

# THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ART



## HOLBURNE HIGHLIGHTS

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES PREPARED FOR THE  
DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE AND PATRONS

2021-2022

## DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

We are very proud of the fact that the Holburne commands a national profile for its ambitious exhibition programme and collection presentation. Over the last twelve months, with your help, we delivered no less than ten prestigious exhibitions which drew in local, national, and international audiences who engaged with our innovative displays and engagement programme.

Personally, there have been so many highlights through 2022 that it is hard to pick just a few. For me, it felt like we finally escaped the post-Covid quagmire as we got back to normal – better than normal. I am very proud of the way the team has built on the legacies of lockdown, exemplified by the Creative Boxes that we send to schools.

It seemed appropriate also that we were able to mark our re-emergence with a rehang of the Picture Gallery and the opening of a brand-new gallery housing extraordinary Renaissance masterpieces from the estate of Bruno Schroder.

This year, it's been an honour to work with such prestigious partners as the National and National Portrait Galleries, with artists like Nalini Malani, Mick Peter and those who took up residence at The Edge, and to bring to Bath art as great as Hockney's early drawings, Rodin and Degas's sculptures and the Darnley Portrait of Elizabeth I.

The second phase of the Lottery-funded Pathways to Wellbeing came to an end in May. I was delighted that two local charities enabled us to continue and was humbled by the independent evaluation of the scheme. I am so proud of everyone involved; Pathways lies at the very heart of what we are, what I increasingly consider a Caring Museum – a place that cares for people even more than it cares for objects. I am deeply grateful to you all for the support that makes this important work possible even in these difficult times. This report highlights a selection of achievements made possible through your support. I hope you enjoy reading about our activities. We all at the Holburne remain grateful for your friendship and advocacy and look forward to welcoming you to the museum again soon.



Dr Chris Stephens



## EXHIBITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

ENABLED BY SUPPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE AND PATRONS

*The Tudors: Passion, Power and Politics* (January 28 – May 8 2022) was extremely popular and particularly lent itself to the numerous school groups who came face-to-face with the five Tudor monarchs and drew inspiration from the powerful historic portraits on short-term loan from The National Portrait Gallery.



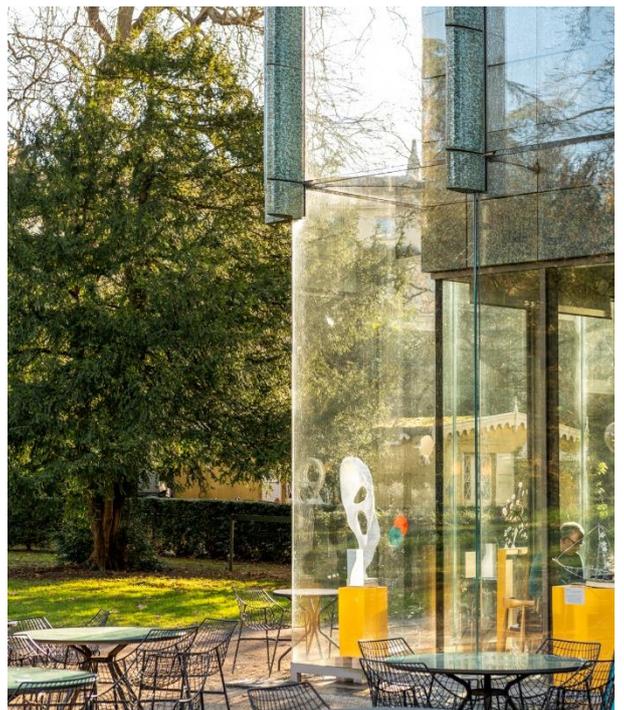
*People Make Museums* (Jan 27 – May 2022) was an important exhibition celebrating the creativity and the importance of people in museums.

People bring stories, memories, lived experience and ways of seeing which constantly reinvigorate and challenge museums and their collections.

It is people that make museums relevant.



*Mick Peter: Old Ghosts* (January 14 – May 15 2022) created a narrative trail through the Museum and its Garden that humorously critiqued the conventions of heritage sites. Outside the gallery, there was what appeared to be an archaeological dig complete with a half-buried “Roman” road, although the artefacts being revealed were somewhat ‘wrong’.



**David Hockney Love Life Drawings 1963 to 1977** was a standout show which attracted significant attention in the national press and our dedicated learning team delivered a range of activities for children, young people and adults which were all immensely popular.

*"Hockney at his most irresistible" **The Telegraph***

*"David Hockney's genius is distilled in the mesmerising show 'Love Life'... Some of the most glorious drawings of the 20th century are to be found in an intimate, fizzing encounter with the artist... a very sexy show... 'Love Life' looks back, forward, celebrates the present and — especially when followed by lunch in the Holburne's magnificent garden — is as life-affirming as its title implies."*  
**Financial Times**

**Holburne Open** over the summer, a successful series of six-week Artist Residencies took place at The Edge, University of Bath. The galleries were free to enter whilst each artist was working. Artists included *Joshua Donkor, David Robertson, Gerry Eaton, Jack Lewdjaw* and *Seam Collective*.

**Marvellous Makers, Wondrous Worlds Raised Embroidery from the c17th** (May 13 – Sep 2022) The Holburne Museum has an important collection of raised embroidery and other 17th-century textiles. A focused loan exhibition in the Wirth Gallery complemented and highlighted the significance of this part of the collection through a jewel-like show that allowed visitors to look closely at these exceptional objects.





### *New collection display of Northern Renaissance Masterpieces*

In May this year we were extremely proud to present a new display of Northern Renaissance masterpieces on long term loan from the Estate of Bruno Schroder, who died in 2019. Such is the importance of the long loan of these works that a new gallery was created from what was the Director's office, especially to accommodate them.



The collection is recognised as being of international importance and of the highest quality. For example, the collection includes one of three versions of Ulrich Apt's 1521 portrait of Lorenz Krafft (the son of an emigré Scotsman in Augsburg) and his wife Honesta Merz. The other versions reside in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Royal Collection.

As well as the nine important paintings, the display includes a rare complete set of Albrecht Dürer's sixteen engravings illustrating Christ's Passion.



The collection also includes major works by artists such as Lucas Cranach the Elder and Hans Holbein the Elder. Perhaps the most important painting of the group is Hans Burgkmeier's 1498 portrait of Jakob Fugger and his bride Sybilla Artzt (TOP). Known as Fugger the Rich, Jakob Fugger was an Augsburg merchant and banker who was the major financial force behind the Habsburg dynasty.

The collection was assembled by Mr Schroder's forebears in the 1910s and 1920s. The long-term loan to the Holburne adds an important new dimension to the collection of one of the most respected regional art museums in the country.



It is hard to quantify just how beautiful and of what high quality these pictures are. We are deeply grateful to the Schroder family for this opportunity.



***Nalini Malani: My Reality is Different***  
National Gallery Contemporary Fellowship with Art Fund. With a fierce commitment to pushing boundaries and experimenting and exploring the possibilities of the moving image, Nalini Malani created a darkened exhibition space with one monumental artwork. New video animations featured famous paintings in the National Gallery and the Holburne's collection.



***Elisabeth Frink: Strength & Sensuality***  
(Sept 22- Jan 8, 2023) the display was devised in collaboration with a Bath Spa University student, Harriet Rhodes, as part of the Holburne's partnership with universities in the area and our commitment to helping young people develop a career in the arts.



***Richard Smith: Kites (The Edge)*** (Sep 28– Dec 17 2022) We were excited to present Smith's amazing 'Kite' works to UK audiences for the first time since his major retrospective exhibition at the Tate Gallery in 1975.

***Rodin – Degas: Impressionist Sculpture***  
(Sept 24- Jan 8, 2023) This exhibition has brought together major sculptures by two of the towering figures in modern European art and focuses on the artists' representation of the human body and their expression of its energy through both dynamic poses and static pose. The focus on the transient body and expressive surfaces can be seen as the closest sculpture comes to the qualities of Impressionism in painting.

# LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## HOW YOU HAVE HELPED US SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES

In January alone we reached over 1,000 primary school pupils and their families with a free targeted 'Golden Ticket' offer, focusing on pupils in the highest areas of deprivation in Bath, including free entry to the museum, a museum trail and 2 fun drop-in creative sessions. Through this we were able to attract families from rural and less affluent areas of Bath and surrounding environs.

The Tudors exhibition was by most far the most popular and busy period for our Learning team, with a total of 9 creative school workshops delivered. Primary school pupils made Tudor portraits with clay tiles and Secondary school pupils participated in a textile workshop producing Tudor Roses. Our 'handling objects' Museums Loans boxes have been used to support young people struggling with the transition from primary to secondary school and we were invited to run a day of workshops at one of our local Secondary schools.



Our self-led creative area on the ground floor, 'Space to Make', offers carefully designed activities that encourage families to engage with our exhibitions in a creative way. Our David Hockney 'A Life in Colour' activities proved to be our most popular yet with visitors making over 500 mini-David Hockneys!

Over 100 free, inspired museum activity trails 'Through the Artist's Eye' were given out to families during August alone, and 446 people enjoyed a trail designed around Mick Peter's exhibition (supported by the National Lottery Funding & Arts Council England)

The reinstatement of our Summer Art Camps after two years of Covid restrictions and uncertainty proved very successful, running at full capacity for 10 days over the school holidays. 160 children participated. Over the Easter period we hosted a 'Family Takeover Day' enjoyed by over 250 people. The special day offered free museum entry for all families, as well as 3 free drop-in creative workshops: making large scale cartoons, egg-cellent egg story hats and Tudor-tastic egg decorating.

**Up Late: Art as Social Activism!** As part of our ongoing partnership with Bath Spa University, this year we have delivered six Uplates. The most recent event invited participants to take part in creating a large-scale mixed-media artwork inspired by Nalini Malani's *My Reality is Different*. Participants were invited to respond to and reinterpret the Holburne's 18<sup>th</sup> century collection, challenging perceptions of gender, nationality, empire, and colonialism.

In addition to our own Programme, the Holburne is proud to host events throughout the year for our cultural partners such as The Garden Theatre Festival, Bath Literature Festival, Adult & Children and Bath Music Festival. All events were huge successes, selling out most nights and generating new audiences and additional income for the Holburne café.



In June, Southside families enjoyed a memorable day at the Holburne to celebrate the Jubilee Platinum Party organised in partnership with the Carers' Centre and The Holburne's Pathways to Wellbeing programme. Coaches were arranged to enable families from the Southside Community Hub Groups in B&NES to travel in for this special event, and back at the end of the day.



Over 260 people came together for a day full of sunshine and enjoyed a wide range of creative activities with local artists: making jubilee bunting, large clay commemorative coins, regal crown and capes, jubilee celebration cake hats, decorating miniature boxes, and designing jubilee stamps.

The Holburne is endlessly grateful for the commitment of our 300+ volunteers. Our **Volunteer Programme** is very well-established and includes an ambitious training programme for anyone who wants to become involved. In July we held our first Young Volunteer's event, creating a huge spray paint mural, as part of a new funded project-RIRO (Reach In Reach Out) supported by Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to encourage young people to volunteer and gain work -place skills in the heritage and creative sectors.

This year the Holburne Museum Volunteer Team, the Pathways to Wellbeing Volunteers and three individual Volunteers were all short-listed for the B&NES Chairman Community and Business Awards.



# PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING

## A MUSEUM-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME LED BY THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM WITH ART AT ITS HEART

Pathways To Wellbeing is a highly successful initiative that supports people with lived experience of mental health issues and social isolation by offering free creative, museum-based opportunities which promote mental health and wellbeing. Pathways to Wellbeing has become part of the community support network; professionals and health and community organisations know and understand what it does and how it can improve people's wellbeing. Over the last twelve months, our team, led by Louise Campion has delivered a range of creative sessions, both in the Museum and as outreach sessions in Care Homes and Royal United Hospital's Psychiatric unit.

In April, we hosted a Learning Symposium 'Museums & Care' which brought together over 70 academics and professionals from the museum, mental health and creative sectors to share learning and knowledge about how museums can embed 'care' in the work they do.

More recently, Chris Stephens and Louise Campion were invited to contribute to the Baring Foundation's new publication (in partnership with Museums Association) on museums that are using creativity to engage people living with mental health issues.



# PATRON EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## A SUMMARY OF OUR ART ADVENTURES TOGETHER

We were pleased to offer our Directors Circle and Patrons a range of engaging behind-the-scenes and exclusive tours this year, including a private tour of Van Gogh Self-Portraits at The Courtauld, with Dr Chris Stephens as our guide, followed by a visit to the newly opened Collection Galleries. We also visited Gainsborough's masterpiece, 'The Blue Boy' on display at the National Gallery.

In the Autumn we visited Messums Gallery, Wiltshire to view Elisabeth Frink sculptures to celebrate the Holburne's recent extraordinary acquisition of 35 objects by Dame Elisabeth Frink.



In the Summer we enjoyed a private tour of *Henry Moore Sharing Form* at Hauser & Wirth Somerset with Chris Stephens as our guide.

Most recently we also experienced a very special and memorable trip to Pangolin Foundry and Lypiatt Park which gave Patrons an exclusive opportunity to see behind-the-scenes of one of Europe's largest bronze and steel foundry, drawing links with our display of Rodin & Degas Impressionist sculptures, followed by a private tour of Lypiatt Park, the former home of Lynn Chadwick with Danny Chadwick as our guide.



## LOOKING AHEAD

### OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024

In January we will open *Alberta Whittle: Dipping below a waxing moon, the dance claims us for release*, which will include new sculptures, text and film in the Roper Gallery and interventions in several sites across the city. Together the works will address some of the region's colonial histories and will address the theme of postcolonial trauma. We also look forward to opening *Illustrating the World: Woodcuts in the Age of Dürer* which will be a rare opportunity to view the complete set of woodcuts known as The Great Passion, produced by the most famed artist of the German Renaissance, Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528).

Over the summer we will present a major exhibition exploring the role of marriage portraits in Renaissance Europe and an in-depth survey of ceramics by Lucie Rie, followed by an exhibition of Gwen John paintings opening in the Autumn.



## YOUR SUPPORT

Furthering your support by making a one-off donation is a fantastic way of becoming closer to the Holburne. Your support enables a range of projects from the delivery of our exhibitions to curatorial research, education programmes, conservation, and essential repairs. The development team would be delighted to talk with you if you would like to hear more about our priorities in 2023 which include: seeking a major lead donor for our contemporary programme and corporate sponsorship of our annual exhibition programme.

It is thanks to our family of supporters that the Museum can survive as an independent charitable organisation with a wonderful art collection for all. We are enormously grateful for the support we receive from all our supporters.



## THANK YOU

Dr Chris Stephens and the Development Team

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