 2) Morris and Co 3) St Chad's Cathedral
4) John Bright Street 5) Elijah 6) Hudson 7) Joseph Southall
8) The Crown 9) David Cox 10) Lynching



2024 FEBRUARY

-  Wednesday 7 # 'Makers and Machines: Creativity in the Computer Age' – Felicity McWilliams at Thinktank


MARCH

-  Tuesday 5 * 'Victorian Radicals' – Jane Howell at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
 Tuesday 19 # 'The Screw Kings' – Henrietta Lockhart at Winterbourne House
 Monday 25 * 'Victorian Radicals' – Jane Howell at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery


APRIL

-  Tuesday 16 * 'Victorian Radicals' – Jane Howell at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
 Wednesday 24 ** Tour of Selly Manor Museum and Bournville Village


MAY

-  Monday 20 * 'Victorian Radicals' – Jane Howell at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

JUNE

-  Friday 21 # Walking tour around the Moor Pool Estate

JULY

-  Saturday 13 * Visit to the West Midlands Police Museum - Talk on Forensic Procedures

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing (see pages 6-7)
 # Included in the previous mailing, but places are still available. Please contact us to book a place (see page 6)
 ** Included in the previous mailing and fully booked – sorry!
 + Date for your Diary – information will be included in a future edition of 'Artefacts'

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING

THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARTEFACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2024

