

ART HISTORY & VISUAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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Welcome to History of Art at The University of Manchester!

Our Department is packed with world-class researchers and talented and supportive lecturers, all of whom are passionate about Art History. The current Research Framework (a UK-wide benchmark for research excellence) placed us in the top three Art History Departments in the UK, and we achieved a 92% student satisfaction rating in the last National Student Survey.

As you may know, we are offering an Art History Insight Day on 9 November 2016. This hands-on event will introduce you to the study of Art History at university level and give you the chance to get an exclusive tour of the award-winning Whitworth Art Gallery. The day includes a taster lecture, a chance to meet our undergraduates, and an activity session in The Whitworth Art Gallery. There will also be an Art History Careers Day on 29 October 2016. For further details and information on booking places, please go to our outreach website: www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/connect/schools/outreach/

Manchester is packed with wonderful public art galleries, museum and libraries, many of which will feature in subsequent editions of the AHVS newsletter. In this particular newsletter we want to spotlight the extraordinary teaching and learning riches of our world-class collections at the cultural assets of The University of Manchester including The Whitworth, The John Rylands Library and The Tabley House Collection.

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The Whitworth

The Whitworth, museum of the year in 2015, when it reopened after a massive £19 million extension, has a fabulous collection of art and design.

The historic collection is renowned across the world and includes major drawings and watercolours by 18th-century artists such as Paul Sandby, Thomas Gainsborough and Thomas Jones, and outstanding 19th-century Romantic landscapes by J. M.W. Turner, Thomas Girtin



Inside the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

and Samuel Palmer, together with an important group of Pre-Raphaelite works by Millais, Rossetti, Holman Hunt and Burne-Jones.

The Whitworth received by far its largest gift of watercolours in 1892, from John Edward Taylor, the influential owner of the Manchester Guardian. It included some of the works for which the Whitworth is now famous, such as *The Ancient of Days* (c.1827), one of seven works by William Blake in the collection, along with 18 Turner watercolours and works by John Robert Cozens and Richard Parkes Bonington. After Taylor's founding gift, other local collectors, who generally came from the industrial and commercial elite of Manchester, presented many of the Whitworth's most coveted British watercolours. Continental European art is also represented by smaller groups of old master drawings by Dürer, Rembrandt, Piranesi and Goya, and 19th-century works by Degas, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Munch. Modern masters include Klee, de Chirico, Picasso, Spencer, Moore, Hepworth, Bacon, Freud, Hockney and many others.

See more at: <http://events.manchester.ac.uk/calendar/tag:whitworth/>

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The John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Library, a neo-Gothic masterpiece, has been called 'one of the world's greatest libraries.' It holds a collection spanning 5,000 years. It is home to an astonishing array of works: over a million books, maps, manuscripts, visual materials and archives. The £16.8 million redevelopment in 2007 confirmed its status as one of the great learning spaces in Europe, a brilliant place to discover rare and precious artefacts from Babylon clay tablets to letters by leading modern artists and poets.

European print culture is well represented in the Library's collections. Covering a spectrum of subjects, our prints provide examples of a range of different techniques including relief, intaglio, planographic and screen printing. They date from the 15th century to the present and include works by Durer Poussin, Hogarth - and Blake.



Inside the John Rylands Library, Manchester



The Library's Special Collections provide a rich resource for Art History students, and a wonderful space for researching or writing your Dissertation!. Our collections cover areas as diverse as Renaissance print culture, Post World War II avant-garde art movements, the art and illustration of science, technology and medicine, 19th century British Art, and the visual culture of the Near, Middle and Far East

The ambitious digitisation programme seeks to provide online public access to our Special Collections, as well using digital material to deliver new teaching and research opportunities.

See more at: http://events.manchester.ac.uk/calendar/tag:john_rylands_library/

The Tabley House Collection

As a University of Manchester country house collection, **The Tabley House Collection** showcases a permanent exhibition of early British modern masters alongside interchanging displays of impressive treasures that tell the story of Tabley.

Tabley House was designed by John Carr of York for Sir Peter Byrne Leicester, Bt., and completed in 1767. Now home to The Tabley House Collection, the collection is based around a great Regency picture collection and important paintings commissioned and collected by the Leicester family, principally by the British art patron Sir John Fleming Leicester Bt (1762-1827). Sir John was the first great patron of British paintings; he became the first Lord de Tabley, ennobled by his friend, George IV in 1827. Amongst the modern masters that Leicester commissioned to paint was a young JMW Turner, who stayed at Tabley and painted the house and the mere, views of which are still unspoilt. Easel marks on the floorboards, scrap book clippings and diary entry remarks document the artist's stay at Tabley House. With approximately 12,000 items in the collection there are many family treasures; social history items, textiles, decorative arts pieces and important furniture from Gillow, Bullock and Chippendale, as well as two rare early keyboard instruments. The Tabley House Library makes

up a quarter of the Collection; it is owned by the John Rylands Library, which has taken the principal items into its care at Deansgate, leaving a still remarkable collection at Tabley House to exemplify a typical country house collection. The house, with its nine-bay central block facing south, flanked by pavilions and quadrant passages set well back and splendid Doric Portico reached by curved stairs, Tabley is the only 18th century Palladian country house in Cheshire.

See more at <http://events.manchester.ac.uk/event/event:o6p-iai6jk8k-1xofwg/the-tabley-house-collection>

We hope you find time to visit some or all of our fine institutions! Details relating to internships, work placements and volunteering opportunities at these remarkable institutions will feature in subsequent newsletters.



Inside Tabley House, Tabley

Upcoming Art Exhibitions

We conclude this newsletter with a short preview of some the season's major art exhibitions, many of which relate to subjects included in our undergraduate programme:

You Say You Want a Revolution?

This multimedia exhibition spotlights developments in art, politics and culture between 1966 and 1970. **Victoria & Albert Museum (until 26 February 2017).**

Wifredo Lam

Long overdue exhibition devoted to the Cuban painter associated with The School of Paris and the Surrealist movement. The event, held at Tate Modern, includes *The Jungle*, one of the key works produced during World War II. **(Until 8 January 2017)**

America After the Fall

Grant Wood's famous *American Gothic* is included in this review of realist, social realist, 'American Scene' and abstract paintings by Edward Hopper, Thomas Hart Benton, Georgia O'Keefe, Philip Guston and other artists from the 1930s. **(Royal Academy, February-June 2017.)**

Abstract Expressionism

See key works by Pollock, Rothko, De Kooning, Motherwell and other members of the New York School at the mammoth show at The Royal Academy. **(Until 2 January 2017.)**

Robert Rauschenberg

Leading figure from the Post-Abstract Expressionist period reviewed in a giant exhibition at Tate Modern. **(Until 2 April 2017)**

Feminist Avant-Garde from the 1970s

Major retrospective of works by Sherman, Rosler, Jürgenssen and other figures reworking photography, film, collage, performance – and video. Photographers' Gallery. **(Until 8 January 2017)**

Beyond Caravaggio

This important exhibition, held at the National Gallery, spotlights the achievements of the 'Caravaggisti', artists who were inspired by the art of Caravaggio. **(Until 15 January 2017)**

Paul Nash

Tate Britain reviews of the relatively short career of the leading British neo-Romantic and Surrealist painter. **(Until 15 March 2017)**

Tracey Emin and William Blake

An unlikely juxtaposition? You decide! Go to Tate Liverpool before 3 September 2017.

Bedlam

This interdisciplinary exhibition explores the history of asylums and includes key works by Hogarth, Dadd and many others. **(Wellcome Collection until 15 January 2017)**



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