

## Autumn 2013 exhibitions at the Fitzwilliam Museum

### A world of private mystery: John Craxton, RA (1922 - 2009)

2 December 2013 - 21 April 2014 | Mellon (I3)

The major exhibition this winter at the Fitzwilliam Museum is the first posthumous retrospective of the life and career of 20<sup>th</sup> century British artist John Craxton. **A world of private mystery** traces his development as an artist, both through his travels, later life in Crete and the influence of other major artists during his lifetime.

*'The willow trees are nice and amazing, but I would prefer an olive tree growing out of a Greek ruin,'* John Craxton in Cambridge 1943



The Head of a Greek Sailor  
John Craxton, 1946  
© estate of John Craxton

### Edmund de Waal: On White - Porcelain stories from the Fitzwilliam

29 November 2013 - 23 February 2014 | Galleries 33, 26 & 28

This unique exhibition sees three galleries of the Fitzwilliam taken over by renowned potter, and Cambridge graduate, Edmund de Waal.

The re-curated spaces feature objects from de Waal's residency in China last summer, pieces from the museum's permanent collection, poetry, photographs and letters. Highlights include two major installations. The first of these, *a thousand hours*, is one of de Waal's most ambitious to date and was the centrepiece of a major exhibition at the Alan Cristea Gallery in London. The work comprises 1,000 pots encased in two large walk-through vitrines. A second featured work, *yourself you* has been specially commissioned for this show.



Yourself you (2013), Edmund de Waal  
Photo © Michael Harvey

### The night of longing: Love and desire in Japanese prints

1 October 2013 - 12 January 2014 | Shiba Gallery (I4)

An exhibition of Japanese woodcuts and books of the Edo and Meiji periods (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries) depicting lovers from literature and life.

Images range from lovers yearning for absent partners and expressing their longing in letters and poems; dramatic scenes of thwarted or desperate lovers, sometimes on the verge of suicide; 'risqué prints' (*abuna-e*), with suggestions of eroticism or hints that sex is near at hand, through to more explicit images of sexual partners (*shunga* or 'spring pictures') and their contexts in erotic books; assignations in and around



Kitagawa Utamaro (1753-1806),  
(*Michiyuki*) *Koi no futozao* On the road:  
Love songs for the thick-necked  
shamisen © The Fitzwilliam Museum

Edo (Tokyo) and the route to the pleasure quarter at night. Artists include Harunobu, Utamaro, Hiroshige, Kunisada, Kuniyoshi and Yoshitoshi.

The exhibition is based on the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum and is designed to complement the exhibition at the British Museum *Shunga: Sex and pleasure in Japanese Art* (3 October 2013 – 5 January 2014).

Continuing exhibition:

## Origins of the Afro Comb:

### 6,000 years of culture, politics and identity

To 3 November | Mellon (13) & Octagon (8)

Discover the extraordinary 6,000-year history of African hair combs, from pre-dynastic Egypt to modern-day black fist combs referencing the Black Power Movement.

Each of the hundreds of beautiful combs on display is a work of art, from pieces exquisitely carved in wood with tiny geometric designs, to works sculpted from ivory or inlaid with multi-coloured glass beads. The displays include archive photography, projections, paintings and sculpture showing the wide variety of hair styles found in Africa and around the world. The exhibition also includes personal stories about combs and African type hair, as well as expressing the contribution personal styling has had to play in maintaining and expressing cultural identity across the African Diaspora.

*This exhibition is running to coincide with Black History Month in October.*

- Ends -

**For further information and images contact the Marketing and Press Office:**

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#### Notes to editors:

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB  
**FREE ADMISSION**

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00  
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00  
CLOSED: 24–26 & 31 December and 1 January



Harunobu Suzuki (c.1725-70)  
Lover taking leave of a courtesan, 1776  
© The Fitzwilliam Museum



Origins of the Afro Comb  
© The Fitzwilliam Museum

## The Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge, with collections exploring world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and outstanding collections of applied arts, ceramics, coins, and Asian arts.

Welcoming over 400,000 visitors a year, the Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

[www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)