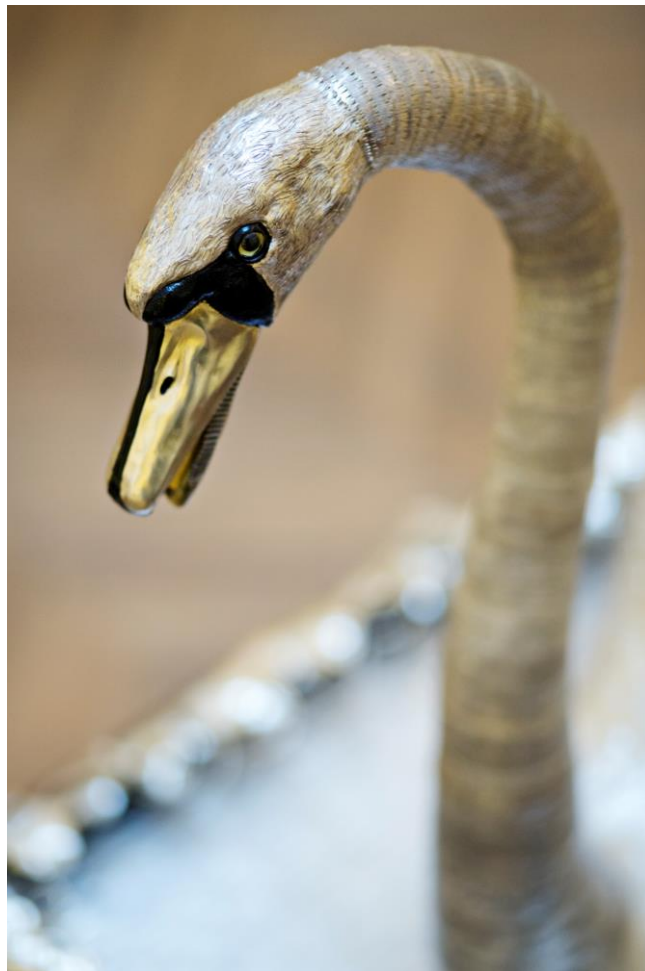


Alison White
Media & PR Officer
Alison.white@thebowesmuseum.org.uk
thebowesmuseum.org.uk
Barnard Castle
DL12 8NP
01833 690606



Celebrate a year of Movement at The Bowes Museum



2023 will be a year celebrating the theme of 'movement' at The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle, inspired by the 250th birthday of the Silver Swan.

From the sustainably repurposed objects created by students at the Northern School of Art on display in *Design, Make, Process - Modern Makers* from 11 March 2023 to 18 June 2023 to the mesmerising sculptural works by Martin Smith and *Celebrating 250 years of the world's most famous Silver Swan*, an exhibition exploring the story of the iconic automaton from 8 July 2023 to January 2024, all will have movement in common.

Visitors to the French style public Museum will be able to enjoy the architectural metal sculptures inspired by nature and the Museum's Silver Swan by Martin Smith, which will be on display in the grounds and in the galleries for a year from 25 February 2023.

Students from the BA (Hons) Textiles & Surface Design course at the Northern School of Art have been inspired by the 250 year old Silver Swan to repurpose and give a new lease of life to both traditional and non-traditional materials. Their works explore historic imagery with contemporary ideas around colour, process and technique.

The Museum's Silver Swan will take centre stage for the Museum's main exhibition of 2023. *Movement: Celebrating 250 years of the world's most famous Silver Swan* opens on 8 July 2023 and runs until 7 January 2024.

Visitors can discover the wonder that is The Bowes Museum's majestic Silver Swan as we celebrate its 250th birthday. Learn about John Joseph Merlin, the marvellous inventor who created its lifelike movement, the other objects he invented, the time he lived and who his peers were. Delight at other automata from the 18th century and play with those from today; visitors will even be able to make their own clockwork object in this special landmark exhibition.

Raymond Briggs: A Retrospective is currently on display and is open until 26 February 2023. It's the first ever retrospective of one of the most influential author-illustrators of all time – on tour at The Bowes Museum. This long-awaited retrospective shows never-before-seen material from Briggs' personal archive, revealing the origins of iconic titles that have become household favourites, literary classics and international phenomena.

There will be a full programme of events and family activities centred around all the exhibitions.

The Bowes Museum is open from 10am to 5pm daily, closed on only 25, 26 December and 1 January.

Entry to the Museum shop and Cafe Bowes is free.

Admission to the Museum is £12.50 for local members who live in County Durham and Darlington and £14.40 for people who live elsewhere. Day tickets are available for £17.50.

The Museum's website is: thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Notes to editors:

- The Bowes Museum was created over 100 years ago by an extraordinary couple, Joséphine and John Bowes. Together they built up the greatest private collection of fine and decorative arts in the North of England and constructed a magnificent building to house them in. The collection contains thousands of objects including furniture, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and many other items covering an extensive range of European styles and periods.
- The Bowes Museum receives a core funding grant from Durham County Council and as a Major Portfolio Museum receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual 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 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

- The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions. Our commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service: hotline number 03000 262626, discoverdurham.co.uk

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