

30 September 2004

'Drawing Breath': Fitzwilliam Museum launches *The Big Draw 2004* in the East of England

On Saturday 2 October, The Fitzwilliam Museum will launch *The Big Draw* in the East of England, part of the fifth annual nationwide event organised by the Campaign for Drawing. From 11 am to 4 pm, visitors to the Fitzwilliam can participate in no fewer than seventeen different themed drawing activities throughout the galleries.

Artist Anna Townley has devised a range of options to appeal to budding artists of all ages and *Big Draw* volunteers will be on hand to guide, assist and hand out materials, which have been generously sponsored by Persil. Acclaimed illustrator Ian Beck will join *The Big Draw* at the Fitzwilliam, thanks to Random House Children's Books, by taking part in the 'Story Draw' in the new Studio at the Museum.

Frances Sword, Head of Education at The Fitzwilliam Museum, said: "Drawing is for everyone, irrespective of age or skill, and *The Big Draw* offers a fantastic opportunity to get involved at whatever level suits you. 'Drawing Breath' at the Fitzwilliam attempts to inspire artists of all abilities through wonderful works of art and the galleries in which they are displayed. No boundaries are drawn between the worlds of reality and imagination; mortals and immortals lie dormant, waiting for you to draw them into life. Draw the visible, the invisible, each other - or yourself. Find new ways of seeing; above all, come and have fun."

The Campaign for Drawing has a simple but ambitious aim - to get everyone drawing. The Campaign was initiated in 2000 by The Guild of St George, a small charity founded by John Ruskin, the great Victorian artist, writer and visionary. Ruskin saw drawing as the foundation of visual thought. His mission was not to teach people how to draw, but how to see.

October's *Big Draw* offers over 1000 events across the country, with something of interest to all ages and abilities, offering the opportunity to discover that drawing can aid observation, communication and invention and, above all, give pleasure.

The London launch was in Trafalgar Square on Sunday 26 September. 11 other launches kick off the season: Cardiff (01/10); Glasgow (01-02/10); Belfast (02/10); Cambridge (02/10); Exeter (02/10); Horsham & Wakehurst Place (02/10); Newcastle (02/10); Sheffield (02/10); Shrewsbury (02-03/10); Manchester (02-10/10); Coalville (09/10).

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