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The Art Circle

April 2020

Durham University's Art Collection Newsletter

Hello Art Circle!

It's time to get virtual. By now we hope you are relaxing into this new normal, but if not we are here to keep you thinking creatively and pass on some good news just for you.

As we work remotely we have been updating our website. You can now find out more about the Art Collection [here](#). View our collection highlights including work by Sandra Blow, Andy Warhol and Elizabeth Frink.

Do not fear if you have missed out on any of our previous newsletters. All previous Art Circles are now available on our website [here](#).

A British Museum touring exhibition

Pushing Paper: Contemporary drawing from 1970 to now

UPDATE

Even though the Oriental Museum, Durham University, is now closed to the public, we have been working behind the scenes to deliver the exhibition to you at home. Watch out for our new digital exhibition, coming soon to a computer near you!

Featuring artworks from the collections of both the British Museum and Durham University, learn more about the artists and the drawings they created. Download games and activities to get into the drawing mood and don't forget to show us your talent by tagging us into your social media posts. [#PushingPaper](#)

Twitter - @DuMuseums
Instagram - oriental.museum.durham
Facebook - Oriental Museum

You can use the icons below to bring your directly to our social media pages.



PIKTOCHART



Bringing the Museum Home

If anyone has a few minutes to fill in one or more of our surveys to help us provide some great online content from our museums for you to use and enjoy, we would be massively grateful.

As part of our continuing effort to develop and enhance our online offer, we would like to hear from you. We have created some short surveys to find out from our school and community audiences what you would like to see from the Learning and Engagement Team to help you in the current COVID-19 situation. All of these resources will focus on the Durham University collections at the Oriental Museum, Museum of Archaeology, Durham Castle, the Botanic Garden, Palace Green Library and the Art Collection. We will also consider how we can use the Bill Bryson Library resources for online research skills and catalogue access.

We cannot guarantee we can enact every idea, but understanding what our wonderful users want from us provides a great starting point for our online learning development.

You can access all surveys [here](#)

#StayatHome recommendations from the Art Circle...

#ArtistSupportPledge

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, galleries, exhibitions, schools and art sales have closed down across the world and many artists have found themselves without work. How can we continue to support practicing artists in these difficult times, I hear you ask?

[#ArtistSupportPledge](#) is an initiative set up by Sussex-based artist Matthew Burrows, helping artists to continue working during the Covid-19 crisis. The project, launched on his Instagram page in March, 'was really a response to the current situation, a creative solution to how I might help myself but also friends and colleagues through this period, by utilising the generosity of the arts community.' The concept is simple: artists are invited to post pictures of their works for sale for £200 or less on Instagram using the hashtag #ArtistSupportPledge. Every time an artist makes £1,000 in sales they then pledge to contribute £200 back by purchasing the work of another artist using the hashtag. In the first week of its existence (the first post was on March 17) there were nearly 9,000 pledges and around £9m generated. To hear more about ASP [click here](#) and go to the podcast and click on interview.

Included in those selling artworks are some incredible North East based artists. Check out #ArtistSupportPledge on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and make your purchase.

-Alix, Art Curator

During lockdown, I have found myself going back to my creative roots. I started my career as an interior designer and I loved sketching and drawing for clients. I brought my pencils out a few weeks ago, and it's been the best thing I've done. I've drawn rooms, buildings, flowers and all sorts. I'm currently trying to teach myself to draw faces, that isn't working very well at the moment but I'm enjoying myself.

-Katie, Exhibition Assistant



When I heard Grayson Perry was starting his own Art Club I knew I had to join. This 6 part 'masterclass' started on Thursday 16th April, 6pm on channel 4 streamed straight from Perry's studio. The first weeks theme is portraiture, you can upload your own portrait for art club [here](#). I have submitted a portrait of my new office mate... my cat.

- Emily, Project Officer



If you have any isolation art recommendations or photos of what you have been creating, we would love to feature them in our next Art Circle Newsletter. Email us at art.collection@durham.ac.uk

What are ICAN (Inter-College Art Network) up to?

ICAN is a student led art group, bringing together Durham University's College Art Societies to help network and promote events and ongoing ideas.

Durham University Art Society (DUAS) are running art challenges that you can do from home!

You can follow them on their instagram page [@duartsoc](#) or on their [facebook page](#).



© Jo Stanness (born UK, 1979)

Apollo Pavilion, 2018/19.

Collage and acrylic paint on paper, Durham University Collection

Spotlight on Jo Stanness

[#PushingPaper](#) artist Jo Stanness often uses the brutalist and modernist architecture of the North-East as a central element in her work. Dunelm House and Apollo Pavilion from Durham University's art collection are architectural cut-outs, part of a series of works the artist began in 2015.

'Architecture can slice through and divide up physical space; I am interested in using images of structures or elements of buildings as a catalyst for the division of pictorial space.'

In this work she followed one simple self-imposed rule;

'I only follow or extend lines and angles which already exist within the photographic image.'

Using this method, Stanness relates the physicality of architecture to three-dimensional drawing in the landscape.

Thank you for subscribing to our mailing list, keep a look out for our monthly updates. If you ever want to get in touch with us directly you can email us at: artcollection@durham.ac.uk

Until next time,

The Art Circle
(Alix, Emily and Katie)



You can follow us on:

