

Fitzwilliam Museum Announces 2023 Exhibition Programme

The Fitzwilliam Museum today announced its programme of exhibitions for 2023, bringing together interdisciplinary research and ideas from across the University of Cambridge and beyond to explore how identities and attitudes are formed – and the role art and objects can play in shaping both our presents and our futures.

Images: <https://bit.ly/3Fq2XV2>

Islanders: The Making of the Mediterranean **Until 4 June 2023**

Throughout history, islands have been romanticised as remote places quite unlike the mainland. *Islanders: The Making of the Mediterranean* is a new, critically acclaimed exhibition that transports visitors back 4,000 years to the islands and sea of the ancient Mediterranean. It brings to the UK an unprecedented group of over 200 antiquities on loan, most for the first time, from three of the largest Mediterranean islands – Sardinia, Cyprus, and Crete – to demystify the identity of island life and show how the evolution of the Mediterranean world was defined by how connected the islands were across three millennia. These extraordinary loans reveal lost island civilisations of trading powers across the Mediterranean that far from operating in isolation, actively sought out new markets to bring the islands wealth and materials to advance their cultures.

Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance **8 September – 7 January 2024**

A landmark exhibition exploring the impact of the Black Atlantic will be staged in the Fitzwilliam Museum's historic Founder's Galleries, which were built using the profits from enslavement and exploitation. *Black Atlantic: Power, People, Resistance* brings together significant national and international loans with collections from across the University of Cambridge's museums, libraries and colleges to tell both a Cambridge story, and a global one. Using as its starting point the story of the Museum's founder, Viscount Richard Fitzwilliam, whose family wealth came in part from the South Sea Company and East India Company, the exhibition charts a history from pre-colonial Africa and the Caribbean, the rise and racialisation of Atlantic enslavement, and histories of resistance by enslaved people and their allies. Objects and artworks illustrating the financial, scientific and commercial transformations in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Britain that came about because of enslaved labour are shown in dialogue with modern and contemporary artworks by artists including Donald Locke, Barbara Walker, Keith Piper and Jacqueline Bishop that respond to hidden histories and reveal stories of courage, resistance, hope and repair. *Black Atlantic* is the first in a series of exhibitions and gallery interventions planned for 2023-6.

Real Families: Stories of Change **6 October – 7 January 2024**

Real Families is a major exhibition exploring the intricacies of families and family relationships through the eyes of artists. The theme of the family has been interpreted and represented for centuries, but, especially during the past fifty years, Western ideas of what makes a family and how family life is experienced have been transformed by advances in science and by changes in social attitudes and law. Developed in collaboration with the world-leading Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge, the exhibition shows how the joys, tensions and transitions in families have little to do with conforming to traditional structures. Instead, acceptance, rejection, conflict and comfort arise from relationships within family groups of all kinds, and through connections with the outside world. Painting, photography, video, sculpture and installations by artists including Paula Rego, Chantal Joffe, JJ Levine, Lucian Freud and Tracey Emin tell moving and enduring stories of intimacy, alienation and everything in between.

For further enquires please contact the Fitzwilliam Museum Press Office: ehs33@cam.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

The Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816, the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funded programme. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB | Free admission Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00; CLOSED: 24 - 26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday.