

February Half Term Activities 2019

Fantastic, fun, family-friendly and free activities during half term | February 18 – 24, 2019

There's plenty to see and do at The Fitzwilliam Museum this February half term. In recent years the Museum's neo-classical façade has been lit up as part of the e-Luminate Festival. This year a new temporary light installation, consisting of two light works will be on display both outside and inside the Museum. The new work by artist Emma Smith is called, **W_e**. It was created following a series of workshops in 2018, facilitated by community artist Hilary Cox-Condron at the Arbury Carnival, The Big Weekend, Chesterton Community College, North Cambridge Academy, and with the Asian Women's Network. Emma Smith was selected as the lead artist on this project because her work is often developed in collaboration with local communities, academics and professionals.



All the public contributions were combined by the artist in the final work. It takes its inspiration from the proposal by Jean-Luc Nancy that “we are” – that we exist through relationship, coupled with a symbolic play on the letters used to denote electricity from which this work is made.

Emma says: “This has been a really exciting opportunity to work with the medium of light, to consider the potential for conversations to be carried through this material.”

As part of **Twilight at the Museums** **W_e** will be launched with a special programme of events:
Wednesday 20 February:

- Artist Talk with Emma Smith 13.15 – 14.00
- Launch event with local participants 15.30 – 16.30
- Public launch as part of Twilight at the Museums 16.30 – 19.30

The work will be on display from the 19–24 February. The work inside the Museum will be accessible during normal opening hours. The work outside the Museum will be lit up from 10.00 – 22.00.

The project has been developed with support from a Cambridge City Council public art grant, ARM, the Learning Department at The Fitzwilliam Museum, the e-Luminate Studio and Cambridge Live (for more information email: hello@e-luminatestudio.com).



Twilight at the Fitzwilliam Museum, 2017 © Martin Bond

Later on Wednesday 20 February, 16.30 – 19.30, The Fitzwilliam Museum teams up with the Whipple Museum of the History of Science for its twilight event at the Museum. This year the theme is a ‘starry night’. Participants are encouraged to bring torches to see the Museum come to life as the sun goes down.

For information about Twilight activities across Cambridge Museums, visit the [University of Cambridge Museums website](#).

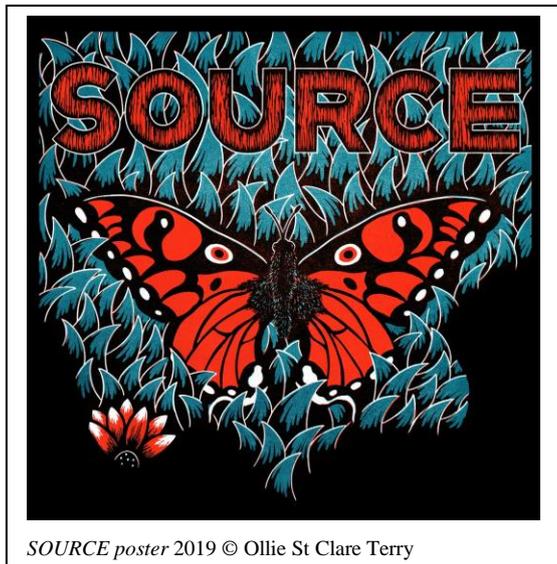
For GCSE, A Level, and BTEC art students the Fitzwilliam is running **SOURCE**, a free drop-in sessions to help prep for exams. These will take place throughout the week (16–23 February). There will be professional artists on hand to assist with techniques and ideas as well as informal discussion tours, access to a studio with high quality material, and advice on art exam themes.

Press | The Fitzwilliam Museum

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SOURCE poster 2019 © Ollie St Clare Terry

Several special (free) sessions are also on offer, although booking is essential:

Mindfulness and Art – coping with exam stress with Samina Khan and Daniela McDermott.
Saturday 16 February, 11.00–13.00 & 13.30–14.30

Portfolio Review – chat with Will Hill, Cambridge Art School, about courses and careers.
Friday 22 February, 11.00–13.00

Ask the Artist Q & A – Iona McCuaig, and Hannah Kershaw on becoming a designer or working as an exhibitions co-ordinator.
Friday 22 February, 11.30–12.30

For younger visitors, free resources are available from both entrances to the Museum at any time. Those with babies (0–2 years) can pick up a play mat containing carefully selected resources that connect with themes and objects in the collection. Little ones (2–6 years) can benefit from our Story Starter satchels containing a picture book and activities to explore the galleries. Whilst those with 5–12 year olds can complete games and puzzles to journey around the Museum with one of our Fitz Kits, or pick up a gallery trail. Also a selection of drawing materials are available to borrow at any time.

If time is short head for Gallery 21, where you will find a small display of objects found by CAU at the University of Cambridge North West Cambridge archaeological site.

While the focus is on half term activity don't miss our current exhibitions: [Whistler & Nature](#) and its accompanying exhibition [The Gentle Art: Friends and strangers in Whistler's prints; Collecting and Giving: Highlights from the Sir Ivor and Lady Batchelor bequest](#); and [Enriching Collections: Recent acquisitions of prints and drawings 2009-2019](#).

We hope you enjoy visiting the Museum this February half term. And remember our shop and café will also be available during opening hours, including the late night opening for Twilight.

Notes to editors:

Emma Smith is a visual artist based in Cambridge who works internationally. She has a social practice and creates public platforms for experimentation, research and action through site-specific events and installations. Smith's work tests the boundaries of human connectivity: relationship, communication, sense of place and entanglement. Her work looks in particular at hidden forms of connection: the intimate, the transient, the subconscious and the invisible. Previous exhibitions and commissions include Tate Modern, Barbican, Whitechapel Gallery, Bluecoat, Whitworth, ICA and Arnolfini, UK, with international projects across the globe. <http://www.emma-smith.com/>

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. Website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

For all enquires please contact The Fitzwilliam Museum Press Office: +44 (0) 1223 332941
press@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB | Free admission
OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00;
CLOSED: 24–26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday