

Press release

## Experience the unexpected from the new British Museum Touring Exhibition

*Drawing attention: emerging artists in dialogue*

York Art Gallery (27 October 2023 – 28 January 2024)

Wolverhampton Art Gallery (10 February 2024 – 6 May 2024)

Hartlepool Art Gallery (18 May 2024 – 24 August 2024)

*Supported by Art Fund*

Press images: <https://tinyurl.com/38yuvtzr>

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**LONDON, 23 October:** Think you know the extent of the British Museum's collections? You might need to think again.

Between October 2023 and August 2024, a British Museum Touring Exhibition *Drawing attention: emerging artists in dialogue* can be seen in York, Wolverhampton and Hartlepool. It presents some of the most compelling up-and-coming names in the field of contemporary drawing, displayed alongside highlights of the British Museum's collection.

These new acquisitions include some of the youngest artists to be collected by the British Museum, presented alongside works by celebrated artists from Mary Delany, Andy Warhol and Barbara Hepworth to Édouard Manet.

In this surprising and thought-provoking selection, emerging artists are taking the medium of drawing in new directions. A wide range of techniques and practices are represented, including drawings using make-up on face wipes by Sin Wai Kin, to a drawing made with chalk collected from the White Cliffs of Dover by Josephine Baker.

Artists show how drawing, often considered a quiet or private medium, can be used to challenge social norms, explore identity, or protest injustice.

This tour has evolved from an exhibition at the British Museum. Each of the partner galleries in York, Wolverhampton and Hartlepool will use this exhibition to highlight their collections, while making meaningful connections with the British Museum's collection of both historical and contemporary drawing.

The touring exhibition might not be what visitors expect of the British Museum. While the Museum has actively collected contemporary drawings since the 1970s, it is now, for the first time also focusing on emerging artists.

This exhibition highlights new acquisitions by some of the freshest and most compelling new voices in the field, exploring questions of identity, memory and materiality, and using innovative materials and processes.

The works are 'paired' alongside prints and drawings dating as far back as the early 1500s, demonstrating their continuities with historical traditions of draughtsmanship.

Charmaine Watkiss (born 1964), *Double Consciousness: Be Aware of One's Intentions*, pencil, water-soluble graphite, watercolour and ink, 2021, will be exhibited alongside the work by Mary Delany (1700–1788), *Passiflora Laurifolia (Gynandria Pentandria)*, collage of coloured papers, with bodycolour and watercolour, on black ink background, 1777.

Sin Wai Kin (born 1991), *what you have gained along the way*, make up on facial wipe, 2017, will be exhibited alongside the work by Hans Burgkmair the Elder (1473–1531), *Head of Christ crowned with thorns*, woodcut on paper, c. 1508–15.

David Haines (born 1969), *Man Reading Messages (Pawel)*, graphite on paper, 2020, will be exhibited alongside the work by Wallerant Vaillant (1623–1677), *Boy with a feathered velvet hat looking downwards and reading a letter*, mezzotint on paper, c. 1660–75.

Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings (both born 1991), *Funny Girls*, graphite on paper, 2019 will be exhibited alongside the work by Giorgio Ghisi (1520–1582), *The Eritrean sibyl*, after Michelangelo's fresco on the Sistine ceiling, engraving on paper, early 1570s.

Isabel Seligman, Monument Trust Curator of Modern and Contemporary Drawing said:

*"This touring exhibition enables us to amplify some of the freshest and most compelling new voices in British contemporary art, helping us to tell stories not currently represented in the Museum collections. It addresses questions of identity and what it means to make a drawing today."*

Mark Jones, Interim Director of the British Museum, said:

*"The British Museum's prints and drawings collection is one of the best in the world. But it is vitally important for future generations that it continues to develop, so we are grateful to Art Fund's New Collecting Award for allowing us to strengthen our holdings with exciting new British artists."*

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## Notes to editors

**Drawing attention: emerging artists in dialogue** will be on display at York Art Gallery (27 October 2023 – 28 January 2024), Wolverhampton Art Gallery (10 February 2024 – 6 May 2024) and Hartlepool Art Gallery (18 May 2024 – 24 August 2024).

**Full list of emerging artists:** Emii Alrai (b. 1993); Catherine Anyango Grünewald (b.1982); Josephine Baker (b.1990); Miriam de Búrca (b.1972); Somaya Critchlow (b.1993); Jake Grewal (b.1994); David Haines (b.1969); Rosie Hastings & Hannah Quinlan (b.1991); Mary Herbert (b.1988); Jessie Makinson (b.1985); Jade Montserrat (b.1981); Ro Robertson (b. 1984); Sin Wai Kin (b.1991); Charmaine Watkiss (b.1964).

**Art Fund** is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. A further £2 million has been made available in 2021 for Reimagine projects. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by Art Partners, donors, trusts and foundations and the 130,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine.

### The British Museum's National Programmes

The British Museum is committed to sharing our collection and expertise as widely as possible with people throughout the UK. In 2022/23 we lent nearly 2,000 objects to 122 museums and galleries, reaching over 6.5 million visitors outside London.

Our touring exhibitions create a positive educational, social and economic impact for the regions and nations they visit. Our loans to partnership museums and galleries facilitate new perspectives on our shared global history, reflecting diverse viewpoints, lived experiences and collective ideas.

The British Museum also manages the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in England, recording and sharing British archaeological discoveries to help shape our understanding of the past.

Our National Programmes work is supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe.



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#### Further information

Contact the Press Office: [communications@britishmuseum.org](mailto:communications@britishmuseum.org)

High resolution images and caption sheet available at: <https://tinyurl.com/38yuvtzr>