

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT

The UK's twice-yearly night-time festival of arts, culture and heritage.
May 17-20, 2017

[Museums at Night](#), the UK's after-hours festival of arts, culture and heritage, produced by arts charity [Culture24](#), is back for 2017. Now in its ninth year, the festival will take place in May and in October. Dates for the 2017 festivals are 17 – 20 May and 26 – 28 October respectively.



The Museums at Night festival offers the chance to engage with culture and heritage in a unique and exciting way. During the festival, hundreds of museums, galleries and historic spaces all over the UK will open their doors after dark to put on an impressive and diverse array of special night-time events – gallery gigs, art happenings, twilight screenings, all-night sleepovers, nature walks, star gazing or simply to offer the chance to experience some of the UK's cultural venues, historic houses and museums in a new light.

Many cities will be hosting city-wide events during the Museums at Night festival. [Manchester After Hours](#) will take you on a nocturnal journey around the city on one night only (Thursday May 18). From gigs on wheels, video installations projected onto landmark aircraft and live musical experiences staged within the city's most treasured literary collections to internationally acclaimed sound collectives, contemporary music performed from the heart of one of the city's oldest buildings plus walking art tours, hands-on digital innovation and even a spot of football – there are 15 original, largely free and exciting events to discover and experience right across the city throughout this unique evening.

[Light Night](#) is Liverpool's late night arts festival, taking place on Friday May 19. Experience an unforgettable evening of more than 100 free events as Light Night unlocks the doors of world-class museums, galleries and heritage sites until late. Follow your own exciting trail of light projections, exhibitions, performances, talks, walks, tours, dance and hands-on activities for all ages: whatever you choose to do, you'll uncover the flourishing creative underbelly that makes Liverpool such an extraordinary place to experience culture.

Tyneside's ultimate late-night culture crawl, [The Late Shows](#), celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Across Friday 19 and Saturday 20 May, over 50 arts, culture and heritage venues in Newcastle and Gateshead will open late into the evening to put on special one-off events as part of Museums at Night. From guided tours of historic landmarks to performances, open studios and hands-on workshops, this is your chance to see Tyneside's cultural scene in a new light. All venues are free to enter.

In London over 30 museums and galleries across the capital will be open late, from National Trust properties and major museums and galleries, to quirky spaces and hidden gems – Museums at Night offers the chance to discover museums on your doorstep that you didn't even know existed!

In Scotland, the annual [Festival of Museums](#) (15 – 17 May) will feature over 100 day and night events. The event is specially curated to give visitors a unique glimpse inside Scotland's best-loved museums and encourage them to engage with culture in unique and hands on ways.

Highlights from the May 2017 festival include:

- **Vices and Virtues: Life Drawing in the Painted Hall with Art Macabre** London: Old Royal Naval College 18 May, 7pm – 9pm

Sketch gods and goddesses against the dramatic backdrop of the Painted Hall in Greenwich, and take a tour of the vast painted ceiling, in this theatrical life drawing event from Art Macabre's drawing salon with a difference. Drawing inspiration from the legends and mythology magnificently depicted by James Thornhill, experience this treasured heritage space after dark.

- **Fashion and Scandal: 1960s Archive Night London: The National Archive**, 19 May, 6.30pm – 10pm.

Culture. Revolution. Scandal. From the Profumo affair, to mods and rockers and the cultural, sexual and social revolutions, the National Archive will be showcasing records including those charting the rise of The Beatles, the trial of Lady Chatterley's Love and the arrest and trial of the Krays. Expect expert talks, performances, music and dancing reflecting some of the biggest events of the decade. Adults Only.

- **Neuroscience: Why People Buy** London: Museum of Brands, 17 May 6pm – 8.30pm

The Director of Neuroscience at Nielsen Consumer Neuroscience will introduce you to techniques brands use to hone their products and will give background into how the conscious and subconscious brain works. Most consumers make their buying decisions subconsciously: from buying houses to teabags, it is our 'gut reaction' that guides our behaviour. Neuroscience allows researchers to begin to understand consumers' subconscious reactions to products, brands and advertising thus gaining deeper insights into our consumer behaviour.

- **Dr Johnson's Bluestocking Salon** London: Dr Johnson's House, 18 May, 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Celebrate the intellectual and artistic life of Georgian London and one of its key figures Samuel Johnson, with an evening of books, poetry and short

talks on the leading ladies and gentlemen of the Bluestocking group. Come dressed as one of the favourite characters of the time.

- **Black Canvas: Comedy at the National Gallery London:
National Gallery, 19 May, 7pm – 8pm**

A very special comedy show in the National Gallery. Join one of the UK's leading improvised comedy groups Do Not Adjust Your Stage as they create comic scenes, sketches and characters on the spot, inspired by the paintings in the National Gallery. Adults Only.

- **Kaleidoscope Mindful Colouring Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 19
May, 6.30pm– 8pm**

Learn a range of colouring techniques and approaches to soothe stress and encourage feelings of focus and calm. Wellbeing specialist and artist Rachel Howfield Massey will lead a mindful colouring workshop using the rich colours and undulating shapes evident in the exhibition as her starting point. Learn a range of colouring techniques and approaches to soothe stress and encourage feelings of focus and calm. 16 plus.

- **Celebrate Light Night at Bluecoat's 300 Years Birthday
Party Liverpool: Bluecoat, 19 May, 6pm – 8.30pm**

Join Bluecoat in celebrating their 300 year old history with a fancy dress party inspired by the spectacular events held in this historic building over the years. Bluecoat will be reviving the spectacular costume parties held by artists in the building over the last century. Come dressed up as a figure from your favourite historical period and have your portrait created with our stunning building as a backdrop, complete with additional props. Enjoy live music from the last three centuries, discover their open studios, or drop in for family activities themed around Bluecoat's eighteenth century school years. Family Friendly.

- **Spiritual Horn Performance with performance artist Stu
Herring Newcastle Cathedral, 20 May, 7pm – 11pm**

Newcastle Cathedral will be hosting a unique and evocative feature by performance artist Stu Herring. Using an industrially-built Tibetan-style spiritual horn, Stu will create frequency and sound to produce an abundant saturation of energy dictated and enhanced by the beautiful interior. A single

note will be played throughout the evening to create a sublime blend of meditative acoustics within the sacred space. The sound of the horn is comparable to that of the unique frequencies found throughout nature and religion – the God frequency. Visitors are invited to enjoy the peaceful, spiritual and meditative atmosphere, and experience all elements of beauty, scale and awe.

Nick Stockman, Campaigns Manager for Museums at Night said, *“The May Museums at Night festival is our 9th Spring edition and as we approach the end of our first decade it’s packed with ever more extraordinary events. Museums, galleries and heritage sites are reinventing themselves for a new participatory era, visitors’ expectations are evolving and the venues that take part in the festival are on the leading edge of the Lates revolution. It’s great to see so many types and sizes of venues, from all over the country, creating this mass celebration of culture and heritage.”*

The Museums at Night festival has experienced phenomenal growth during the past eight years. The festival attracted 220,000 visits to 700 events in more than 500 venues across the country in 2016. The festival is designed to encourage new audiences into museums and galleries. Museums at Night is the UK's response to International Museums Day, which takes place on May 18 2017.

For details of all venues, events and activities visit www.museumsatnight.org.uk, where listings information will be continually updated right up until the weekend itself.

For further information please contact: Pandora George or Sam Leimanis at Bullet PR pandora@bulletpr.co.uk, sam@bulletpr.co.uk 01273 775520

For press images please visit <http://culture24.mediafiler.net>
Login details: User: press / Password: museums

-- ENDS --

Notes to Editors:

Museums at Night is the twice-yearly after-hours festival of arts, culture and heritage, which sees hundreds of museums, galleries, libraries, archives and heritage sites over the UK open their doors for special evening events.

www.museumsatnight.org.uk

Culture24 is a Brighton-based independent non-profit company that exists to support the cultural sector to reach and connect with audiences. It is best known for publishing great websites about culture; producing the successful Museums at Night festival of after-hours openings and leading Let's Get Real, the collaborative action research project involving cultural organisations across the UK and Europe.

www.WeAreCulture24.org.uk

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk