

Review

2018

Ganesha, 12th century

India's global contacts were explored in a collaborative exhibition in Mumbai and Delhi. BM loans to *India and the world* included this Javanese sculpture of the Hindu deity Ganesha. (Height 62 cm)





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Guardian lion-dog, 2015

Lion-dogs guard homes and temples in Japan. This contemporary example by Matsumoto Satoru and Komatsu Miwa featured in the BM exhibition, *Living with gods*. (Height 31 cm)

Visits to the BM

A family examines pottery of the 2nd to 4th century AD in the Weston Gallery of Roman Britain. The BM was the UK's leading visitor attraction in 2017.

Exciting exhibitions and events in 2017/18 have once again shown the British Museum to be a place of cultural adventure. As the UK's top visitor attraction – with 5.9m visitors in 2017 – the BM not only has the outstanding permanent collection to draw people, but lively programmes tailored to different groups – from political debates to our playful activities for under-fives, encouraging them to start early as friends and fans of the BM.

The BM is an inspiring hive of activity. Visitors pour through the Great Court, often unaware that around them are events for community groups and visitors with special needs, and thousands of young people drawing artefacts, following guided tours or comparing different cultures from around the world. Those activities change all the time, and increasingly use technology to engage with the past in ways familiar to everyone under 18. Over 320,000 students booked school visits at the BM last year, with many more arriving on informal teacher-led trips. This rich strand of activity was honoured in 2017/18 when the BM received awards for Best Digital Museum Experience, and Best Museum Visit for Schools.

Our digital audience grows larger every year. When the BM posted a video about Hokusai's celebrated print, *The Great Wave*, 3.7m people watched it on Facebook. Digitally we have re-created ancient Maya monuments and brought together 24,000 images of hand-drawn rock art from 20 African countries. As a means of sharing culture and an understanding of the world, the BM online achieves a powerful impact.

When I arrived at the BM, I was impressed at how extensive its public engagement is. From youth volunteers in London to advising early-career trainees across the UK, BM activities uphold a clear purpose for the public good now and in the future. Internationally too we strive to create long-term benefits – training archaeologists in Iraq to preserve heritage at risk and running an International Training Programme for colleagues from across the globe. The purpose is to share who we are and what we know with as many people as possible. The BM was founded as a public museum nearly three centuries ago and ever since has lived up to its core mission: culture is for everyone.

Hartwig Fischer
Director





The British Museum is approaching an important moment in its long history, with some big strategic decisions to be made. The Trustees' overriding priorities are to preserve and enhance the collection for the benefit of future generations in Bloomsbury, across the country and around the world.

The Government's welcome decision to make it possible for the BM, the Science Museum and the V&A to move large parts of their research collections from storage at Blythe House in West London provides a great opportunity to find a better home for these objects. Trustees set a number of criteria in deciding where to locate the Museum's new facilities. After careful study, the choice settled on Reading, where a happy collaboration with the University to develop the BM Archaeological Research Collection is now underway. The new building will provide excellent study and research space for scholars and students, and will provide much improved storage space for our objects.

At the same time, the Trustees have been supporting the Director and his colleagues as they develop their ideas for the future presentation of the collection in Bloomsbury. Our ambitious plans include a determination to give greater prominence to parts of the collection that at present are under-represented in the public display, such as South America, Oceania and Africa, and to highlight the connections between different cultures across the millennia. This is a long-term project, and will keep the BM at the forefront of the great museums in the world.

Jain and Buddhist figures

The new Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia includes displays on the region's religions. Visitors can see a 10th-century sculpture of a Jain *tirthankara* (top) from the Deccan in southern India and a 11th–12th century *bodhisattva* from China. (Heights 82 cm; 170 cm)

The building in Bloomsbury is one of our greatest assets, and is going to need significant investment to make it fit for purpose through the 21st century. The Trustees have major decisions to make about the priorities, with much to be done to improve the public galleries, visitor facilities, collection management and working conditions across the estate. They also have to support the continuing process of improving the permanent galleries for today's visitors. All this is against a backdrop of tough financial constraints.

A high point last year came when Her Majesty The Queen arrived to reopen the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia exactly 25 years after she did it for the first time. Once again, Sir Joseph's generosity has made these spectacular collections come alive for the public.

The Trustees extend their heartfelt thanks to all staff, volunteers and supporters whose hard work makes everything possible. The British Museum is a public good of inestimable value, and it depends on them.

Sir Richard Lambert
Chairman of the Trustees

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London

A year of awards

In 2017/18, the BM proudly received many awards for the broad spectrum of its work. They included Best Digital Museum Experience and Best School Visit, as well as honours for sponsorship, event cinema and academic research.

Britain's top attraction

In the past ten years, 61.3 million people visited the BM in London. It is the UK's top visitor attraction, with 5.9m visitors in 2017. The BM's social media audience is in the top three among museums worldwide, with 4.8m followers.

HM The Queen opens new BM gallery

The Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia opened in November 2017.

BM Archaeological Research Collection

With the University of Reading, the BM is creating a new collection storage and research facility in Berkshire.

Other worlds to London

Major exhibitions introduced visitors to the artist who created *The Great Wave*, Katsushika Hokusai, and nomadic tribesmen of the 1st millennium BC, the Scythians. The two shows attracted over 280,000 people.

On film and radio

A film on Hokusai was screened in 800 cinemas worldwide. *Living with the gods*, narrated by former BM Director Neil MacGregor, drew 3.5m weekly listeners on BBC Radio 4.

Addressing each community

Nearly 5,000 people attended free exhibition previews for community groups.

Young visitors

Over 320,000 children and young people booked school visits to the BM. Special programmes welcomed children with Special Educational Needs and from Supplementary Schools.

Digital approaches to material culture

In the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre, the Innovation Lab encourages young people to use technology to approach the collection. Since 2009, the SDDC has welcomed over 115,000 children, young people and families to explore the BM.

Earliest figurative tattoos discovered

Tattoos of horned animals, possibly bulls or sheep, were discovered on a 5,000-year-old Egyptian mummy at the BM.



Exceptional loans to BM exhibitions included this 40,000-year-old lion man sculpture made of mammoth ivory, borrowed from Museum Ulm in Germany for *Living with gods*. (Height 31 cm)

National

Ganesha on UK tour

Nationwide loans included a 13th-century sculpture of the Hindu god Ganesha, which has been seen by 620,000 people around Britain. Overall the BM loaned more than 2,500 objects to 126 UK venues in 2017/18.

Vikings take York

Viking: rediscover the legend combined 600 objects from York Museums Trust and the BM. The touring exhibition drew 70,000 people at its first venue, a 51% increase in attendance for the Yorkshire Museum.

Learning to arrange a museum loan

Successful training for national colleagues included a course on how to arrange a loan from another museum. The theme of the BM's annual conference for its national partners was how to foster more lending around the country.

Digital training

Under a new Skills for the Future programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the BM will train young people in museums across the UK in digital preservation.

Different voices

Object Journeys invited community groups to work with the BM collection and those of museums in Manchester, Leicester and Brighton. Participants created new displays on Kiribati culture, Pakistani textiles, global art and African clothing.

Public votes for best UK Treasure find

To mark the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Treasure Act, the *Telegraph* ran a competition for best UK Treasure find. The winner was the Frome Hoard, a Roman pot of over 52,000 coins found in Somerset in 2010.

Italian gold discovered in the West Midlands

Finds made by the public in 2017, and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, included a 14th-century gold coin from Genoa, discovered in the West Midlands. Over 1.3m UK finds can be accessed on the PAS database.

Ice Age island

Archaeological fieldwork undertaken with Southampton University, Jersey Heritage and University College London explored how humans on Jersey adapted to submerged landscapes.



A Viking strap-end with animal reliefs was one of 400 BM objects seen in the UK in *Viking: rediscover the legend*. The exhibition toured to York, Nottingham and Southport. (Height 9 cm)

International

Crossing continents

The BM loaned more than 2,200 objects to 81 venues outside the UK in 2017/18. They included African objects shown in Moscow in an exhibition on the Portuguese empire.

Exhibition in Mumbai and Delhi

A partnership with two museums in India, CSMVS and the National Museum, produced *India and the world: a history in nine stories*. The major exhibition, seen by 200,000 people in Mumbai, set India's long history in a global perspective. The BM created a special website to encourage wider engagement across India.

Partnerships in China

BM ties to China included a number of enormously successful exhibitions. *A History of the World in 100 Objects* drew huge audiences in Beijing and Shanghai. A record-breaking 850,000 people came to see ancient Egyptian mummies at the Hong Kong Science Museum.

Discoveries in Iraq

The BM is training colleagues in Iraq in Emergency Heritage Management. Fieldwork in the country has turned up astonishing discoveries, including a city associated with the Greek general Alexander the Great.

Thieves thwarted in Uzbekistan

Thieves desecrated an Islamic monument in Uzbekistan by chipping away a large 13th-century blue-glazed tile. When it came up for sale, the BM helped to identify the tile and arrange its return.

Archaeology for local people

Using 10 years' international fieldwork at Amara West in northern Sudan, the BM is reaching out to local people. A booklet for schools and a podcast are fostering awareness of the community's Nubian heritage.

Before Columbus

In the Caribbean, the BM El Corazon del Caribe Research Project held a field school on the Isla de Mona. Students from Puerto Rico and the UK excavated a pre-Columbian indigenous village.



At the Hong Kong Science Museum, 850,000 people visited a BM exhibition on ancient Egyptian mummies. Loans included this 2nd-century AD mummy portrait. (32 x 19 cm)

In the future

Islamic and Japanese galleries to open

The Albukhary Foundation Galleries of the Islamic World will open in October 2018. The displays encompass the art and material culture of the Islamic world from Africa to China. The Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries reopen in autumn 2018.

Meet the King of Assyria

From 668 BC, King Ashurbanipal ruled a vast empire from his capital at Nineveh in present-day Iraq. An exhibition at the BM in 2018 will explore ancient Assyria through his life and legacy.

Hans Sloane anatomised

The collection of Hans Sloane gave rise to the BM in the 18th century. Researchers are studying the catalogues he kept of his natural specimens, books and antiquities. Analysis of their structure and influence will be published, as will an online transcription of selected volumes.

Gallery partnership in Durham

At Auckland Castle in County Durham, where a new Faith Museum is due to open in 2019, a new gallery will feature over 80 objects from the BM collection.

Digital memory and museums

The BM will host a conference in September 2018 on the practice and policy of digital preservation in museums.

Objects that object

A three-part series presented by Ian Hislop on BBC Radio 4 looks at dissenting objects in the BM collection. The programmes will coincide with an exhibition on subversion and satire at the BM.

BM exhibitions abroad

In 2018, the BM will tour ancient Egyptian artefacts to Australia and Spain, luxury goods from ancient Babylon to Hong Kong and treasures from medieval Europe to Canada. *India and the World*, a collaboration with India's National Museum and CSMVS, travels to Delhi.

Applied science

Many materials in the BM collection such as bone and feathers contain protein. Using advances in biomedical research, the BM is analysing proteins to identify animal species. Future work includes sequencing protein molecules in the sinews used by the Alutiig in Alaska to make cord to understand the community's changing environment.



This gilded mosque lamp of c.1330, which comes from Egypt or Syria, is inscribed with the 'verse of light' (Qur'an 24:35). It will feature in the new Albukhary Foundation Galleries of the Islamic World. (Height 36 cm)

New gallery

HM The Queen and
Sir Joseph Hotung
examine the new
displays at the launch
of the gallery in
November 2017.



Dragon tiles, made 1480–1580

Highlights of the new
Sir Joseph Hotung
Gallery of China and
South Asia include a
set of Ming dynasty
roof tiles featuring blue
and yellow dragons
among lotuses,
donated by Sir Joseph
Hotung. (39 x 244 cm)



Collection

The BM collection tells the many stories of humankind. New galleries and acquisitions ensure the history the BM presents is current and relevant to audiences today

Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia opens

The Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia was officially opened by HM The Queen in November 2017. The refurbishment was made possible by a generous donation from The Sir Joseph Hotung Charitable Settlement.

As visitors walk in, they encounter the story of China and South Asia through a magnificent set of auspicious sculptures and vessels – Ming dynasty dragon tiles, a smiling Budai and Ganesha. Throughout the gallery are outstanding Chinese artefacts of jade, porcelain and bronze, as well as paintings and textiles. Together they narrate the region's history from 5000 BC to the present.

The chronology of South Asia begins with a stone tool made 1.5 million years ago. Artefacts of the early Indus Valley civilisation include stamp seals figured with animals and a mysterious script that remains undeciphered. Objects celebrating

the multiple religious traditions of South Asia — Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Muslim and Christian — include a 1,000-year-old bronze of the god Shiva dancing in a ring of flame. At the west end are the celebrated sculptures from the Buddhist shrine at Amaravati in south-east India. Both the Asahi Shimbun Gallery of Amaravati Sculptures and the Selwyn and Ellie Alleyne Gallery of Chinese Jade were renewed as part of the new suite of galleries.

The Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia emphasises the connections among its regional stories: in art and technology, through trade and travel, from Sri Lanka to Nepal, Pakistan to China. Advanced conservation monitoring now permits the display of fragile textiles and paintings that the BM was unable to show previously. The stories of China and South Asia are also, for the first time, carried through to the 21st century, with changing displays of photographs, installations and sculptures showcasing their vibrant cultures today. *The Times* called the gallery a 'magnificent space'.



New collections storage

With the University of Reading, the BM is constructing a new collections storage and research facility in Berkshire.

Night Bloom II, 2000

Contemporary acquisitions included this ceramic sculpture by Indian artist Mrinalini Mukherjee. (Height 110 cm)

Samurai armour, 18th century

A newly acquired suit of Samurai armour is undergoing conservation prior to its display in the Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries, which reopen in September 2018. (Height 150 cm)

Gallery improvements

The BM masterplan for the building aims to create for visitors a more coherent journey among cultures, showing both their distinctness and how they intersect. Media coverage of the BM's long-term plans for the building was extensive in 2017, including the prospect of using the former Reading Room as a gallery space at the heart of the Museum.

Two major projects will open in late 2018. The Albukhary Foundation Galleries of the Islamic World entered its final design phase, with installation and interpretation underway for the official launch scheduled for October. The Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries, closed from January 2018 for a major refurbishment, will also reopen in the autumn. Other gallery renewals included Room 46 (Europe 1400–1800). With new displays on topics such as Jewish communities in Europe and the Huguenots in London, the gallery reopened in spring 2018.

New research facility

In November 2017, the BM announced the creation of the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection, a major new collection storage and research facility. The building will be developed as part of an exciting partnership with the University of Reading to provide improved access to the collection for scholars, students and the public through study rooms and a loans centre. The new development, which will be sited in the Borough of Wokingham in Berkshire, will house many artefacts from the BM's international collection: ancient sculpture, mosaics, archaeological assemblages and historical plaster casts. It will be an integral part of the BM's focus on global research. Many of the objects will move from Blythe House in London, which the BM, Science Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum must vacate by 2023. Government funding of £150m has been allocated to the three museums to enable the move.



Recent acquisitions

The collection continued to develop through donations and purchases. In response to the rapid rise of digital culture, the BM has been framing a collecting protocol for digital assets.

Recent acquisitions could be seen in the galleries. Two dramatic Moko Jumbie figures by Zac Ove became the first contemporary Caribbean works displayed in the Sainsbury Africa Galleries. *Night Bloom II* by Mrinalini Mukherjee was purchased with support from the Art Fund and a contribution from the Wolfson Foundation. The ceramic sculpture was one of several contemporary works featured in the newly opened Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia.

The year's outstanding gift was the donation of 550 Chinese ivories, dating from the 2nd millennium BC to the 20th century. Assembled by Sir Victor Sassoon, the collection was generously donated by the Victor Sassoon Chinese Ivories Trust, along with an endowment for its preservation. The ivories were created for the Chinese domestic market and for export. They include sewing boxes, brush pots, wrist rests, table screens and figurines of deities and immortals associated with Buddhism and Daoism.



Conserving love potions and Samurai armour

Conservation projects ensured the long-term care of objects across the collection. Scottish traveller Robert Hay acquired a book of spells in Egypt in the 19th century. Written in Coptic in the 6th or 7th century AD, the 'Hay cookbook' contains lists of ingredients for magical and medicinal purposes, alongside invocations for protection and assistance in the pursuit of love and profit. Now darkened with age, the texts are largely illegible, and no standard conservation and mounting solution currently exists for this type of damage. The BM is applying a range of approaches to reverse old treatments, make more subtle joins and remount the inked leather skins. The extensive conservation is linked to a research project to translate and re-evaluate the text.

Across the BM, the collection monitoring system of over 700 sensors is now web-based, communicating changes of condition immediately to staff. Major conservation projects also included stabilisation of the lacquer-coated iron, silk and leather of a suit of Edo period armour. Its progress is being shown on social media and the Samurai armour, purchased through the JTI Japanese Acquisition Fund, will feature in the renewed Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries, due to reopen in September 2018.



Exhibitions

The popular exhibitions programme combines international loans with the BM collection to shine a light on individual cultures and times

Making waves with Hokusai

Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave, supported by Mitsubishi Corporation, drew sell-out audiences and outstanding reviews. ‘Nothing visible or invisible is beyond his art’s reach,’ said the *Observer* of the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. ‘Rivers flow like watered silk . . . The technical mastery of the woodblock print . . . simply amazes.’

This major exhibition focused on the works Hokusai made after the age of 60. Paintings, drawings, woodblock prints and illustrated books explored the last 30 years of his career – from his famous series of prints of 1831–3 showing views of Mount Fuji to remarkable depictions of dragons and lion dancers, poets and heroes. Many of the paintings had never been shown in the UK. Unusual loans included two ceiling panels which Hokusai painted with foaming waves, loaned by Kanmachi Neighbourhood Council in Obuse.

The exhibition, attended by 150,000 people, drew extensively on the research and scholarly

exchange of a three-year collaboration with the School of Oriental and African Studies, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Co-curated with the Abeno Harukas Art Museum in Osaka, the exhibition drew 266,000 visitors when shown in Japan later in the year.

Hokusai on film

The new scholarship on Hokusai found a platform in a highly successful film produced by the BM with NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and acquired by the BBC. The documentary movingly revealed the extremes of Hokusai’s long life – his success and poverty, his complete daily dedication to his art.

On 4 June 2017, *Hokusai* was screened in cinemas across the UK with an introduction by BM Director Hartwig Fischer and a tour through the exhibition, with commentary from artists such as David Hockney and Maggi Hambling. A version for television later aired on BBC4. The *Sunday Times* praised the film as ‘a surprisingly emotional study of this Japanese artist’s life and work’. The *Observer* called it ‘a true delight’. It has since been shown in 800 cinemas worldwide from Colombia to China, is being distributed on TV and other digital platforms, and is also available on DVD from the BM shop. When broadcast in

Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave

A major exhibition on the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai explored the last 30 years of his career. This colour woodblock print of 1831 depicts Mount Fuji. (26 x 38 cm)



Terror mask, 20th century

During initiation rites for Pende boys in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a man wearing a palm-fibre terror mask guards the camp from 'women and nosy people'. The mask featured in the exhibition *Living with gods*. (Height 50 cm)

Japan to coincide with the Hokusai exhibition in Osaka, 1.8m people watched the transmission. The film won Best Museum Event Screening at the international Mallorca Arts on Screen festival.

Warriors from Scythian lands

The BP exhibition *Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia* unearthed a culture most visitors knew little about. Organised with the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg and supported by BP, the exhibition delved into the lives of the Scythian tribes who roamed from the Black Sea to northern China from 900 to 200 BC.

The astounding finds created what the *Telegraph* called a 'thrilling gallop back in time'. Burial mounds preserved saddle covers and furlined garments, weapons and armour, cooking pots and wooden bowls. Exquisite decorations wrought of gold, depicted archers and horsemen, goats, boars and fabulous creatures. Bodies survived too with embalmed heads and tattooed skins, as did the remains of hemp used in smoking rituals during which the Scythians, according to the historian Herodotus, 'howled with pleasure'.

The exhibition, seen by 132,000 people, captured a world and its wider contacts with the ancient Assyrians, Greeks and Persians. As *The Times* concluded, '*Scythians* is exactly the sort of

show the British Museum does best . . . It brings a lost – and in this case relatively little known – culture to vivid life as you look.'

Beliefs and their communities

Living with gods: peoples, places and worlds beyond examined how human beings have tried to make sense of a life beyond their material existence. The exhibition was supported by the Genesis Foundation, with grateful thanks to John Studzinski CBE.

The opening display was a 40,000-year-old Ice Age sculpture, the powerful Lion Man carved from the tusk of a mammoth. The final works were attempts to comprehend loss in our own time – two T-shirts worn by Syrian children drowned at sea and the Lampedusa Cross, a crucifix made of the shattered remains of a sunken refugee boat. In between were moving, often surprising explorations of faiths and atheism, spiritual conduits and objects of contemplation. They expressed the human need for belief and how shared creeds help to build social groups around the world. As the *Financial Times* concluded, the objects 'impress on the observer the need for greater understanding and greater generosity towards ideas and beliefs that may not be immediately familiar'.



Scythian gold

Rare objects from the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg were displayed in the BP exhibition *Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia*. This plaque of a Scythian horseman and belt buckle showing figures under a tree were made between the 5th and 3rd century BC. (Lengths 5 cm; 16 cm)





LGBTQ tours and displays

Campaigns for LGBTQ rights were highlighted in *Desire, love, identity*, marking 50 years since the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales. (Diameter 4 cm)



Chinese banknote, dated 1980

The currency of communism marked the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. This 50-yuan note features a scientist or intellectual, a farmer and a steel worker. (8 x 16 cm)

The exhibition was linked to a 30-part radio series, a collaboration between the BM and BBC Radio 4. Former BM Director Neil MacGregor compared places and practices, architectures and artefacts, to create a portrait of how belief, often treated as a cause of division, creates communities. Each programme brought together different cultures: their symbolic treatment of fire or water, the meaning of pilgrimage or prayer, the effect of having one god or many. Each week 3.5m listeners tuned in, and by March 2018, there were 1.2m downloads of the podcasts worldwide. A book based on the series is being published by Penguin.

Political demonstrations

Desire, love, identity: exploring LGBTQ histories marked 50 years since the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales. Supported by Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald, the exhibition was seen by more than 166,000 people. The story began in 9000 BC and moved across the world, taking in Sappho and Hadrian, two 'Ladies of Llangollen' who set up home in Wales in 1780, and campaigning badges today. A popular trail through the main galleries, developed by staff across the BM, also highlighted LGBTQ histories, from ancient Mesopotamia to modern Africa.

Charmed lives in Greece

An exhibition on the Anglo-Greek friendship of Niko Ghika, John Craxton and Patrick Leigh Fermor included Ghika's 1948 oil painting, *Chairs and tables by the sea*. (21 x 28 cm)



The currency of communism marked the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Banknotes, posters, coins and medals featured striking images of progress and the need to struggle for a socialist future – a Yugoslav foundry worker; a Somali woman holding a baby, a shovel and a gun. The displays were the fascinating outcome of a designated collecting scheme on the topic, supported by the Art Fund.

Impressions of the world

The BM has one of the largest print collections in the world. *The business of prints*, supported by the Eyre Family Foundation, examined the importance of prints from the 1400s until the advent of photography in the 1850s. Celebrated works by Dürer, Rembrandt and Goya were shown alongside lesser-known examples to create a portrait of how prints were produced, used and collected. What visitors could see was not just an art form, but evidence of a highly successful trade.

In the mid-20th century, Greece inspired creativity and friendship among the artists Niko Ghika and John Craxton and the writer Patrick Leigh Fermor. *Charmed lives in Greece: Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor*, supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, charted their encounters in Corfu, Crete and beyond through paintings, drawings and letters. Organised with the A.G. Leventis



“Our histories are glorious and painful and intertwined and surprising. Now more than ever, we need to understand them all.”

Playwright and BM Trustee Patricia Cumper blogging on Black History Month at the BM

**General Toussaint
Louverture, 1986**

Objects evoking the legacy of the Haitian revolution (1791–1804) included a vodou drum and this portrait by African-American artist Jacob Lawrence. (72 x 47 cm)

Gallery in collaboration with the Benaki Museum and the Craxton Estate, the displays captured a particular moment of Anglo-Greek collaboration.

The many displays across the BM included *Living histories*, which presented artists’ responses to contemporary conditions in Syria and the Middle East. *Pots with attitude*, supported by the Monument Trust, showed the close relationship between satirical prints and transfer-printed ceramics in Georgian England. A linked study day in February 2018 looked at ‘Pots, prints and politics: ceramics with an agenda’.

The Asahi Shimbun Displays

The Asahi Shimbun Display *Japanese woodblock printing: a craft of precision* complemented the BM’s major exhibition on the artist Hokusai. Showing the tools and techniques used in preparatory drawing, cutting and printing colours, the display explained how each unique print is achieved.

Virtual pilgrimage brought to life an inscription from the 2,000-year-old Great Shrine of Amaravati. The display used technology developed in partnership with Google’s Creative Lab in Sydney. Via a wifi link, visitors could bring to life pilgrims to the Buddhist shrine. A monk and nun, a perfumer and disciple told their stories, prompted by interaction with a visitor’s smartphone.

Digital technology also featured in *On violence and beauty*. Next to depictions of war from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece, a video by Iranian artist Farideh Lashai used a beam of moving light to respond to Goya’s celebrated series of prints, *The disasters of war*.

A revolutionary legacy examined the leader Toussaint Louverture and the consequences of the Haitian revolution in 1791–1804. Its centrepiece was a Haitian Vodou drum, put on display for the first time.

The Asahi Shimbun Displays are supported by the Asahi Shimbun.



Learning and events

Public events and education programmes draw audiences of all ages. Work with community groups creates new paths into the BM

A forum for culture

The BM events programme draws on the cultural diversity of the collection. For the Shubbak Festival of Arab Culture, talks, displays and activities included installations in the Great Court. The works were moving responses to the difficulty of making art in times of conflict. The Interfaith Music Festival, in association with Faiths in Tune, brought together 30 faith groups in May 2017 to perform and respond to objects in the collection. The festival returned in 2018 as part of musical events supporting the exhibition, *Living with gods*.

The ageless enchantment of storytelling attracted sell-out audiences to the monthly Myths Retold. Subjects included the Ramayana, Beowulf and the West African story of the King and the Corpse. With the Royal Shakespeare Company, the BM presented a sold-out panel discussion of Ovid in Shakespeare, with Greg Doran and readings by RSC actors. Friday Lates incorporated film screenings, music and, to evoke



the Scythians, Siberian-themed food and drink. A flash-mob opera, *The Scythians*, attracted 500 visitors. It was, said the *Telegraph*, 'brilliantly clever and irresistibly funny'.

Popular history talks included Dan Snow interviewing curators 'live from the BM' for his History Hit podcast. A lecture by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch marked 500 years since the Reformation. For Black History Month, journalist Reni Eddo-Lodge discussed black history and heritage in museums. With FT Weekend and the British Academy, the BM hosted a panel, chaired by BBC correspondent Martin Bashir, to discuss whether religion can be separated from politics. A debate in collaboration with the Royal Society invited neuroscientist Professor Colin Blakemore and others to examine the science behind belief. Topical lectures organised with the London Review of Books included novelist Anne Enright on blame and Professor Linda Colley on history's relevance.

Children and families

Activities for young people encourage enjoyment of the BM from an early age. Major exhibitions featured special 'family' labels, collaborative art constructions in the Great Court and events tailored to children under five, including tours focused on sight, touch and sound.



Museum for all

The BM works with its local community in many ways. A dance project with older adults from community centres in Camden led to a performance in the Great Court.

Art workshops were especially successful – making Japanese prints, or badges like those that once adorned Scythian saddlery. As one parent wrote, ‘It’s truly fantastic to sit in this wonderful building watching my kids focus on making such wonderful craft activities. They were totally engrossed!’

For the opening of the new Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia, a family ‘housewarming’ was held in December 2017. Children listened to stories from China and India, explored different colours of jade, and made paper flowers inspired by the outstanding objects on display.

Award-winning schools programmes

At the School Travel Awards, host Fiona Bruce awarded the BM ‘Best Museum Visit’ for 2017. The awards, voted for by schoolteachers, honour learning that takes place outside the classroom.

The BM welcomed over 320,000 pupils through booked school visits. School events included free morning visits to major exhibitions reserved for teachers and pupils. Teachers could download free resources from the BM website on topics such as Citizenship and Art & Design, along with suggestions for pupil activities. Students from Swiss Cottage School in Camden, after visiting the BP exhibition *Scythians:*

warriors of ancient Siberia, attended workshops to consider the period 900 to 200 BC and how museum visitors inform themselves about history in exhibitions. The group then put their learning into action: spending a day at the BM working as part of the Visitor Services team and talking to the public. Empowering young people also lay behind TakeOver day. Local students helped teach a schools session in the Citi Money Gallery, and learned about museum communications and conservation.

The Citi Money Gallery Education Programme, supported by Citi, was a finalist at the UK Sponsorship Awards 2017 for Education and Learning Sponsorship. The gallery’s innovative programming includes a series of online videos to help teachers introduce to the classroom topics such as the economy or credit and debit.

Community access

The BM develops activities with community partners that address specific interests and needs. For its ‘touch tour’ of ancient Egyptian sculpture, the BM was awarded a Discover Heritage Award in 2017. Visually impaired and blind visitors can explore Egyptian sculptures through touch, with interpretation available in large-print, Braille and audio formats. The tours

“What an incredible experience... Because the guides took time to describe each item in great detail, I felt like I could ‘see’ each statue.”

Visitor Shannon Stapp on the BM's touch tour of ancient Egyptian sculpture

Digital approaches

Children and young people increasingly explore the collection with hand-held technology, accessing information, interviews and tours.

can be self-guided or booked with a trained volunteer guide.

‘Sketches under the Wave’ invited older adults from local community centres to work with dancers and a koto-player. Over two months, they created a dance celebrating Hokusai, eventually performing the work in the Great Court in July 2017.

Outreach visits to community venues are important for those unable to visit. A group leader from Camden Carers Centre wrote of an off-site object-handling session, ‘To see these objects up close was amazing. One gentleman who doesn’t leave the house very often could not believe he had the chance to look at them.’

Free community previews and evening views welcomed several hundred groups to see the special exhibitions, from homeless charities to refugee support groups: nearly 5,000 people attended.



Digital

Digital access and social media are creating a truly global BM with a collection that can be enjoyed by anyone across the world

Digital working

Digital media continue to open exciting new channels for the BM. Anyone anywhere in the world can now access over 4 million objects from the BM collection online. Information about the artefacts and the world cultures they represent has found popular new platforms: images transmitted via Twitter and Instagram, and videos on Facebook and YouTube reach vast audiences never before so easily accessed. It is new conversation in which the public and museum staff engage one another, generate debate and share ideas.

The BM's national programmes support diverse digital outcomes. National training videos are posted online. Websites such as the Portable Antiquities Scheme share the latest UK discoveries and research. From 2018, a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will fund a new Skills for the Future programme to enable the BM to train colleagues at institutions in the UK in essential digital heritage skills.



Internationally the BM supports wider digital access to culture. With partners in India an exhibition website on India's global connections in the past was designed. In China, the BM is now present on several social media platforms. International research has benefited enormously, with major digital collaborations on collections such as African rock art. The BM's ResearchSpace initiative, for which the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation renewed its support, is working to provide a semantic web platform that links multiple online sources for researchers around the world.

Samsung Digital Discovery Centre

At the heart of the BM experience for young people is the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre (SDDC), sponsored by Samsung. Its wide-ranging programmes and audiences – from under-fives to teens – led to the BM winning the 2017 Leading Cultural Destinations Award for Best Digital Museum Experience.

Over 115,000 children, young people and families have visited the Centre since it opened in 2009. Schools in particular have increasingly used SDDC technology for their museum trips, with 14,000 visits booked in 2017/18. Using Samsung Galaxy tablets, students can, for example, study life in prehistoric Britain, ancient

Greece or the Shang dynasty during their BM visit. Virtual visits are also available across the UK, via a two-way broadcast directly to the school.

SDDC weekend events enable the BM to run one of the UK's busiest museum programmes for families throughout the year. Children and their parents and guardians can journey into the collection by making a Japanese manga comic, building Roman Britain in Minecraft or exploring the beauty of Islamic patterns.

New directions in 2017/18 included the Innovation Lab, which trialled different approaches to the collection. *Get your tech on!* was a monthly weekend at which visitors wearing Samsung Gear S2 watches explored the galleries by playing the family games Emoji Match, Puzzle Pieces and Keep Marching.

Nearly 1,000 visitors participated in the Samsung Great Court Games. Families borrowed Galaxy tablets and mobiles to solve challenges and follow trails that led them to unexpected corners of the BM. The November edition, which featured TV baker and builder Richard Burr and his family, was streamed on Instagram Live.

Rediscovering the Maya

By scanning fieldwork notebooks and photographs, the BM has been able to re-create digitally ancient Maya monuments such as this stela (right), recorded by Alfred Maudslay in Guatemala in the 1880s.



Technology and the galleries

The newly renovated Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia brought an important opportunity to integrate digital interpretation in the permanent space. New audio guide stops and audio points have been added. Visitors to the gallery can watch three new films: a reconstruction of the Amaravati Stupa, a selection of clips about 20-century India and the animation of a Chinese painting. The animation highlights the layered technique used by the artist to create immersive landscapes, and invites the visitor to explore details not easily seen with the naked eye. Shared on Facebook, the film attracted 2.3m views and 28,000 comments.

The Egyptian Sculpture Gallery, and the Roxie Walker Galleries of Funerary Archaeology can now be experienced in Virtual Reality. Anyone with a mobile or computer, or for full immersion a Samsung VR headset, can launch the 360-degree interactive experience, produced by the BM and Oculus. Users can move through the rooms, examine ancient sculptures and mummies, hear a curator and pull up information.

Basking in a digital light

Taking the collection online has prompted innovative thinking about the wider appeal of museum artefacts. On Sketchfab anyone can zoom in and study high-resolution 3D scans of 240 BM objects, from Japanese netsuke to an Ethiopian brass head. There have been nearly one million views of the online 3D images. A prominent addition in 2017/18 was a scan (made with the help of Factum Foundation) of a 3,500-year-old Syrian refugee. The statue of Idrimi, covered in script from head to foot, is one of the world's most important cuneiform documents. It tells a compelling story of his political exile from Aleppo and his later military campaigns.

Scholarship is closely allied to the projects' aims. Google Arts and Culture have been working with the BM to digitise Alfred Maudslay's collection of architectural plaster casts. Maudslay, an archaeological pioneer, made them as he travelled through Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala in the 1880s and 90s. These are the first, and often the only, records of ancient Maya monuments, some of which have deteriorated or no longer survive. Scanned along with Maudslay's notebooks and photographs of the ancient sites, the casts can now be seen online by the public ([g.co/BritishMuseumMaya](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/maudslay)).



Scholars are using the detailed reproductions to decipher inscriptions and piece together fragments. As the *Guardian* put it, the Maudslay records ‘represent some of the world’s best preserved imagery of the Mayan monuments’.

Communicating online

On social media, the BM has acquired 4.8m followers, a growth of 34% over the previous year. The BM scores highest among its global peer group for interactions on Twitter and Facebook: followers engaging with online content by responding to, liking or sharing posts. Most popular on the BM’s social media in 2017/18 were images of Japanese prints. A BM video on Hokusai’s *The Great Wave*, posted in June 2017, received over 3.7m views.

Three broadcasts on Facebook Live drew in viewers from 89 countries. Curators responded in real time to questions on Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age objects. Other popular videos published on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram included two videos on contemporary Japanese porcelain, supported by JTI, and YouTuber Tom Scott playing the 4,500-year-old Royal Game of Ur with a BM curator.

The BM is also collaborating with the Alan Turing Institute on a groundbreaking

The Great Wave online

On social media, the BM has enormous reach worldwide. A video on Hokusai’s celebrated image, *The Great Wave*, received over 3.7m views.



study of TripAdvisor review data to better understand the visitor experience.

On the ‘Curator’s Corner’ of the BM blog, experts introduced a 17th-century night clock, Islamic astrolabes and the Rosetta Stone. Comedian Iszi Lawrence interviewed historians and conservators for the monthly Membership podcast. Articles about the exhibitions proved extremely popular, with posts introducing the Scythians and the Lion-Man sculpture attracting tens of thousands of readers.

For a growing Chinese audience, the BM is reworking its Mandarin website, sponsored by UnionPay. Accessible from the BM homepage, the site will feature a new design, collection highlights and visitor information. The BM also launched accounts on Chinese microblogging platform Weibo and social media app WeChat.

Rock art from Libya

These painted figures, possibly 8,000 to 10,000 years old, were photographed in the Acacus mountains of Libya. Nearly 24,000 images from across Africa are documented on a website devoted to rock art.

Shield from Australia

Research collaborations included a focused study of this 18th-19th-century Indigenous Australian shield. (Length 97 cm)





Research

Scholarship and scientific research shape the collection's future meanings for audiences

Australia and its collections

Research on the BM's world collection involves collaboration around the globe. Working with the Australian National University, University of Western Australia and Deakin University, researchers at the BM are re-examining British collections from Australia, with support from the Australian Research Council. Three PhD students enrolled at Royal Holloway University of London are also being co-supervised to research Australian collections.

In 2017, the BM hosted a knowledge exchange event in relation to Western Australian collections in Britain. The BM also held a colloquium with Indigenous Australian community members, curators and historians to examine what we know about a shield possibly gathered by Captain Cook on his first voyage to Botany Bay in 1770. The results were published in February 2018. Work is continuing to identify significant Indigenous Australian collections in regional museums in Britain and Ireland.

Ancient Egyptian tattoos discovered

From *National Geographic* to *Newsweek*, the world's interest was captured by the discovery of several tattoos on two 5,000-year-old Egyptian mummies. Using infrared photography, scientists learned that what looked like dark smudges on the arm of a man from Gebelein in Upper Egypt (40km south of modern-day Luxor) turned out to be horned animals, possibly a wild bull and Barbary sheep. These are the oldest figural tattoos in the world. Study of a woman found at Gebelein revealed the world's earliest example of female tattooing, a series of S-shapes on her shoulder and a linear motif on her arm similar to those on painted ceramics. The discoveries, published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, push back the date for tattooing in Africa by a millennium.

Studying Africa's rock art

The African Rock Art Image Project, supported by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, completed its fifth and final year in 2017. The BM has documented nearly 24,000 images from the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA) and made them available on a dedicated website (africanrockart.britishmuseum.org). Drawn from 20 African countries, the images are a powerful record of Africa's history,



Science and display

A BM scientist studies a brass ewer of AD 1232, prior to its display in the forthcoming Albukhary Foundation Galleries of the Islamic World.

extending back to the hunter-gatherer ancestors of the San/Bushmen 30,000 years ago.

The project has widened global access to this important story. The website has been designed for ease of use in areas of low bandwidth, as is the case with many of the contributing regions, and on mobile platforms. To engage both scholars and the public with the African context for these images, there are videos and VR tours, as well as 3D scans. Public awareness has been raised through social media; teaching rock art at universities in Oxford, London and elsewhere; and community programming with Somali and other diaspora communities.

BM research in Africa is wide-ranging. Active projects include fieldwork in Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

The science of objects

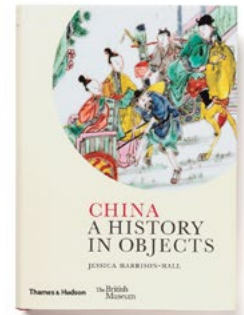
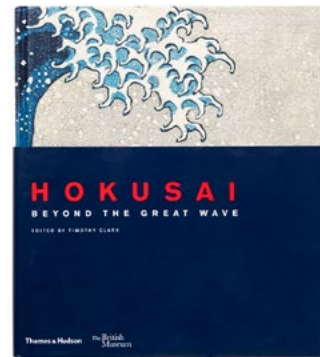
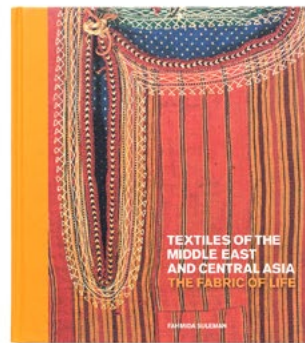
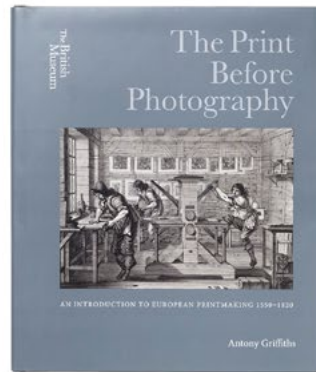
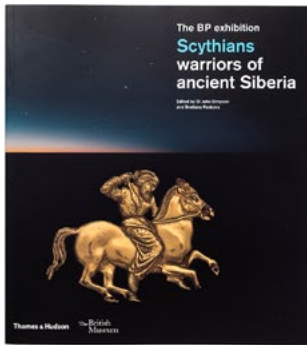
Scientific analysis of artefacts is used to determine their optimal conservation, prospective conditions for display and historical origins. Studies in 2017/18 found traces of vermilion, verdigris, and red lead used as colourants on a recently acquired, 14th-century alabaster Virgin and Child; determined the photosensitivity of woodblock prints by Hokusai and a 19th-century Tibetan textile prior to display; and used x-radiography to judge whether the

terminals on two Iron Age torcs were made by casting or raised from sheet metal. BM experts also determine the composition of potential Treasure finds made in the UK. The work of the Department of Scientific Research is supported by the Wellcome Trust.

The State Hermitage Museum and National Museum of Kazakhstan collaborated with BM scientists to allow research on objects loaned to the BP exhibition *Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia*. They used X-ray fluorescence, X-radiography, and digital and scanning electron microscopy to examine non-invasively a coiled armlet, horse breast-plaque and other artefacts of gold, iron and glass. The techniques determine composition and record tool marks and surface textures. The examinations revealed both casting and hand-working techniques from the first millennium BC, including a casting technique involving textile known only from the Far East in this period. The similarity of the hand-worked and decorative techniques to those of the Oxus Treasure in the BM suggests contact between Persian and Scythian goldsmiths.

Prize-winning publications

As a platform to present the latest research, BM books, published in association with Thames & Hudson, achieved great success in 2017/18.



BM publications

Books on China and textiles from Central Asia and the Middle East were among those published by the BM in 2017/18.

Hokusai: Beyond the Great Wave reached No.1 in the *Sunday Times* Hardback Bestsellers chart. Nearly 20,000 copies sold in the UK alone, with additional sales in the US, Italy and China. Historian Bettany Hughes named the catalogue for the BP exhibition *Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia* as one of her Books of the Year. Books that drew on the collection included *Textiles of the Middle East and Central Asia* and works on Burmese wall paintings and colonial Bengal. *The Art Newspaper* judged *China: A History in Objects* ‘a tour-de-force . . . The clear and confident narratives accompanied by a wide range of compelling Chinese artefacts will delight beginners and specialist alike.’

Published work received a number of honours. For *The Print Before Photography: An Introduction to European Printmaking 1550–1820*, former Keeper of Prints and Drawings Antony Griffiths was awarded a British Academy Medal. *Ming China: Courts and Contacts* won the International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize. The BM Research Publication *A Celtic Feast*, supported by the Robert Kiln Charitable Trust, is a study of Iron Age cauldrons from Chiseldon in Wiltshire. The book was shortlisted for the Current Archaeology Book of the Year 2018. The winner was *Lost Landscapes of Palaeolithic Britain*, to which the BM also contributed.

Biographies of the BM

Excavations at the BM: An Archaeological and Social History of Bloomsbury was published in the BM Research Publications series. The book explored the site of the BM itself based on excavations made during the construction of the Great Court in 1999 and World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre in 2007. Layers of urban development revealed surprising finds: London’s Civil War defences and a burial of dead cows.

A Rothschild Renaissance provided a new look at the Waddesdon Bequest of 1898, one of the BM’s outstanding collections given by the Rothschild family. Specialists re-examined key objects – the Lyte Jewel, the Holy Thorn Reliquary – and the shifting roles of private collectors and public museums. Research on the BM’s founding collection, that of Hans Sloane, is also underway, with support from the Leverhulme Trust. The three-year collaboration with the British Library and Natural History Museum is investigating Sloane’s manuscript catalogues to track the intellectual legacy of the classifications he used and the notes on his vast collection of books, specimens and antiquities.

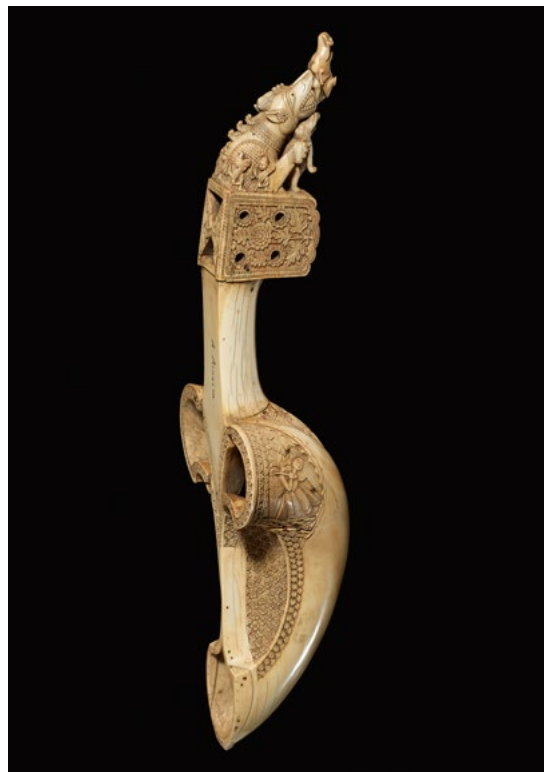
**Coin of Nasir al-Din
Mahmud I, 1440–56**

This coin from Mysore in India is inscribed in Persian. It was loaned to Stornoway for an exhibition about the man who collected it, Colin Mackenzie. (Diameter 1.8 cm)



**Ivory sarinda,
c.1700**

A BM tour of paintings and this ivory stringed sarinda showcased the *Music of courtly India* in Derby and Blackburn. (Length 60 cm)



Loans and tours

Lending the BM collection encourages audiences around the country to engage with world's cultures through their local museum or gallery

Lending the collection nationally

Two Spotlight loans in 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of India's independence. *Music of courtly India* was shown to 13,000 people in Derby and Blackburn. An album of 17th-century ragamala paintings depicted snake-charmers, yogis and musicians. Shown alongside the paintings was a sarinda, an intricately carved four-stringed musical instrument made of ivory. Local community groups contributed performances of song and dance.

A sculpture of the Hindu god, Ganesha, travelled to museums in Forest Hill and Brent in London, and then on to Manchester and Luton. The tall elephant-headed figure, with snakes around his ankles and a bowl of sweets in his hand, has been seen by more than 620,000 people around the UK since it began touring. The BM's programme of UK touring exhibitions is supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M. Weinrebe.

Overall the BM loaned more than 2,500 objects to 126 UK venues in 2017/18. Loans of African, Aztec and Cycladic art travelled to Leeds and Hertfordshire for the exhibition *Becoming Henry Moore*. Moore had studied the sculptures at the BM and they influenced the evolution of his own artistic style.

In the Outer Hebrides, an exhibition focused on the Stornoway-born collector Colin Mackenzie, who became the first Surveyor General of All India. Loans associated with Mackenzie included a 15th-century coin of the Sultan of Bengal, Nasir al-Din Mahmud I. To Ryedale Folk Museum, the BM loaned a silver spoon of 1510, which was discovered hidden in the thatched roof of nearby Harome Hall. The man who found it in 1971 still volunteers at Ryedale, and the loan marked his 50th year of museum volunteering. National loans create beneficial networks across the UK. The Burrell Collection in Glasgow, closed for refurbishment, loaned Rodin's sculpture *The Thinker* for display at the BM and other UK venues.

Vikings on the march

A new touring exhibition, *Viking: rediscover the legend* was launched at Yorkshire Museum, where it drew 70,000 visitors, an increase in attendance of 51%. The partnership between the BM and



Vikings in York

A joint exhibition with York Museums Trust attracted 70,000 visitors in York.

Self-portrait, 1910

Works by German artist Käthe Kollwitz toured in the UK. (23 x 17 cm)



York Museums Trust featured 200 objects from the Yorkshire Museum and 400 from the BM. Also on show was the jointly owned Vale of York Hoard of silver coins buried in AD 927–8 and discovered near Harrogate in 2007. Recent research and archaeological discoveries reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme drew a fresh perspective on how Vikings shaped every aspect of life in Britain. Yorkshire residents supplied modern representations of Vikings – from Lego to T-shirts – to show their continuing influence in popular culture. After appearing in York, the exhibition toured to Nottingham and Southport. It will travel to Norwich in 2018/19.

UK exhibition tours

Collaborations included a partnership with the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. *Portrait of the artist: Käthe Kollwitz* featured 36 works from the BM collection. The exhibition explored the work of the German artist through her self-portraits and depictions of working women. After opening in Birmingham, it toured to Salisbury and Swansea. For an exhibition on Birmingham-born artist Thomas Bock, who was transported to Australia, the BM loaned the Ikon Gallery 19 of Bock's drawings of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The loans will travel to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart, Australia in 2018.

Warhol to Walker: American prints from pop art to today toured to Galashiels, London, Worcester and Southport. Linked to the BM's London exhibition of American prints – *The American Dream: pop to the present*, sponsored by Morgan Stanley and supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art – works by Jasper Johns, Kara Walker, Chuck Close and others illustrated how US printmaking developed from the 1960s to the present day. Each venue reconfigured the exhibition for local audiences. At the Hackney Museum, a parallel display looked at the community art movement in the borough from the 1970s to the 1990s. In Worcester and Southport, the prints were displayed alongside works from the Worcester City and the Atkinson collections.

Other BM exhibitions toured Japanese carved netsuke (Durham, Middlesbrough and Bath); ancient Egyptian writing (Hartlepool); and linocuts by Pablo Picasso (Barnsley and Coventry). *Lines of thought: drawing from Michelangelo to now*, supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation, concluded its three-city UK tour in Belfast. The three venues encouraged art students to attend drawing workshops. At Poole, where 1,500 students participated, 94% reported that the exhibition-related workshops had inspired them to draw.

Imagining the divine

At the Ashmolean Museum, an exhibition based on a BM research project featured BM loans such as this 4th-century Romano-British mosaic depicting Christ (detail).



Exhibitions on current research

At the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the exhibition *Imagining the divine* evolved out of a five-year joint research project, *Empires of Faith*. Supported by the Leverhulme Trust, the partnership between the BM and Oxford University invited scholars from both institutes, including a team of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, to examine religious traditions not principally through texts, but through the new imagery that arose across Asia and Europe during the period AD 200–800.

Major BM loans for the exhibition included a 2nd-century marble head of Jupiter Serapis, found in Rome; a colossal hand of the Hindu god Vishnu holding a conch; and the Hinton St Mary Mosaic, discovered in a Roman villa in Dorset and one of the oldest surviving depictions of Christ.



Partnership galleries

The BM supports the development of galleries across the UK. This silver Anglo-Saxon brooch is on long-term loan to Buxton Museum and Art Gallery. (Diameter 8 cm)

Supporting Britain's galleries

The BM supports the development of galleries across the UK. Wonders of the Peak, a new gallery at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, opened in September 2017, with 24 long-term loans from the BM. The museum will also show a BM touring exhibition (developed in partnership with Salisbury Museum) on the many hoards discovered in Britain.

Gallery partnerships underway include a new medieval gallery at Norwich Castle, and a gallery in the new Faith Museum at Auckland Castle in County Durham, which will feature over 80 objects from the BM collection. At Manchester Museum, where the Money Gallery contains over 230 objects on long-term loan from the BM, staff are now collaborating on a new South Asia Gallery, drawing on research and expertise from both institutions.

The legacy of such galleries includes future work together. Faith in Birmingham was a BM partnership gallery at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery that opened in 2016. Birmingham Museums worked with the BM again in 2017/18 on a programme of talks and community forums across the city that drew on the BM exhibition *Living with gods* and the associated BBC Radio 4 series.

The Learning Museum

BM Director Hartwig Fischer presents a diploma to a graduate of the national HLF Skills for the Future programme, the Learning Museum.



Getting Loan Ready

Responding to requests from its national partners, the BM has run a course on planning and delivering museum loans for colleagues around the country.



Training and partnerships

The future of museums across the country depends on a diverse and dedicated staff, with access to training and shared expertise

Collection skills nationwide

The Collection Skills Training Programme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), addresses specific collection needs across the UK. For museums in the South West of England, the BM ran its successful six-part course ‘Getting Loan Ready’ in 2017. Topics included knowing what to borrow, how to request a loan, budgeting, insurance, security and contracts. The host venues for the training were the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and Poole Museum. In 2018, the course was repeated at the BM itself for a new group of trainees.

In the specialist studios of the BM’s World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, training sessions included a case study on emergency decants of objects, an essential procedure if buildings suffer water or other damage and one for which many museums are unprepared. London-based workshops are balanced with sessions held regionally. Training linked to a

BM touring exhibition of Japanese netsuke and men’s dress was held at the first venue in Durham. Participants from all three tour venues, as well as neighbouring museums, learned how to handle and care for swords and other bladed weapons.

The next generation

The Learning Museum, a three-year scheme supported by the HLF, drew to a close in 2017. Investing in the skills of future museum staff as well as aiming to increase diversity in the sector, the programme offered year-long vocational placements at 20 UK partner museums, from Edinburgh to Ipswich. Trainees from a range of backgrounds developed practical skills in the care and management of collections, as well as in promoting wider museum access. Training days included sessions at the Time and Tide Museum in Norfolk and Down County Museum in Northern Ireland. BM Director Hartwig Fischer awarded graduates their QCF diplomas in Cultural Heritage in September 2017.

Also under its Skills for the Future programme, the HLF announced a major grant to the BM for a new national training scheme. Museum Futures will equip a new generation of museum professionals from diverse backgrounds with skills in digital data management.



Community curation

Object Journeys invited local communities to work with UK museum collections, including that of the BM. In London, members of the Kiribati community chose this dance costume for a display in the Wellcome Trust Gallery. To mark the occasion, dancers performed in the Great Court.



Staff exchange

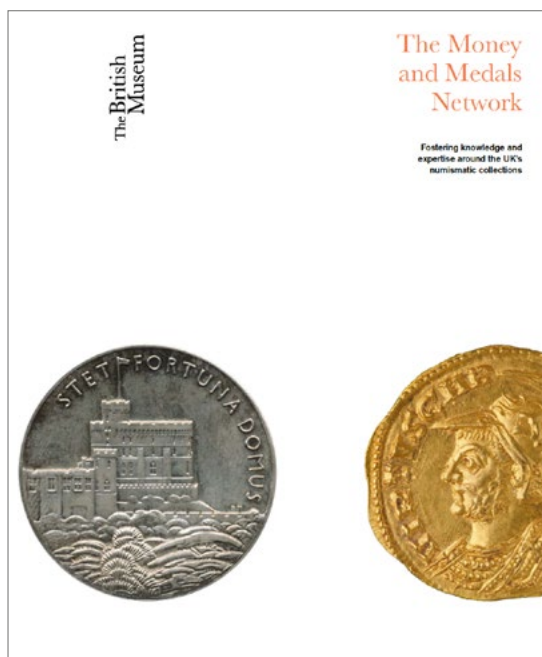
The Knowledge Share programme, supported by the Vivmar Foundation, fosters UK-wide expertise. Advice on specific collection types has proved popular. In London, museum staff from around Britain met to discuss the care and curation of artefacts from ancient Cyprus. A study day inspired by a BM tour of drawings, supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation, looked at how to engage art students using collections of drawings.

The Knowledge Exchange programme supports professional exchanges between the BM and organisations across the country. Staff visit each other's institution to compare ideas and good practices. In 2017/18, 15 individuals took part in exchanges between the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley; British Museum; Leeds Museums and Galleries; National Museums Northern Ireland; National Trust; Roman Baths, Bath; Salford Museum and Art Gallery; and Salisbury Museum.

Community involvement

Object Journeys is a cultural programme supported by the HLF. Four UK museums worked with local communities to rethink aspects of their collections. The BM worked initially with local Somali residents, and then with members of the Kiribati community. A display of materials from the Pacific island – a coconut fishing float, a pandanus leaf mat – was presented in the Wellcome Trust Gallery. Events included a Kiribati dance in the Great Court. A dance video also features in the display.

Similar events took place around England. Manchester Museum worked with a South Asian women's group to explore Pakistani textiles and jewellery in their collection and that of the BM. Community artists from Leicester drew on the collections of Leicester Museums and the BM for a display on global artists at the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery. Brighton Museum and Gallery worked with two community curators to examine the lack of post-1960s African textiles in museum collections. They created two new displays which include some of Brighton Museum's new African fashion acquisitions, alongside 15 objects loaned by the BM.



Knowledge networks

Sharing knowledge motivates the BM's annual conference for its national partners. Supported by the Vivmar Foundation, the free talks and workshops in August 2017 encouraged UK museums of every size, as well as non-museum spaces with collections, to lend to each other. Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, and Museums Sheffield gave keynote presentations for 180 delegates and speakers, with wider comments feeding in via the hashtag #proactivelending.

The Money and Medals Network, funded by Arts Council England, offered training for UK staff, including two study days on identifying medieval coins, one held at the BM, the other at the University of Warwick. Further events were held in Belfast, Inverness, Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, York and Leeds. A BM exhibition on the Money and Medals Network, sponsored by Spink, featured loans from Armagh, Inverness, Knowsley, Brecon and London.

Putting money aside

The national Money and Medals Network was celebrated in an exhibition at the BM that included this coin cabinet containing silver shillings of Henry VIII. (Height 40 cm)



Activities arranged through the Age Friendly Museums Network, funded by the Baring Foundation, included a BM forum that looked at the late-life productivity of the Japanese artist Hokusai. Chaired by Joan Bakewell, the panel of neuroscientists, art critics and historians debated life-long creative endeavour and the neuroplasticity of the older brain. In October 2017, the Age Friendly Museums Day promoted events for older visitors in museums and galleries across the UK. Plans for 2018 include setting up four regional hubs to promote age-friendly practice.



The nation's Treasure

The *Telegraph* ran a competition with the BM to choose the nation's favourite Treasure find of the past 20 years.

UK archaeology

New discoveries and archaeological fieldwork continue to reshape what we know of Britain's past

Recording UK finds

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), administered by the BM in England, records archaeological finds in England and Wales, many of which are made by members of the public. Information about the latest finds is made available online (finds.org.uk) for everyone around Britain to share.

In 2017, over 80,000 finds were recorded. They included a Roman timepiece inscribed AVGVST, the fourth such example of a time-reckoning device from this period; a memorial penny for the murdered East Anglian king St Edmund; and a medieval gold figurine, possibly of Henry VI. Evidence of Britain's international trade was seen in a 14th-century gold coin from Genoa, discovered in the West Midlands, and a Mexican two-real piece minted with the names of the Spanish king, Carlos I and his wife Johanna, found in Wiltshire.

PAS activities around the country included a national conference on Treasure held at Yorkshire

Museum. At National Museum Cardiff 'Telling Tales' was a conference organised under the PAST Explorers programme funded by the HLF. It featured volunteers and experts discussing how stories re-create the past and how PAS data is being used to unlock our shared history. In 2017 PAST Explorers recruited their 500th volunteer. The Headley Trust agreed a further two years' support to provide opportunities for people interested in a career in archaeological finds to intern with the PAS. PAS is also supported by a grant from Graham and Joanna Barker.

Twenty years of Treasure

2017 was the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Treasure Act. Important archaeological finds must under law be reported to the local coroner.

This legal requirement has ensured a much greater transparency about what happens to valuable finds. The Treasure Act has benefited not just our knowledge of the past, but also many museums around the country, which have been able to acquire important artefacts. It is estimated that since 1997, 215 museums have acquired nearly 4,000 Treasure finds across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A rare recent find included 913 gold sovereigns and half-sovereigns minted between 1847 and 1915. They were found

UK fieldwork

Archaeologists study a
Lower Palaeolithic site in
Barnham, Suffolk.



“It’s quite hypnotic.
You feel that it has
meaning, that it
has stories, that
it is not just a
static object.”

Poet Michael Rosen is shown a
2,000-year-old bronze Celtic mirror



in Shropshire, hidden beneath the keyboard of a piano donated to a local school. In 2017, a record 1,268 Treasure finds were reported.

To mark the anniversary, the *Telegraph* ran a competition to select the nation’s favourite Treasure find. Nearly 10,000 people voted. Contenders included the 2,000-year-old Nesscliffe spoons, found in Shropshire; the Staffordshire hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver; the gold Ringlemere Cup, discovered in Kent; and the eventual winner, the Frome Hoard, a Roman pot containing an astonishing 52,000 coins, discovered in Somerset in 2010. Around the country, from Belfast to Cornwall, 100 museums displayed their own Treasure finds as part of the celebrations.

Fieldwork and research

A three-week excavation at a 400,000-year-old site at Barnham, Suffolk, investigated the use of fire among early human groups. The fieldwork was run as a student training excavation in collaboration with the Natural History Museum, Queen Mary University of London and Leiden University, with support from the Leverhulme Trust.

Other research includes an ongoing study of the role of grave goods in Britain. The collaboration with colleagues in Manchester

and Reading has invited writers such as Michael Rosen to widen public engagement with Britain’s heritage. An examination of the landscapes of the Breckland, East Anglia, is tracing the development of human technology from 600,000 to 250,000 years ago. Ice Age Island is a joint research project with Southampton University, Jersey Heritage and University College London. The work is exploring how humans on Jersey adapted to submerged landscapes.

Scientists at the BM undertook new x-radiography of two of the BM’s most important items of Celtic art – the Great Torc found near Snettisham, Norfolk, and the Sedgeford Torc, also from Norfolk. The work revealed new insights into how the torc terminals were constructed. Other UK research projects at the BM include an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award to study Iron Age swords in Britain. The doctoral research will be supervised by the BM and University of Manchester.

BM across the UK

The BM works with partners around the UK to ensure loans, partnership galleries, knowledge exchange, public archaeology and training are an effective national resource. Partnerships in 2017/18 took place across the country



Aberystwyth, Andover, Ashbourne, Bangor, Barnsley, Barnstaple, Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Bishop Auckland, Bishop's Stortford, Blackburn, Bolton, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Buxton, Calderdale, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Cirencester, Colchester, Compton Verney, Coventry, Daventry, Derby, Derry, Devizes, Doncaster, Dorchester, Dover, Driffield, Dudley, Dulverton, Durham, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Exeter, Galashiels, Glasgow, Gloucester, Gressenhall, Guildford, Halton, Hartlepool, Hereford, Hexham, Horsham, Hull, Hutton-le-Hole, Ipswich, Kettering, King's Lynn, Kirklees, Leeds, Leicester, Lewes, Lincoln, Littlehampton, Liverpool, Llandeilo, Llanfairpwll, London, Ludlow, Luton, Maidstone, Manchester, Maryport, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Newark, Newbury, Newcastle, Newmarket, Newport, Newton Abbot, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Oakham, Oldham, Oxford, Perry Green, Peterborough, Petworth, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Richmond, Romford, Rotherham, Salford, Salisbury, Scunthorpe, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Southport, St Albans, Standlake, Stoke-on-Trent, Stornoway, Stroud, Swaffham, Swansea, Swindon, Taunton, Thetford, Torbay, Towcester, Trowbridge, Truro, Ulster, Wakefield, Wallsend, Warwick, Wellingborough, Welshpool, Weston-super-Mare, Whitby, Winchester, Worcester, Worksop, Wrexham, York

Favourite Treasure find

Nearly 10,000 people voted in the *Telegraph* competition to choose the nation's favourite Treasure discovery of the past 20 years. The winner was the Frome Hoard of more than 52,000 Roman coins discovered in Somerset in 2010.

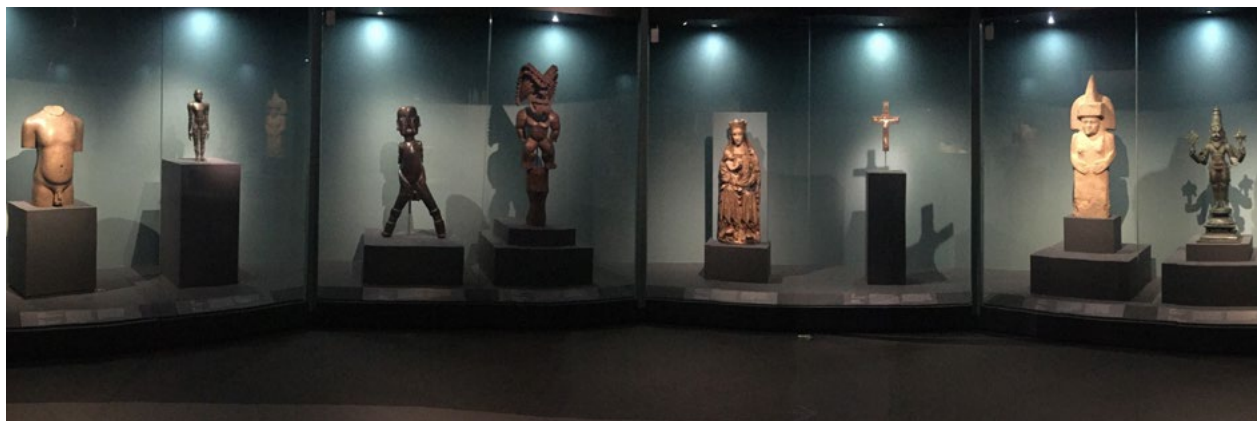


Mummies in Hong Kong

The BM touring exhibition *Egyptian mummies* drew record crowds in Australia and China. In Hong Kong, over 850,000 people visited.

India and the world

In Mumbai, an exhibition jointly organised with the BM told the history of India in a global context.

**Loans and tours**

Loans and touring exhibitions from the BM ensure audiences worldwide can see outstanding artefacts of human history

Lending internationally

The BM loaned more than 2,200 objects to 81 venues outside the UK in 2017/18. In Hobart, Australia, *On the Origin of Art* included an Aztec mask from the BM as a starting point to explore the human need to make art. Rare pre-Columbian codices, illustrating the lives of the people of Tepetlaoztoc in Mexico, travelled to Los Angeles and New York for an exhibition on the Americas.

To tell the history of the Portuguese Empire, the BM loaned the Moscow Kremlin Museums ivory spoons carved in Sierra Leone in 1490–1530 and a 16th-century brass figure of a Portuguese soldier cast in Benin. Glass and pottery from the ancient city of Nineveh were loaned to Leiden, and a Japanese hanging scroll of 1801–4 by Kitagawa Utamaro displayed in Washington.

At the Hamburger Kunsthalle *The Light of the Campagna* exhibited 90 pen and brush drawings by Claude Lorrain from the BM collection.

Professional partnerships forged during the 2016 exhibition *Sicily: culture and conquest*, sponsored by Julius Baer, gave rise to two new exhibitions on the island, one at the Villa Aurea in Agrigento, the other at the Museo Archeologico Antonino Salinas in Palermo. The BM loaned Greek vases, sculptures and drawings of classical monuments that showed how past travellers recorded the archaeology of Sicily. Such exchanges benefit the UK public in turn. Among temporary displays at the BM visitors can see an extremely rare Egyptian queen's silver diadem of 1650–1550 BC, thanks to a three-year loan from the collection of Sheikh Hassan al-Sabah of Kuwait.

India and the world

'Prepared to be awed by our ancestors' announced India's *National Herald*. To mark 70 years of India's independence, an exhibition in Mumbai and Delhi brought together the BM collection with those of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) and the National Museum. With additional loans from across India, the 230 objects in *India and the world* surveyed one million years of India's history. The collaboration was supported by the Getty Foundation and Tata Trusts, with additional support from the Newton Bhabha Fund and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



Key moments for Indian trade and travel, states and faiths, courtly cultures and social change were shown in the context of parallel developments in world history. Textiles, paintings, sculptures and coins illuminated different times, places and events in India's past. Banknotes and posters of the 20th century celebrated India as an independent democracy. Major artefacts from other cultures set India in a global perspective: the Greco-Roman Discobolus ('Discus-thrower'); a ceramic model of a Chinese Han watchtower; a wooden sculpture of the Hawaiian god of war.

The three museums worked closely to develop ideas, research, curation and programming. Wider elements included a catalogue published by Penguin Books; a special exhibition website, with 3D models and videos; a lively programme of lectures, films, dance and music; and activities for teachers, families and local groups. Over 200,000 visited the exhibition at CSMVS in Mumbai, before it journeyed to the National Museum in Delhi in May 2018.

Sharing the world's history

The legacy of the 2010 BM/BBC Radio 4 collaboration, *A history of the world in 100 objects*, continues to grow. Visitors around the globe can now experience a BM touring exhibition based on the popular radio series. In 2017, the exhibition

travelled to the National Museum of China in Beijing and the Shanghai Museum. More than 720,000 people visited. So popular was the exhibition in Shanghai that the museum had to set up a special entrance for the show. The global tour of this history of the world told through objects from the BM collection has been seen so far by 1.8 million visitors worldwide.

Mummies draw crowds in Hong Kong

Record-breaking audiences came to see *Egyptian mummies: exploring ancient lives* as it toured to Australia and China. At the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, the exhibition attracted over 100,000 visitors and won the Australian Interior Design Award for installation design. The fascinating digital displays used CT scans to explain the lives of six mummies who lived in Egypt 3,000 to 1,800 years ago. Technology revealed the age and health of the men and women, and showed objects hidden beneath the mummies' wrappings.

Shown at the Hong Kong Science Museum to mark the 20th anniversary of the territory's transfer of sovereignty, the exhibition achieved the museum's largest visitor number ever: over 850,000 people over four months. *Egyptian mummies* then travelled to the National Palace Museum, Taipei.

Emergency Heritage Management

A team in Iraq use drone photography to map archaeological remains.



Understanding Europe

A partnership with CaixaForum has enabled the BM to tour a number of exhibitions around Spain. *The Pillars of Europe* was shown in Barcelona and Zaragoza. Outstanding art and artefacts associated with the history of church and state across medieval Europe were seen by 184,000 visitors. An exhibition on the ancient Greeks showed them as athletes, warriors and heroes. Over 90,000 people came to see the Greek vases, sculpture, armour and sporting paraphernalia in CaixaForum Madrid. They were later exhibited in Barcelona and Seville.

In the USA, three exhibitions shared different aspects of the BM collection. In Nashville, *Rome: city and empire* presented outstanding sculptures and other works from ancient Rome and the vast reaches of the Roman Empire, from Britain to Morocco. Modern British prints were shown in San Diego, while in New Mexico and Rhode Island, *Lines of thought* – an extension of a UK touring exhibition supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation – presented rare drawings, from Michelangelo to the present day.

Training and partnerships

Working with partners in the UK and abroad, the BM offers training and support for heritage preservation around the world

Emergency Heritage Management in Iraq

The Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme continues to be a central aspect of the BM's work. Working closely with Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, the Iraq Scheme delivers state-of-the-art training in all aspects of archaeological fieldwork – from geophysical surveying and documentation to complex excavation methodology.

The fieldwork component of the course in northern and southern Iraq allows participants to put into practice what they have learned during their two-month stay in the UK. It is also yielding results of outstanding importance. At Tello – the ancient city of Girsu – archaeologists have excavated a 4,000-year-old sacred complex devoted to Ningirsu, the Sumerian storm god. The team revealed the south gate, flanked by two towers, and a foundation box containing a white stone ritual tablet.

The other field project is in the Darband-i Rania, a mountain pass in Kurdistan believed

BM training

Fellows from Iran and Armenia take part in a training session at the BM, as part of the annual International Training Programme.



to be the route through which Darius III fled after his defeat at the hands of Alexander the Great in 331 BC. At Qalatga Darband, analysis of historic satellite imagery helped to identify the site of a strategic settlement guarding the western approaches to the pass, while the aerial survey by remotely-operated drone detected crop marks indicating the layout of ancient architecture. Excavations have begun to uncover the remains of the ancient city, including evidence for oil production and a monumental stone building roofed with terracotta tiles and containing the smashed remains of Hellenistic statuary.

International Training Programme

In summer 2017, the BM and ten UK partner museums welcomed 25 fellows from 18 countries for the BM's annual International Training Programme (ITP), with support from private individuals and foundations. Colleagues from Armenia to Zimbabwe undertook practical training and research in their specialist fields. Working groups, behind-the-scenes tours and study visits were all tailored to give as wide as possible an overview of museums and cultural heritage in the UK.

The programme has expanded to include new elements. The inaugural ITP+ course, on temporary exhibitions and permanent displays,

took place in May 2017. Returning ITP fellows attended sessions on concept development, interpretation, marketing, press, fundraising and project management. A second ITP+ course in December focused on how to use photography and documentation systems to better manage collections.

Coin collaborations

A detailed catalogue of south Italian coins in the BM, to be published in 2018, is a collaboration with experts from the University of Milan. Research on the Leipzig Hoard in the collection will contribute to a numismatic study by colleagues in Germany. Scholars from the BM, Austria and Iran are leading a survey of coinage from the reign of the Parthian king Mithradates II (c.122–91 BC). For her extensive work on Sasanian art, archaeology and coinage, curator Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis was awarded the Fifth Professor Negahban Award at the National Museum of Iran in 2017.

BM helps return stolen Uzbek tile

In 2014, thieves chipped away a large 13th-century tile from an Islamic monument in Uzbekistan. They left a gaping hole on the facade of the Chasma-i Ayub in Vobkent, 20km from Bukhara, a UNESCO world heritage site

Discoveries in Iraq

Archaeological training for colleagues in Iraq has turned up remarkable finds, including this 4,000-year-old bridge at Tello in the south, which is being restored.





on the ancient Silk Route. Two years later, the glazed tile inscription came up for sale with a London dealer, Simon Ray who, with experts from the BM and Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, identified the tile and arranged for its return in July 2017. As the *Guardian* reported, Abdulla Aripov, prime minister of Uzbekistan, expressed his ‘sincere gratitude’ and the Uzbek government is now making plans to restore the monument.

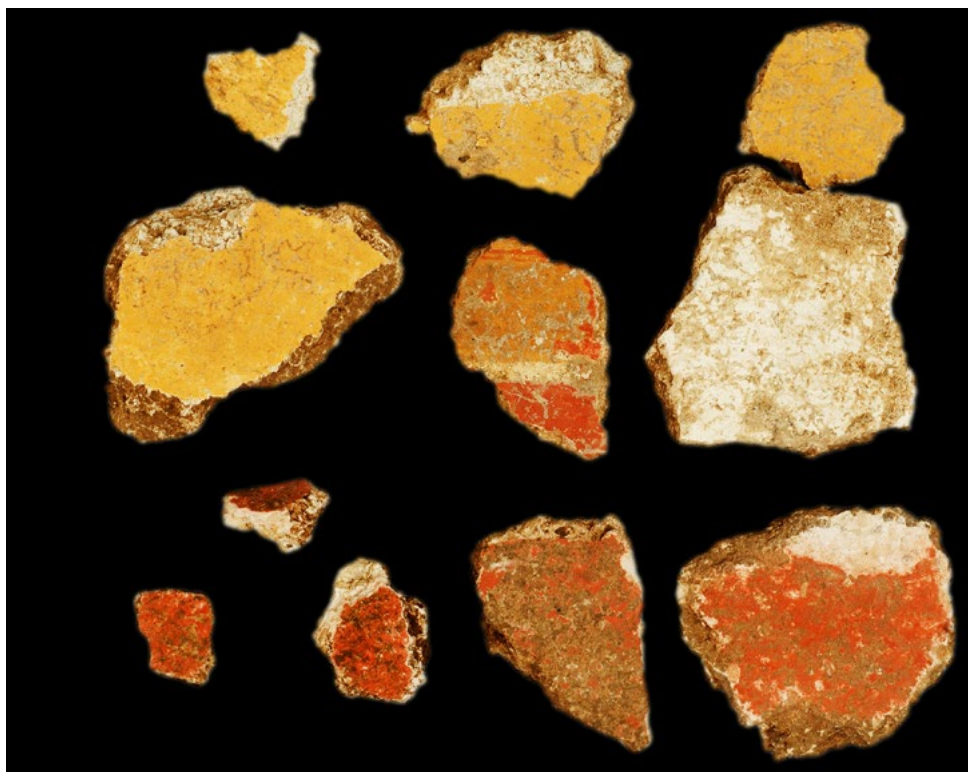
Museums and heritage

The BM promotes cultural work around the world. For the Basrah Museum project, supported by the UK government’s Cultural Protection Fund, a six-day training session was offered to staff from the museum and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq.

Following ten years of fieldwork in northern Sudan at Amara West – a pharaonic town founded around 1300 BC – outreach included work with children and local communities to engage them with the important historical sites in their midst. Interviews revealed that most took pride in their Nubian heritage but previously felt alienated from the work of visiting archaeological teams. Accessible information in English and Arabic, as well as a podcast in Nubian are encouraging wider involvement.

Collaborative research

International projects are central to the BM’s intellectual vitality. A collaboration with the Institute of Human Palaeology in Paris and the University of Tarragona is investigating the occupation of western Europe 700,000 to 300,000 years ago, funded by the Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme. Visits to the BM by overseas scholars included a study of Chinese paintings made during the Sino-Japanese war (1894–5). The ‘Connecting Art Histories’ project, sponsored by the Getty Foundation, drew participants from Beijing, Chengdu, Heidelberg and elsewhere.



Hadrian's villa

BM excavations at the Pantanello, part of the country residence of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, have turned up important new evidence for the history and extent of this famous villa.

Fieldwork in Sudan

This 1st-century AD temple at Dangeil is dedicated to the god Amun. Recent excavations in the area discovered an intact archer's tomb of the 4th-5th century AD in a cemetery associated with the temple.

World archaeology

The BM undertakes archaeological research around the world, in partnership with universities and cultural institutes

Excavations at Hadrian's Villa

Recent BM excavations in the Pantanello area of Hadrian's villa at Tivoli revealed the foundations of substantial Roman structures and related artefacts. They include the edge of a large basin cut deeply into the local volcanic rock, its vaulted exit drain and vestiges of a building with frescoed walls and mosaic floors. A colloquium at the BM welcomed colleagues from Italy and elsewhere to discuss current research at the villa and plans for future excavation. The workshop was followed by a study season in Italy in summer 2017 which integrated the findings of all the researchers working across the site. The project is funded by Christian Levett and the Ida Carrara Bequest. Publication of the recent BM work is scheduled for 2018.

Ancient sites, living peoples

Learning from the Past is helping to preserve Nubian agricultural heritage. The innovative project, supported by the AHRC, builds on BM fieldwork in the region around Amara West in northern Sudan. The aim is to bring together what archaeologists know of the past with present-day practices. Research includes gathering oral histories to document how crops, cuisine and associated material culture have changed over the last century.

The Asyut region of Middle Egypt has played a significant role in the cultural memory of Egypt since 2500 BC. With support from the Newton-Musharafa Fund, the BM is collaborating with colleagues from Cambridge, Berlin and Cairo to examine the relationship between this long history and the present-day communities. The team is looking to establish sustainable solutions for heritage preservation in the area. A short film was produced, exploring how inhabitants of the village today relate to ancient remains.

Archer's tomb discovered in Sudan

From October to December 2017, archaeologists conducted fieldwork at Dangeil, in conjunction with Sudan's National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums. The work focused on the processional way and monumental entrance



to a 1st-century AD temple dedicated to the god Amun, as well as a recently discovered smaller temple. The excavations unearthed a flag-pole emplacement and, in the associated cemetery, an intact tomb of the 4th–5th century AD. The tomb contained the remains of an archer, wearing an archer's ring and accompanied by numerous vessels and arrows. Conservation of artefacts from Dangeil included two bronze vessels, which were then returned to the National Museum of Sudan in Khartoum.

Egyptians, Greeks and Romans in the Nile Delta

With support from the Shelby White and Leon Levy Programme for Archaeological Publications at Harvard University, BM researchers are revisiting former fieldwork in the cultural crossroads of the Nile Delta. From 1977 to 1983 an American team of archaeologists surveyed and partly excavated more than 30 sites in the Western Nile Delta, including fortress towns, port cities and industrial installations from the Pharaonic to the Islamic period.

The international team from the UK, USA and Greece are uniting this mostly unpublished fieldwork with the vast survey of related finds and records from across the world from the nearby site of Naukratis, Egypt's international trading port and a focus of recent BM research.

The project aims to bring to life the history of the region, its blend of Egyptian, Greek and other peoples, and its changing settlement patterns and trade networks.

Contact and change in the Americas

Work in the Americas includes an interdisciplinary study of Inupiat histories in northwest Alaska. Archaeological approaches are used to explore the emergence of Inupiat culture 1,000 years ago, while ethnographic methods document how Inupiat today use old tools and artefacts to understand and narrate their past. Partners include several American universities and the Panthéon-Sorbonne University of Paris.

In the Caribbean, the BM El Corazon del Caribe Research Project conducted a successful field school season on Isla de Mona in June and July 2017. Students from Puerto Rico and the UK conducted a detailed excavation of a pre-Columbian indigenous village, where there is material evidence of contact with the first Europeans to arrive in the Americas. In June 2017, a National Geographic Explorer Award was presented in Washington DC to curator Jago Cooper for his work in the region.

BM across the world

The BM works with partners around the world. Loans, research, archaeology and training build strong ties with other countries and institutions. This map features a selection of the BM's international activities in 2017/18



1 USA

International exhibitions draw on the BM collection to tell unique stories of world history. A show at Princeton, NJ and Toledo, Ohio on 'The Berlin Painter' featured this Greek amphora, c.490 BC, alongside loans from the Louvre, Vatican Museums and Getty Museum. (Height 50 cm)



2 Denmark

Students from Denmark were among those from France, USA and the UK working with the BM to excavate a site of the Magdalenian culture on Les Varines, Jersey. Loans to Copenhagen included this 1523 woodcut by Lucas Cranach the Elder of King Christian II (detail).



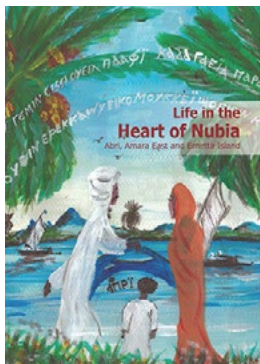
3 Greece

The first-ever BM loans to the Acropolis Museum in Athens included this terracotta of c.100 BC from Myrina in Turkey. The BM also loaned objects to the Museum of Cycladic Art for an exhibition on coins in ancient Greece. (Height 21 cm)



4 Egypt

To record the life of modern Egypt, the BM is collecting contemporary artefacts, such as this clay figurine of popular singer Abdel Halim Hafez. Research in Egypt includes work with colleagues in Cairo, Cambridge and Berlin to study the Asyut region. (Height 17 cm)



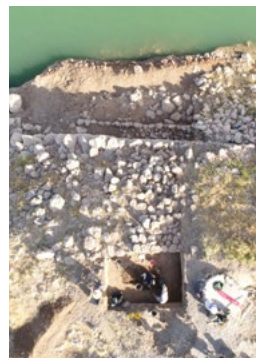
6 Sudan

Following ten years of archaeological research at the town of Amara West, the BM is focusing on community outreach. This booklet was co-authored with local schools in English and Arabic, to be used as a teaching resource on Nubian heritage.



6 Uganda

With the Trust for African Rock Art, the BM has recorded a vast database of 24,000 images of rock art across Africa such as this painting from Nyero in eastern Uganda. Fieldwork in Africa includes projects in Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda.



7 Iraq

As part of its Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme, the BM is excavating the remains of an ancient city in the mountain pass of Darband-i Rania. The Assyrian fortification wall is from the 8th–7th century BC.



8 Uzbekistan

In 2014 this Islamic tile was stolen from a 12th-century monument in Uzbekistan. With the help of the BM, Simon Ray Gallery and Ashmolean Museum, it was identified and returned to the country in 2017. (Height 53 cm)



9 India

This brass astrolabe, inlaid with silver and copper, was made in Cairo in 1236. It was one of 124 BM loans featured in the exhibition *India and the world*, a ground-breaking collaboration with CSMVS, Mumbai and the National Museum, Delhi. (Diameter 33 cm)



10 China

BM touring exhibitions in China drew vast audiences. Over 720,000 people could view this Lewis chesspiece in *A history of the world in 100 objects* in Beijing and Shanghai. At the Hong Kong Science Museum, 850,000 people came to see *Egyptian mummies*. (Height 10 cm)



11 Japan

Over 400,000 visitors saw the BM's critically acclaimed exhibition on the artist Katsushika Hokusai in London and Osaka. Colour woodblock prints included this depiction of the Japanese court poet Toru Daijin and his retainers (detail).



12 Australia

This mask of the Mesoamerican deity Xipe Totec is one of the most renowned Aztec artefacts in the world. Shown at the Museum of Old and New Art in Hobart, it was one of nearly 4,800 loans the BM made in 2017/18. (Height 21 cm)



Sassoon ivories

Donations to the BM included Sir Victor Sassoon's outstanding collection of 550 Chinese ivories. They included this Ming dynasty figure of Guanyin as 'sender of sons'. (Height 34 cm)



Research at Ringlemere

Support for research at the BM will enable the publication of in-depth analysis of finds from Ringlemere, Kent, where this 3,500-year-old gold cup was discovered in 2001. (Height 11 cm)

As a charity, the BM receives generous support from its partners and benefactors

Companies, individuals, trusts, foundations and statutory bodies supported a wide range of exhibitions, research projects and training programmes at the BM in 2017/18. A selection of these gifts, sponsorships and grants is reported in this Review. Among the year's highlights was the new Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia which HM The Queen opened in November 2017. The BM is grateful to the Sir Joseph Hotung Charitable Trust for making the new gallery possible.

Care for the collection is at the heart of the BM's work. The Korea Foundation and Amorepacific Corporation confirmed major support for the five-year Amorepacific Project for the Conservation of Korean Pictorial Art. Conservation of the Assyrian Winged Bull and Lion reliefs will begin in 2018 with the support of the John S Cohen Foundation and an anonymous donor. The conservation of Michelangelo's 'Epifania' cartoon is made possible in memory of Melvin R Seiden. The Radcliffe Trust and Normanby Charitable Trust are supporting the Tahitian Mourners costume project. The BM Patrons generously funded additional conservation for the Festival Chariot

which was featured in the exhibition *Living with gods*, supported by the Genesis Foundation, with grateful thanks to John Studzinski CBE.

To enhance the stories the BM can tell, JTI has supported the JTI Japanese Acquisition Fund since 2010. The Fund has enabled the Museum to acquire almost 600 modern Japanese objects. The Art Fund supported the purchase of photographs by nine contemporary artists from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. The family of musician Ravi Shankar donated one of his sitars to the collection. Peter Gosnell gave a collection of 37 clocks made by the British United Clock Company between 1886 and 1909.

The BM acquired an early drawing by the Austrian artist Joseph Anton Koch (1768–1839). The panoramic view of the Schmadribach Falls in Switzerland was acquired with the support of the Art Fund, the American Friends of the British Museum, Charles Booth-Clibborn, Tavolozza Foundation – Katrin Bellinger, Wakefield Trust and Ottley Group. Acquisitions of contemporary art included a 1971 satirical drawing of Richard Nixon, Spiro Agnew and Henry Kissinger by Philip Guston, presented by Hamish Parker, and *The Marriage*, a 1962 print by David Hockney, funded by the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation. Since the Foundation granted funds to the BM to



The Marriage by
David Hockney, 1962

With funding from the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, the BM has acquired more than 200 works on paper by contemporary British artists. (30 x 40 cm)

acquire contemporary British art, it has enabled over 200 works on paper to be acquired.

A number of generous supporters continue to facilitate the work of BM curators. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea renewed its support for the Curator: Korean Collections. The Sir Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art supports the Curator of Chinese Ceramics, who oversees the Sir Percival David Collection. Catherine Daunt has been appointed Hamish Parker Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. Sarah Vowles, Hamish Swanston Curator of Italian and French Prints and Drawings (before 1880), is co-curating *Mantegna and Bellini*, an exhibition jointly organised by the National Gallery, London and Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

Richard Hobbs, Weston Curator of Roman Britain, attracted media attention in *The Times* for identifying what may be the only surviving Tantalus bowl from ancient Rome. Nicholas and Jane Ferguson fund the work of the Curator of Medieval Europe. The Project Curator for the Japanese Collections is supported by JTI, while another is supported by a gift to the American Friends of the British Museum from Peter and Faith Coolidge. Since 2008, Mitsubishi Corporation has supported the Mitsubishi Corporation Project Curator for the Japanese

Collections. Nicole Rousmaniere is the IFAC Handa Curator of Japanese Arts. William Greenwood is Albukhary Foundation Project Curator. The A.G. Leventis Foundation renewed its support for a specialist curator of ancient Cyprus. BM research receives essential subsidies to undertake and publish new scholarship. The William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust is making possible the publication in 2018 of *Ceremonial Living in the Third Millennium*, a study of excavations at Ringlemere, Kent, where an exquisite Early Bronze Age gold cup was discovered in 2001.

The government's Cultural Protection Fund managed by the British Council plays a vital role in supporting the Museum's international work on capacity building. The fund will support the Circulating Artefacts project delivered by the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan. The International Training Programme has now welcomed over 250 Fellows from 35 countries underpinned by a range of private support. Skill-sharing in the UK is also generously supported.

Among many awards in 2017/18 – for programmes of education, access, digital interpretation and scholarship – the Association of Heritage Interpretation awarded the BM the 2017 Discover Heritage Award. The prize was for excellence in cultural and natural



heritage interpretation in Britain and Ireland. The Museum was also shortlisted in the 2018 UK Sponsorship awards in recognition of its outstanding strategic partnerships with Mitsubishi Corporation and Morgan Stanley. The BM won the Arts and Culture category for Morgan Stanley's sponsorship of the exhibition *The American Dream: pop to the present*.

Museum interpretation is enhanced by cultural events for visitors. In November 2017, the BM previewed the music festival *Europe and the world* with a performance in the Parthenon Gallery of J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor by the acclaimed choir Tenebrae and the Academy of Ancient Music. The two-week festival, which took place in April 2018, was organised by the BM and Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and made possible by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The BM continues to welcome new Patrons and Members. The Patrons travel programme has been expanded, taking in trips to Paris, Iran and elsewhere. In 2017/18, the British Museum Friends held over 60 events – the most in any single year.

Europe and the world

Generous support enabled the BM to host a series of concerts of music from Europe and around the world. Mezzo soprano Susan Bickley performed with members of the London Sinfonietta in the Parthenon Gallery.

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Idrimi, king of Alalakh

The 3,500-year-old statue of Idrimi is inscribed with the story of his exile from Syria. A high-resolution 3D scan of the statue can now be seen online. (Height 104 cm)



Exhibitions

LONDON

The American Dream: pop to the present
9 Mar – 18 Jun 2017
Sponsored by Morgan Stanley
Supported by the Terra
Foundation for American Art

Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave
25 May – 13 Aug 2017
Supported by Mitsubishi
Corporation

The BP exhibition
Scythians: warriors of ancient Siberia
14 Sep 2017 – 14 Jan 2018
Supported by BP
Organised with the State
Hermitage Museum,
St Petersburg, Russia

Living with gods: peoples, places and worlds beyond
2 Nov 2017 – 8 Apr 2018
Supported by the Genesis
Foundation
With grateful thanks to
John Studzinski CBE

Defacing the past: damnation and desecration in imperial Rome
13 Oct 2016 –
7 May 2017
Supported by Stephen and
Julie Fitzgerald

Iranian voices: recent acquisitions of works on paper
26 Nov 2016 –
21 May 2017

Places of the mind: British watercolour landscapes 1850–1950
23 Feb – 27 Aug 2017
Supported in memory of
Melvin R Seiden

Where the Thunderbird lives: cultural resilience on the Northwest Coast of North America

23 Feb – 27 Aug 2017
Supported by the High
Commission of Canada in
the UK
Additional support by
Steven Larcombe and
Sonya Leydecker, and the
PF Charitable Trust

David Hockney: fourteen poems by CP Cavafy
17 Mar – 24 May 2017

Desire, love, identity: exploring LGBTQ histories
11 May to 15 Oct 2017
Supported by Stephen and
Julie Fitzgerald

Living histories: recent acquisitions of works on paper by contemporary Arab artists
5 Jun – 22 Oct 2017

Politics and paradise: popular prints from the Moscatelli Collection
18 Jul – 3 Sep 2017

The business of prints
21 Sep 2017 –
28 Jan 2018
Supported by The Eyre
Family Foundation

‘The Candle is Lighted’: Martin Luther’s legacy in print
29 Sep – 23 Nov 2017

The currency of communism
19 Oct 2017 –
18 Mar 2018
Research made possible with
Art Fund support

Life in a cup: coffee culture in the Middle East
11 Nov 2017 –
28 Jan 2018

Sidney Nolan centenary: Back of Beyond
24 Nov 2017 –
11 Jan 2018

A physician’s cabinet: Sir Hans Sloane’s practices of collecting and cataloguing
24 Nov 2017 –
11 Jan 2018

Pots with attitude: British satires on ceramics 1760–1830
12 Jan – 11 Mar 2018
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Trust

Charmed lives in Greece: Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor
8 Mar – 15 Jul 2018
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Money and medals: mapping the UK’s numismatic collections
22 Mar – 30 Sep 2018
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Displays

Moving stories: three journeys
30 Mar – 30 Apr 2017

Japanese woodblock printing: a craft of precision
25 May – 16 Jul 2017

Virtual pilgrimage: reimagining the Great Shrine of Amaravati
10 Aug – 8 Oct 2017

On violence and beauty: reflections on war
9 Nov 2017 – 21 Jan 2018

A revolutionary legacy: Haiti and Toussaint Louverture
22 Feb – 22 Apr 2018

Supported by
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AUSTRALIA

Egyptian mummies: exploring ancient lives
Powerhouse Museum,
Sydney
10 Dec 2016 –
30 Apr 2017
Queensland Museum,
Brisbane
16 Mar to 26 Aug 2018

CHINA

A history of the world in 100 objects
National Museum of
China, Beijing
1 Mar – 31 May 2017
Shanghai Museum
28 Jun – 8 Oct 2017
Egyptian mummies: exploring ancient lives
Hong Kong Science
Museum
2 Jun – 18 Oct 2017
National Palace Museum,
Taipei
14 Nov 2017 –
18 Feb 2018

INDIA

India and the world: a history in nine stories

CSMVS, Mumbai

10 Nov 2017 –

18 Feb 2018

Supported by the Getty Foundation and Tata Trusts
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JAPAN

Hokusai: beyond Fuji

Abeno Harukas Art Museum, Osaka

5 Oct – 19 Nov 2017

SPAIN

Medieval Europe: power and legacy

CaixaForum, Barcelona

9 Mar – 18 Jun 2017

CaixaForum, Zaragoza

12 Jul – 29 Oct 2017

Ancient Greeks: athletes, warriors and heroes

CaixaForum, Madrid

13 Jul – 15 Oct 2017

CaixaForum, Barcelona

23 Nov 2017 –

18 Feb 2018

CaixaForum, Seville

20 Mar – 24 Jun 2018

UNITED KINGDOM

Dressed to impress: Netsuke and Japanese men's fashion

Oriental Museum,

Durham

9 Dec 2016 –

21 May 2017

Dorman Museum,

Middlesbrough

30 May – 29 Oct 2017

Museum of East Asian

Art, Bath

4 Nov 2017 – 22 Apr 2018

Supported by Peter and Faith Coolidge

Writing for eternity: decoding Ancient Egypt

Museum of Hartlepool

21 Jan – 21 May 2017

Picasso linocuts

Cooper Gallery, Barnsley

21 Jan – 29 Apr 2017

Herbert Art Gallery &

Museum, Coventry

9 Sep – 3 Dec 2017

Celebrating Ganesha

The Horniman, London

11 Feb – 23 April 2017

Brent Museum &

Archives

3 May – 28 Aug 2017

Manchester Museum

2 Sep 2017 – 8 Jan 2018

Lines of thought: drawing from Michelangelo to now

Ulster Museum, Belfast

10 Mar – 7 May 2017

Supported by the Bridget

Riley Art Foundation

Warhol to Walker: American prints from pop art to today

Old Gala House,

Galashiels

1 Apr – 2 Jul 2017

Hackney Museum,

London

11 Jul – 16 Sep 2017

Worcester Museum

4 Nov 2017 – 6 Jan 2018

The Atkinson, Southport

13 Jan – 11 Mar 2018

Music from courtly India

Derby Museum and Art

Gallery

6 May – 25 Jun 2017

Blackburn Museum and

Art Gallery

30 Jun – 26 Aug 2017

Viking: rediscover the legend

Yorkshire Museum, York

19 May – 5 Nov 2017

Djanogly Gallery,

University of Nottingham

Museum

24 Nov 2017 –

4 Mar 2018

The Atkinson, Southport

31 Mar – 8 July 2018

Portrait of the artist:

Käthe Kollwitz

Ikon Gallery,

Birmingham

13 Sep – 26 Nov 2017

Young Gallery, Salisbury

15 Dec 2017 –

11 Mar 2018

Glynn Vivian Art

Gallery, Swansea

24 Mar – 17 Jun 2018

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USA

British modern prints from the British Museum

University of San Diego

10 Feb – 19 May 2017

Lines of thought: drawing

from Michelangelo to now

New Mexico Museum of

Art, Santa Fe

25 May – 17 Sep 2017

Rhode Island School

of Design Museum,

Providence

6 Oct 2017 – 7 Jan 2018

Rome: city and empire

Frist Center for the

Visual Arts, Nashville

23 Feb – 28 May 2018

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