

Fitzwilliam Museum

Highlight exhibition programme 2018

Things of Beauty Growing: British studio pottery

Galleries 11, 12 & 13

20 March - 17 June 2018

Press View: Thursday 15th March, 10am – 1pm

Things of Beauty Growing is the largest exhibition of its kind in recent times, displaying over 100 historic and contemporary ceramics by potters including Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie, Edmund de Waal, Alison Britton, Grayson Perry and Julian Stair.

For almost one hundred years, British potters have led the way in re-inventing traditional ceramic forms. *Things of Beauty Growing* showcases the history and ongoing practice of one of the most dynamic art forms in the UK today, by tracing the changing nature of British studio pottery through the evolution of specific types of vessel: the moon jar, vase, bowl, charger, set, vessel, pot and monument.



© Elizabeth Fritsch / © The estates of Lucie Rie and Norah Braden

Featuring key works from the internationally-renowned ceramics collection of the Fitzwilliam, other leading UK museums, and private collections across the UK and America, the exhibition shows that studio pottery is a global story, with pots and potters travelling between Britain, continental Europe, Asia, Africa, and beyond.

Clare Twomey's monumental installation, *Made in China*, will complement the exhibition with the installation of 80 large-scale porcelain vases that seek to highlight the difference in labour conditions and cost of production between East and West.

Things of Beauty Growing was originally shown at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven (USA). It is accompanied by a catalogue, published by Yale University Press.

Flux: Parian unpacked

Gallery 10

6 March - 1 July 2018

Press View: Thursday 1st March, 10am – 1pm

Who writes history? Whose histories define Britishness, and how does this change over time? Why do museums celebrate the lives of some people and ignore others?

Exploring themes of mass production, celebrity, colonialism and our notion of history, this impressive installation by ceramic artist and curator, Matt Smith, features over 100 sculptural parian busts from the Glynn collection of parian.



The Glynn Collection of parian
© The Fitzwilliam Museum

Highlighting some well-known and celebrated 19th century figures, Matt challenges the traditional reading of these figures and their achievements.

Parian is a fine, unglazed porcelain resembling marble. It is made by adding flux to porcelain, a process that can make the clay unstable during firing. Its unpredictability provides a platform from which we can examine our changing views of history and our changing opinions of those individuals depicted – accepting that our understanding of the past is always in flux.

New work in parian made by Matt will also be placed around the galleries in the museum, challenging us to look at the museum's permanent collection in a new light. The exhibition is accompanied by a book, available to purchase in the Museum shop.

The starting point of Matt's exhibition is the Glynn collection of over 300 pieces of parian, which was accepted by H. M. Government in lieu of Inheritance Tax from the estate of G. D. V. Glynn, and allocated to the Fitzwilliam Museum in 2016.

Designers and Jewellery 1850-1940: Jewellery and Metalwork from the Fitzwilliam Museum

Gallery 10

31 July - 11 November 2018

Press View: Friday 27th July, 10am – 1pm

Showcasing little-known treasures from the Fitzwilliam Museum's outstanding collection, this exhibition will celebrate exquisitely-designed and often hand-crafted jewellery and metalwork from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Encompassing a wide range of styles, from the complex and intricate historicist and Neo-Gothic, the naturalistic Arts & Crafts, the sinuous curves influenced by the European Art Nouveau movement to the structural modernity of the 1920s and 1930s, the exhibition will feature over 70 pieces by 20 designers.

The sparkling display will include jewellery by some of the finest jewellers of the time including Castellani, Giuliano, Robert Phillips and John Brogden, as well as a spectacular decanter by William Burges. There are important pieces of jewellery and silver by the most famous of Arts & Crafts designers, including C.R. Ashbee, Henry Wilson, Gilbert Marks and John Paul Cooper, and unique jewellery designed by the artist Charles Ricketts, which holds a special place in the history of queer art in Britain, having been designed for the couple Katharine Bradley and Edith Cooper, known collectively as the author, Michael Field. Modern silver is represented by leaders of the field, Omar Ramsden and H. G. Murphy.

Curated by Research Assistant Helen Ritchie, this display coincides with the publication of a book of the same name, published by Philip Wilson in late July 2018.

Virginia Woolf: An exhibition inspired by her writings

Galleries 11 & 12

2 October - 9 December 2018

Press View: Thursday 27th September, 10am-1pm

In the centenary of suffrage this exhibition draws attention to the many connections between Virginia Woolf, her contemporaries and those who have been inspired by her work.

The show draws on the suffragette movement and the developing canon of art by women. Starting with modern masters Vanessa Bell, Barbara Hepworth, Gwen John, Winifred Nicholson and Laura Knight the exhibition moves through mystics and surrealists such as Dorothea Tanning, Dora Carrington, Louise Bourgeois, Agnes Martin, Ithell Colquhoun and Georgiana Houghton and into the extraordinary work of contemporary female artists such as Carol Bove, Tamara Henderson and Penny Slinger. The exhibition is curated by Laura Smith for Tate St Ives.



RA250 at the Fitz **February - December**

The pick of our collection by six Royal Academicians who have connections with Cambridge and the Fitz: Eileen Cooper, Stephen Chambers, Anne Desmet, Antony Gormley, Nigel Hall and Mali Morris.

As the Royal Academy celebrates their 250th anniversary in 2018, we are joining in with their celebrations; together we identified 6 Royal Academicians and asked each of them to select works from the Fitzwilliam collection which they are inspired by, and to share why.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

For all enquires please contact Emma Shaw, 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