

LGBTQ special event: Love throughout history

Friday 12 February 2016, 18.30–20.30

Free, just drop in

Part of LGBT History Month



Marble heads from statues of the Roman emperor Hadrian (r. AD 117–138) and his lover Antinous.

Forbidden passion and historical gossip

18.30–18.45, Great Court

19.15–20.30, throughout the galleries

Artist duo Wrench & Franks introduce the evening with songs and historical tidbits, then set off on a pop-up promenade tour of LGBTQ objects in the Museum's collection.

The Fourth Choir

18.50 & 20.00, Great Court

The Fourth Choir is an LGBTQ-friendly choir which specialises in unaccompanied classical music. Founded two years ago, the choir has sung at the Royal Festival Hall, the Hackney Empire, Café de Paris and on BBC2's Newsnight.

Open Box photo workshop

18.00–19.00 & 19.30–20.00, Great Court

In Greek, Roman, African, Buddhist, Chinese and Hindu mythologies there are many examples of spirits and deities associated with homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender. This workshop celebrates unity by inviting you to take a photo with a friend and have your identities merged together. By Marta Barina, Ruby Wroe and Harry Walker from University of the Arts London Students' Union.

Love is...

18.30–20.30, Great Court

Join Mina Bach and Vera Reshto, artists from the University of the Arts London Students' Union, in a workshop discussing what love is, inspired by the work and personal life of artists Hedwig Marquardt and Augusta Kaiser. Make your own postcard from rainbow screenprinted samples to send to your loved one or to put in our love post box to become part of an online collection at loveis_somethingelse.com

Colouring in

18.30–20.30, Great Court

Join the University of the Arts London Students' Union Creative Ambassadors for a relaxing and insightful session of adult colouring in. The colours will represent the colours of the rainbow flag commonly used during gay pride – a symbol of LGBTQ social movements. Find out how these colours relate to the deities Ishtar and Shiva, who transcend and cross genders.

LGBTQ project with Acland Burghley School

18.00–20.30, Great Court

Working with artist Chloe Cooper and health and wellbeing charity Brook, students from Acland Burghley School in Camden have been exploring LGBTQ-themed objects across the Museum's collection over a two-day project. The artwork they have made in response to their discussions and workshops will be on display in the Great Court.

The LGBTQ Museum

18.30–20.30, Great Court

Join British Museum staff to chat about the LGBTQ themes, stories and people you would like to see at the Museum. Help develop ideas for future programmes and displays, take part in activities and make your voice heard. At 19.30, John Vincent will be available to talk about his book *LGBT People and the UK Cultural Sector* giving an insight into the response of Libraries, Museums, Archives and Heritage to LGBTQ histories since 1950.

What makes an object gay?

19.00, meet at the Information Desk in the Great Court, limited numbers
Discover what the community can offer the professionals in the interpretations of our queer histories. Join Nigel Harris Director of Camden LGBT Forum on a tour around the collection as he reinterprets some of the objects in the British Museum's LGBT trail.

Repeopling archives

18.40–19.10, 19.20–19.50 & 20.00–20.30, Room 1
Taking as a starting point a letter from an exiled collector, hear about how to follow a trail and rediscover the people behind collections. With London Met Archives and Clare Summerskill, outreach oral historian on LMA's Speak Out project, speaking about her work addressing issues of LGBTQ-specific interviewing process.

Men loving men in ancient Egypt

19.15–20.00, Room 61
Professor Richard Parkinson, University of Oxford and former Assistant Keeper in the Museum's Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, specialises in the interpretation of ancient Egyptian poetry and is author of *A Little Gay History* which explores LGBTQ histories across the world through British Museum objects. Richard will discuss the difficulties of reading ancient objects and archaeology when looking for LGBTQ histories, with a focus upon the differing interpretations of the monumental stela of Hor and Suty from around 1375 BC.

The Piccadilly Suitcase Dancers

19.15–20.00, Room 23
This artwork by Wrench & Franks is a mechanical cabaret in a suitcase showing dancers in Piccadilly Circus – a popular gay meeting point since its beginnings.

Desire in the Museum: drawing class

18.30–20.30, Room 18, limited seating
In the 19th century, classical statuary allowed people to view the naked human form in a respectable way – visits to museums were an opportunity to gaze upon the human form irrespective of the gender of the viewer or the statue being viewed. In this drawing class, gaze at and draw from Greek and Roman sculpture celebrating and idealising the human form with artist Mary Herbert.

Collective quilt workshop

18.30–20.30, Room 33, limited seating
Taking inspiration from a beautiful quilt made by Pakistani trans people, this interactive installation uncovers untold histories of South Asian transgender people. Decorate a square of fabric with a message of solidarity and love to the trans communities in South Asia. With Gendered Intelligence.

Love poetry workshop

18.30–20.30, Rooms 55 & 56, limited seating
Homosocial or homosexual? Friends or lovers? Inspired by the relationship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu in the ancient Mesopotamian *Epic of Gilgamesh*, come and write a love poem. With Untold London and Jonathan Taylor, Curator of Cuneiform Collections at the British Museum.

Food and drink

Food and drink will be available to buy through the evening from the bar on the south side of the Great Court.