

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 3 April

Horniman Museum and Gardens announces further details of new World Gallery opening on 29 June 2018

Press Preview: Tuesday 26 June 2018



Visualisations of the new World Gallery. Planning and design by Ralph Appelbaum Associates.

- **Over 3,000 objects from around the globe will go on show in the new 600 sq m gallery, opening to the public on 29 June 2018**
- **Visitors will be able to explore the Horniman’s internationally significant anthropology collection through vibrant and insightful displays celebrating the diversity and beauty of the world’s cultures**
- **The prow of a Libyan refugee boat, a Tuareg camel saddle, Chinese paper offerings, a Native American tomahawk and a sword made of sharks teeth from Kiribati are among the objects that will go on display, many for the first time in a generation.**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens’ new World Gallery will open to the public on 29 June 2018, marking a major moment in the Horniman’s history. The new gallery will provide a beautiful and contemporary setting for its world-class anthropology collection, with over 3,000 objects telling stories from around the world that explore what it means to be human. Occupying one half of the Horniman’s original building in Forest Hill, South London, the World Gallery is the culmination of more than five years’ work to transform this historic gallery and recapture the light and spirit of the Horniman when it first opened on 29 June 1901.

Over 100 years later, the World Gallery will be an enriching addition to London, fulfilling Frederick Horniman’s ambition ‘to bring the world to Forest Hill’. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the gallery is part of the Horniman Museum and Gardens’ wider mission to encourage appreciation of the world, its peoples and their cultures, and its environments. Showcasing selected new acquisitions alongside magnificent objects from the Horniman’s existing collection, the gallery will show some of the ways that ordinary people live their lives and make their way in the world we all share. The gallery also includes stories about contemporary issues such as climate change, migration and displacement.

The gallery was developed by the Horniman’s anthropology curators in collaboration with over 200 people from its community networks including local groups, arts organisations, community leaders, international museums, academic partners and representatives of some of those who made and used the objects in the collections.

The World Gallery will be divided into four interlinked spaces: an Introductory area – welcoming visitors into the gallery and exploring the sentiments and memories we can associate with objects; Encounters – rich displays showing examples of ways of living from every continent and different times and places; Horniman’s Vision – an overview of the Horniman’s history; and Perspectives – an area that reflects on how and why we categorise, describe and understand the world.

The gallery space is completed with a beautiful display of kites and banners hanging from the newly renovated ceiling vault. Collected and commissioned from Guatemala, China, London and beyond, these emblems signify our human instinct to come together in celebration, play or protest. Highlights include kites by Ahmadzia Bakhtyari, a London-based kite-maker from Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, and a banner created by South East London artist Ed Hall with Horniman volunteers, inspired by the long tradition of Trade Union banners.

Introductory area

The entrance to the gallery introduces the ways in which objects connect people, and the powerful emotions they can evoke. A series of audio-visual digital installations feature people from the Horniman’s community groups, volunteers, spiritual leaders, collectors and anthropologists talking about objects of personal meaning to them. These films, presented alongside a display of objects selected for their emotional resonance, will encourage visitors to reflect on objects that hold meaning in their own lives.

Encounters

Encounters will present examples of ways of living from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Oceania and Europe, representing some of the Horniman’s strongest collections. They will explore what it means to live a human life in different times and places.

The African encounters display objects relating to people living in bustling cities, vast deserts and dense rainforests. They explore aspects of life in Nigeria and South Africa, as well as the Mbendjele people of the Congo basin and the Tuareg people of North Africa.

The American encounters look at indigenous peoples of the North American Plains, the Arctic, the First Nations of the Pacific Northwest Coast and Wai Wai people of Guyana and Brazil. They highlight a shared indigenous American understanding of generosity and respect as the basis for all social relations.

The Asian encounters focus on the cultures of China, the Himalayas, Nagaland and Thailand, revealing the diversity of religious belief and cultural practice in the world’s largest continent.

The Oceania encounters explore ways of thinking and living in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and other islands of the Pacific Ocean. They reflect on the shared respect people have with land and sea and how objects can create and reaffirm family and ancestral ties.

The European encounters reveal a strong connection between contemporary life and the distant past. Travel, trade and its consequences are explored with a focus on England, Poland, Sweden, Italy and the Mediterranean. The encounters demonstrate a curiosity about other cultures that has been part of a European worldview for thousands of years.

Various artworks will be on display within Encounters, ranging from a work by Lynette Nampijinpa Granites, an indigenous Warlpiri artist whose painting is central to the Australian encounter, to Chinese ancestral hangings and a tattooed self-portrait sculpture by a Naga artist working in London. A number of contemporary artists have been commissioned to display works in the World Gallery. These include a dress by Nigerian fashion designer Alafuro Sikoki-Coleman, inspired by a female god, Woyingi, once exclusively worshipped by the Ijaw people of southern Nigeria, and a Kiribati Eco-Warrior helmet by New Zealand artist Chris Charteris, which speaks to the importance of resourcefulness when facing the challenges of climate change.

Children are invited to interact with some of the exhibits for a multisensory learning experience. They can touch intricately tooled Tuareg metalwork, arctic seal and reindeer skin and a digital coral reef. They can smell aromatic herbs used by Bhutanese ritual healers in the Himalayas, listen to epic First Nations' stories from the Pacific Northwest Coast, and even play in a Lagos market stall.

Perspectives

Perspectives presents objects in a variety of categories, posing questions about how we classify the world around us. Perspectives also examines what anthropology is and explores fieldwork undertaken by anthropologists who collected or donated material to the museum. The Horniman has also worked with members of its Access Advisory Group to co-curate a display of objects linked to representations of disability and mental illness.

Horniman's Vision

Horniman's Vision provides an overview of the museum's history and ethos through the life of its founder, Frederick Horniman, who set out in the 19th century to 'bring the world to Forest Hill.' The displays include ancient pottery, European armour and items of natural history from Surrey House, Frederick's family home, which he opened to the public on the site of the present museum. Horniman gave his museum and its collections to 'the people in perpetuity' in 1901 to help them discover the world – a legacy that lives on in the new gallery.

Robert Storrie, Keeper of Anthropology at the Horniman, says: *'The opening of the World Gallery will be an important milestone in the Horniman's history that will once again place Anthropology at the centre of the museum. We hope the displays will give us, together with our visitors, the opportunity to explore the many different ways that people can understand and describe the world we all share. Faced with what often feels like the overwhelming consequences of climate change, we want to help our community to think about the ways in which we are all connected, and to draw inspiration from examples of humanity's resilience, creativity and compassion.'*

This significant development project has been made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the generosity of Trusts and Foundations, donors and individuals. The project has been realised as the result of a £3.3m Heritage Lottery Fund grant, with an additional £1.4m being raised, including a global crowdfunding campaign, which raised over £25,000.

www.horniman.ac.uk/worldgallery | #WorldGallery | @HornimanMuseum

Ends

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The World Gallery is part of the Horniman's wider anthropology project, which also includes development of The Studio – a new, co-curated, contemporary arts space responding to the Horniman's anthropology collection opening later in 2018. Find out more about the project at www.horniman.ac.uk/about/anthropology-redisplay.

To time with the World Gallery opening, the Horniman will also open a photographic display by Bryan Alexander showing contemporary indigenous Siberian ways of life, a new Grasslands Garden highlighting grasslands and prairie landscapes in North America and South Africa, and the Shared World Season, a summer programme of events and activities reflecting the themes of the World Gallery.

In addition to £3.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Horniman's anthropology project is also supported by: the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council England, The Wolfson Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Fidelity UK Foundation, The DCMS

Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Viridor Credits Environmental Company, The Pilgrim Trust, The Sackler Trust, The Andor Charitable Trust, The Goldsmiths' Company Charity, The Charles Hayward Foundation, the John S Coates Charitable Trust and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation alongside a number of generous groups and individuals.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported

The Horniman Museum and Gardens opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium and a Butterfly House. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London.

Our visitors come time and again to participate in our exciting range of events and activities, sample the tasty delights from our popular cafe, and shop for interesting gifts in our gift shop. We also make our spaces available for hire including our stunning Grade II listed Victorian Conservatory built in 1894 and modern Gardens Pavilion. The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its Major partner museums.

Opening times and admission. The Horniman Museum is open daily 10.00am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8.00am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members go free – www.horniman.ac.uk/members.

Access. The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for disabled visitors – call 020 8699 1872.

Travel. The Horniman is situated on the South Circular Road (A205) in Forest Hill, London. It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill from Highbury and Islington, Whitechapel and Canada Water (on the London Overground line), London Bridge (15 minutes), London Victoria, Clapham Junction and East Croydon, and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**

and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



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