

Fitzwilliam Museum Highlight Exhibition Programme 2019

Whistler & Nature

8 January - 17 March 2019 (Galleries 12 & 13)



James McNeill Whistler, Battersea Reach from Lindsey Houses .
© The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Whistler & Nature explores James McNeill Whistler's (1834-1903), revolutionary attitude towards the natural world, in works ranging from his celebrated London Nocturnes to his European coastal and pastoral scenes.

90 paintings, drawings and objects - such as Whistler's sketchbook - show how his vision of nature was underpinned by his enduring kinship with the makers of railroads, bridges and ships - Whistler came from a family of soldiers and engineers as well as being a military mapmaker, which shaped his attitude towards nature. His images explore

the contrasts between the natural and man-made worlds: rivers and wharves, gardens and courtyards, the ideal and the naturalistic. Whistler inherited a tradition of British landscape painting forged at a time when land was the predominant source of wealth. **The exhibition is developed by Compton Verney, in partnership with The Hunterian, University of Glasgow**

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2EdTKAm>



Collecting and Giving: Highlights from the Sir Ivor and Lady Batchelor bequest

Until 3 March 2019 (Gallery 10)



Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-82) Ricorditi di me che son la Pia, 1868.
© Fitzwilliam Museum

In 2015, the Museum received an exceptional collection of paintings, drawings, ceramics, glass and bronzes from Sir Ivor and Lady Batchelor, through the Art Fund.

Highlights from the collection will be on display for the first time, including drawings by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Ruskin, William Orpen, Walter Sickert and Gwen John, alongside fine examples of 18th century salt-glazed stoneware, rare 17th and 18th century Spanish glass, and 19th century French animal bronzes. Professor of Psychiatry at Dundee University, Sir Ivor and his wife, Honor, spent decades collecting a wide array of fine and decorative arts, advocating that 'One had to learn by looking, which is the best education'. The exhibition will illustrate the richness and diversity of the Batchelor Bequest and highlight The Fitzwilliam as a 'collection of collections' defined by connoisseurship.

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2B9nw68>

Making a Nation: Money, Image and Power in Tudor and Stuart England

26 March - 30 June 2019 (Gallery 10)



Gold sovereign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603)
struck at the Tower of London 1584-7.
© Fitzwilliam Museum

This exhibition traces the major dynastic, political and cultural changes that occurred in England under the Tudors and Stuarts. The money and medals of this 250-year period provide a fascinating insight into broader developments in artistic expression, monarchy, nationhood, and trade, in a rapidly expanding world. In one sense, coins and medals acted as powerful agents in conveying the official image of the king or queen and commemorating the important events of the day. They also reveal the changing role of money and economic experience through periods of conflict, exploration, civil war and the union of the kingdoms of England and Scotland.

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2SCL9es>

Beggarstoffs: William Nicholson and James Pryde

7 May – 4 August 2019 (Galleries 12 & 13)



Beggarstaff Brothers, Hamlet Poster, 1894.
© Desmond Banks V&A

The Beggarstoffs, otherwise J. & W. Beggarstaff, was the pseudonym used by the British artists William Nicholson and James Pryde for their collaborative partnership in the design of posters and other graphic work in the 1890s.

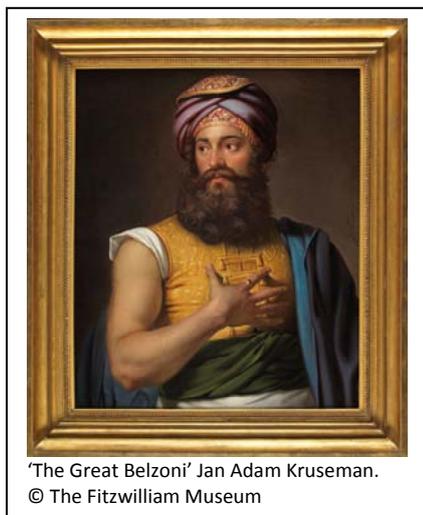
These groundbreaking collaborative graphics and their later individual works as painters have never before been shown together. The exhibition will explore for the first time the fascinating way in which their reciprocal influence and shared love of striking subject matter worked on their very different temperaments to inspire two remarkable artistic careers.

In 1893, having rejected conventional artistic training, the young painters William Nicholson and his brother-in-law James Pryde began working together as 'the Beggarstoffs'. Inventing an entirely novel technique they created some of the most innovative posters and graphic work of the day, including their celebrated Don Quixote poster for Henry Irving's Lyceum Theatre production. By the late 1890s Nicholson, ever the more industrious of the two, went on to develop his skills as a wood-engraver and produced several series of coloured prints including An Alphabet and London Types, as well as two sets of arresting portraits of celebrated contemporaries. These prints brought him recognition and renown as one of the leading graphic artists of the decade.

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2GaqlD2>

The celebrated Mr Belzoni: A Cultural Gift to the Fitzwilliam

23 July - 10 November 2019 (Gallery 10)



'The Great Belzoni' Jan Adam Kruseman.
© The Fitzwilliam Museum

This in-focus exhibition is centred on a new acquisition: Jan Adam Kruseman's posthumous portrait of the celebrated adventurer, Giovanni Battista Belzoni, known as 'The Great Belzoni'. Painted in 1824, and presented to the Museum in 2018 through the Arts Council's Cultural Gift Scheme [in honour of ex-Director, Tim Knox], the portrait will be displayed alongside paintings and watercolours from the Fitzwilliam's wider collections, which reflect the allure of Egypt and Egyptian antiquities to British artists of the 19th century. Part of the exhibition will focus on the extraordinary person of Belzoni, his commercial interest in ancient Egypt, and his extraordinary gift to the Fitzwilliam in 1823 of the sarcophagus lid of Ramesses III.

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2C9mklf>

EAT FEAST FAST: The Art of Food in Europe, 1500–1800

26 November 2019 –19 April 2020 (Galleries 12 & 13)



Joris van Son (1623-1667), Still-life with a lobster, 1660.
© Fitzwilliam Museum

Food defines us as individuals, communities, and nations — we are what we eat and, equally, what we don't eat. When, where, why, how and with whom we eat are crucial to our identity. EAT FEAST FAST presents novel approaches to understanding the history and culture of food and eating. This research-led exhibition, aimed to appeal to the broadest possible public, will showcase hidden and newly-conserved treasures from the Fitzwilliam and other collections in and around Cambridge. It will tease out many contemporary and controversial issues — such as the origins of food and food security,

overconsumption in times of austerity, and our relationship with animals and nature — linking the past with our present, and encouraging visitors to question and rethink their relationship with food.

Image Link <https://bit.ly/2QURjd3>

Inspired

19 November 2019 – 22 March 2020

This exhibition will bring into the public domain artwork created by children and young people inspired by our world-class collections, highlighting the Museum's proud tradition of supporting formal learning through relationships with local schools and championing the on-going importance of creative and cultural learning for young people at a time when the arts in schools feel increasingly threatened.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

For all enquires please contact Fitzwilliam Museum Press Office:
+44 (0) 1223 332 941 | press@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

About the Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Major Partner Museum programme, funded by The Arts Council. The Fitzwilliam's collections explore 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 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. 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

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, 1 January, Good Friday

Business Partners The Museum is supported by our Business Partners during 2018; TTP Group plc, and Brewin Dolphin