

Alison White  
PR & Media Officer  
The Bowes Museum  
thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
DL12 8NP  
alison.white@thebowesmuseum.org.uk



Media Release

28 June 2023

### THE BOWES MUSEUM OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 15 JULY

Enjoy behind the scenes access, discover Museum secrets and more from our curators, conservators and exhibition team as The Bowes Museum holds an open day on Saturday, 15 July.

There will be the chance to join in artist led workshops and family activities inside and out. People can visit the Camera Obscura on the parterre using historical principles and technology to view the world around us and discover how Canaletto created his magnificent paintings.

There's an opportunity to meet the education team and learn about the uses of pots through history from Bronze Age Beakers, Greek Amphora and Tudor Pipkins with a few surprises along the way.

There are scheduled spotlight tours throughout the day with our volunteer guides, where visitors can discover more about the Silver & Metal gallery highlights, the Canalettos, the Triptych and some of the outstanding furniture in the collection, featuring the Boulle cabinet and Marie Antoinette's desk.

They can visit a new vault store and hear about the logistics of planning and relocating large objects within the Museum.

Visitors can also see the reserve collection of paintings in store and look up close at some of the highlights with our Meet the Curator session.

People can Meet the Curator of Fashion and Textiles inside the multi-functional glass cube, hear about how it is used as a display store and a demonstration and work area and discover some of the treasures in the drawers, boxes and cabinets. They can find out

how the Museum's Textile Conservator cares for and conserves historic and contemporary textiles and costumes.

Visitors can explore the landmark *The Magic of the Silver Swan* exhibition, which celebrates automata and technology in art for the 250th birthday of the Museum's most iconic object before taking part in Left a Bit, Right a Bit! where they can join the exhibitions team as they discuss how *The Magic of the Silver Swan* went from an initial idea to a full celebratory show.

They can also enjoy the thousands of objects on display in the collection, ranging from furniture and fashion to paintings and sculpture, ceramics and silver and metal too.

All workshops, talks and activities taking place are free to drop in on with admission to the the Barnard Castle based Museum's Open Day on Saturday, 15 July from 10am to 5pm.



Assistant Curator Joe Kinsey showing objects in the new store. ©The Bowes Museum

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 East England. They 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 styles and periods.
- The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and Arts Council England.
- Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set our vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each and every one of us is encouraged and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help the cultural sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).  
Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund. In 2020, we delivered over £1 billion to the sector in grants and loans. Find out more at [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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