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Media Release

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Half term activities at The Bowes Museum

Be inspired by the activities on offer at The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle this May half term holiday.

From daily spotlight tours and specialist family friendly tours, to the chance to get join in and get creative with artists and makers there's something for everyone of all ages over the school break.

Try out new techniques, materials and experiment with our team of artists, makers and designers on Saturday, 27 May; Wednesday 31 May and Saturday, 3 June from 1 until 3pm in our Artist Makers sessions.

Our popular Family Story Tours return with Monkeying Around the Museum on Monday, 29 May; Tuesday, 30 May and Friday, 2 June at 11am and 1pm, when visitors can explore the animal inspired stories in our collections and join us to find the monkeys hiding in unexpected placed across the Museum.

For our younger visitors the Stay and Play sessions continue over the break from 10am to 2pm on Thursday, 1 June. Time for pre-school children to discover play in the galleries, investigate materials and be creative in this self-led, free play session.

The Young Creatives Art Club for 11 to 18 year olds meets on Saturday, 3 June from 10.30am until 12.30pm. This is a chance for young artists to explore, observe, experiment and express ideas in a

creative and innovative way, inspired by the Museum's collections and exhibitions.

And the Museum's getting ready for its 131st birthday celebrations with a Family Day due to take place on Saturday, 10 June from 10.30am until 3.30pm. Visitors will be able to join a day of making, creating with plenty to see and do. With artist and drama workshops inside and out, a selection of friendly and insightful tours; Stay and Play for our younger audiences, Bright Woods Forest School, outdoor games and a trail, there's lots to keep everyone entertained.

See how the Museum's amazing collection has inspired future generations of artists from The Northern School of Art, Teesside, in the *Modern Makers* exhibition, which is open until 18 June.

Delight in the gentle rhythmical movements of Martin Smith's works, the *Kinetic Arboretum* on the terrace, *Bird Wave* and *Wishing You Well* inside.

Visitors can also enjoy a capsule collection of high end everyday designer wear from the 1980s, 90s and 2000s in the Fashion and Textile gallery's *20th Century Passion for Fashion* display.

There's also the chance to enjoy the Museum's permanent collection across three floors of galleries including paintings, ceramics, furniture, sculpture, silver and metals as well as fashion and textiles.

Explore the 22 acres of parkland, with nature trails, woodland walks, play and picnic areas or simply enjoy the view.

Local membership is £12.50 for people living in County Durham and Darlington and £14.50 membership for people living elsewhere. Day tickets are available for £17.50.

Entry to Café Bowes, the Museum shop and grounds is free.

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 North England and constructed a magnificent building to house them. 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 funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, 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. www.artscouncil.org.uk
- The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose 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. discoverdurham.co.uk

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