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Media Release

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### **LAST WEEKS TO SEE MODERN MAKERS AT THE BOWES MUSEUM**

There are just a few weeks left to discover the next generation of artists, makers and designers in the Modern Makers exhibition at The Bowes Museum, which runs til 18 June 2023.

Visitors will be able to see and 'feel' how the Barnard Castle based Museum's unique fine and decorative art collection inspired artists at The Northern School of Art to create a 21st century series of ornamental objects and textiles.

The exhibition demystifies the designers' thinking processes and demonstrates how the Museum's curators have been re-inspired by the students' pieces to seek out and display items from the 50,000 piece collection they've been reminded of.

Shown alongside rarely seen and re-sited pieces, the exploratory series of work introduces people to the production process behind an exhibited object; showcasing the stages from initial design to realised artwork through a collection of source drawings and film.

An embroidery of Joshua Reynolds has been brought out of storage for the exhibition as Mary Linwood was a pioneer in the art of 'needle painting' in the late 18th century and achieved great acclaim during her lifetime. Her stitching mimics an artist's brushstrokes and creates an almost lifelike textural quality to her work.

Similarly a sketch of flowers and fern by Museum co-founder, Joséphine Bowes, will be on display, illustrating the exquisitely rendered drawings of pressed flowers and ferns, highlighting their lace-like shapes so much you can almost sense their brittleness.

An arm chair made by the fashionable Parisian firm Monbro et fils aîné, who supplied furniture for the Museum's founders' homes in France, will be on view showing the way pattern is adapted to form with the decorative upholstery and the placing of the elaborate brass mounts on the frame.

And a Rococo Bracket clock with an asymmetric design with flowers and foliage that generates a sense of movement and freedom from the usual formality and symmetry of 18th century design and form.

Thirty two students on the BA (Hons) Textiles & Surface Design course, worked with the Museum for 18 months, taking inspiration from the collection to produce their work in the show.

They used traditional and contemporary approaches to colour and composition that are diverse in nature to print the works on a range of ceramics and fabrics.

Sustainability is at the core of many of the objects the students have created, with the use of recycled or repurposed items in their products. There was also a collaboration with students at St George C of E primary and Bader primary schools, as well as Bishop Auckland College, The Northern School of Arts ED Textiles Course and Saturday club, whose work has been digitally collaged together and printed onto voiles that will be in the exhibition.

#### [Couple looking at works of art in Modern Makers](#)

There are Artist Maker sessions in the Museum every Saturday from 1pm to 3pm for people to have a go at working with practising artists to learn new techniques, try out new skills and be inspired by them, the exhibition and collection.

Modern Makers runs until 5pm on Sunday, 18 June.

The Bowes Museum is open everyday from 10am to 5pm.

Entry is £12.50 for local membership, available to people who live in Darlington and County Durham, £14.50 for membership for people who live elsewhere or £17.50 for a day ticket. Admission can be booked on the Museum website: [thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

Entry to the Museum shop and Cafe Bowes 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](http://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](http://discoverdurham.co.uk)

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