



worthing theatres and museum

## PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:

Kathryn Follis

Marketing Coordinator

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Press Direct Line: (01903) 231227 | Box Office: (01903) 206206

07/05/21

Press Release – for immediate release

### **WTM's Museum and Gallery to reopen with a diverse programme of exhibitions, walks, talks and workshops**

Worthing Theatres and Museum are excited to announce that the Museum and Gallery will be reopening with four fantastic new exhibitions from Saturday 22 May 2021. Initially the museum will be open Saturdays (10am-5pm) and Thursdays (10am-8pm). The new Thursday late nights offer, for the first time, the opportunity to enjoy curator talks, exhibitions and WTM's permanent collections in the evening.

Head of Curation and Engagement Gerry Connolly says *'It is wonderful to be able to reopen the museum with four unique new exhibitions that celebrate local people and highlight the unprecedented circumstances of last year. Alongside our permanent collections a new diverse programme of walks, talks and workshops offers you the opportunity to meet our curators and gain an understanding of what goes on behind the scenes at the museum. Over the last few months we have been busy updating displays and making huge improvements to areas of the museum. We are really excited for visitors to see the changes that have been taking place.'*

WTM's main gallery will feature **Indian Yellow**, an exhibition of paintings by local abstract artist Anthony Bennett. This exhibition was originally supposed to take place in spring 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. The vibrant abstract works feature Indian Yellow, brilliant pink and magenta that set a warm platform for bright viridian green and cobalt violet. Anthony Bennett's first solo exhibition was in Berlin in 1982. He has exhibited widely in Germany and the UK and his work appears in many private and public collections including the Artothek des NBK, and the Berlinische Galerie Museum of Modern Art Berlin.

Museum Fine Art Curator Emma Walder has said about Indian Yellow *'For me it's fascinating to contrast the style and colour of the vibrant paintings like Kalighat Spoons, Manek Chowk and Indian Yellow with the cooler and more sketchy Russian Roulette, Early Morning East Worthing and New China. Looking at how the brushstrokes are applied and the thickness of the paint, together with the colours selected can trigger all kinds of thoughts, emotions and memory.'*



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The exceptional circumstances in 2020 meant WTM's Open exhibition had to move online as the **Digital Open20**. Amateur and professional artists from all over Sussex were invited to submit their work digitally, the public then voted for their favourite submissions and these selected works will now appear in a physical exhibition in the Norwood Gallery. WTM have also announced that the Open will return in its traditional format later this year with the Open21 exhibition, more details to be announced soon.

The Garden Gallery will display **Pet Portraits by Hercule Van Wolfwinkle**. Worthing resident Phil Heckels created an internet storm during lockdown under the alias Hercule Van Wolfwinkle with his self styled 'rubbish' Pet Portraits. What started as a thank you card to his parents, as an attempt to get his reluctant 6 year old away from computer games – turned into hundreds of pet portrait requests flying in from around the globe and raising over £50,000 for West Sussex charity Turning Tides. This is Phil's first ever exhibition which opens on Saturday 22 May a week before the release of his first book *Rubbish Pet Portraits* on Saturday 27 May 2021.

Photographic exhibition **In Their Shoes - Tales Of Life During Lockdown** celebrates WTM's local community during the Covid pandemic. The exhibition combines a series of portraits, narrative accounts and a poignant soundscape, to capture the experiences of 14 individuals and groups and tell their lockdown stories. These stories have been brought together by local photographer Anja Poehlmann, sound artist Adam Moffatt-Seaman and Worthing Museum Engagement Officer, Vicki Wells, to capture this unique episode in our shared contemporary history.

2021 sees WTM's largest ever programme of **Archaeology Walks** with resident archaeologist James Sainsbury. There will be eleven walks taking place between May and September giving you the chance to explore the archaeology and history of both the Adur and Arun valleys, including famous historic locations such as **Cissbury Ring, Highdown Hill** and **Chanctonbury Ring**. As always there will be the opportunity to handle genuine artefacts from the museum collections in the locations they were originally found.

WTM archaeologist James Sainsbury says 'We are all extremely lucky to live in an area that not only has outstanding natural beauty, but also outstanding archaeological remains. I hope during these walks I can communicate and share my passion for these ancient places and the peoples who once lived, walked, loved and died within the landscapes we inherited today.'



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WTM have also announced a new series of **Curator Talks** focusing on the museum's exhibitions and collections; and featuring some new discoveries and developments that have been going on behind the scenes. The programme includes talks on topics such as **Curating a Nationally Significant Costume Collection** (22 July), the **Edburton Hoard** (27 May & 31 July) and the **Indian Yellow** exhibition (17 June, 3 & 29 July). All these talks take place in the museum offering you the opportunity to enjoy the exhibitions and collections as well during your visit.

Additionally archaeologist James Sainsbury is giving his first talk on stage in the Pavilion Theatre this June. **James Sainsbury: John Pull & Worthing's Stone Age Revolution** (15 June) discusses John Pull, a working-class amateur archaeologist who made discoveries of international significance on the beautiful downland north of Worthing.

There are also a selection of workshops where WTM expert curators are offering a unique opportunity to get up close to the artefacts, ask questions and learn new skills in a series of workshops. You could learn about **Archaeological Photography** (26 June & 1 July), **Still Life techniques** (3 & 5 June) or **Printmaking Techniques** (8 July). There is also the opportunity for the kids to get creative with the **Children's Historic Hat Making** workshop (17 July), where they can take inspiration from actual historic hats or create a head adornment straight from their own imagination.

CEO Amanda O'reilly says *'We are delighted to be reopening the museum offering the community access to a fantastic set of exhibitions, most with a local link, alongside an amazing programme of walks, talks and workshops. We have also been working hard behind the scenes and regular museum visitors should see some exciting improvements. We will continue to prioritise safety in all our venues, will be limiting the number of people inside the museum and continuing to implement additional safety procedures.'*

The exhibitions and permanent collections are free to view, however as a charitable organisation WTM welcomes donations which support their work bringing arts and heritage to Worthing.

Additional safety measures remain in place throughout the museum and visitors are asked to wear masks in line with government guidance.

For more information and to book event tickets visit [www.wtam.uk](http://www.wtam.uk) or call the WTM Box Office on 01903 206206.



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### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### WTM

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @wtmworthing

Website: [www.wtam.uk/](http://www.wtam.uk/)

Box Office Phone: 01903 206206

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### EXHIBITIONS LISTING

#### Indian Yellow

Date: Saturday 22 May 2021

Venue: Main Gallery, Worthing Museum

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/exhibition-indian-yellow-by-anthony-bennett/>

#### Digital Open20

Date: Saturday 22 May 2021

Venue: Norwood Gallery, Worthing Museum

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/exhibition-digital-open-20/>

#### Hercule Van Wolfwinkle

Date: Saturday 22 May 2021

Venue: Garden Gallery, Worthing Museum

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/exhibition-pet-portraits-by-hercule-van-wolfwinkle/>

#### In Their Shoes - Tales Of Life During Lockdown

Date: Saturday 22 May 2021

Venue: Studio Gallery, Worthing Museum

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/exhibition-in-their-shoes-tales-of-life-during-lockdown/>

### CURATOR TALKS

#### Curator Talk: Cutting Edge

Date & Time: Saturday 22nd May 2021, 11am & Thursday 10th June 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+



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Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-cutting-edge/>

### **Curator Talk: Edburton Hoard**

Date & Time: Thursday 27th May 2021, 6:30pm & Saturday 31st July 2021, 11am

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-edburton-hoard/>

### **James Sainsbury: John Pull & Worthing's Stone Age Revolution**

Date & Time: Tuesday 15 June 2021, 7:30pm

Venue: Pavilion Theatre, Marine Parade, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 3PX

Price: £12.50

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/james-sainsbury-john-pull-worthings-stone-age-revolution/>

### **Curator Talk: Indian Yellow**

Date & Time: Thursday 17th June 2021, 6:30pm, & Saturday 3rd July 2021,

11am & Thursday 29th July 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-indian-yellow/>

### **Curator Talk: Looking at Printmaking Techniques**

Date & Time: Thursday 8th July 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-looking-at-printmaking-techniques/>

### **Curator Talk: Sharing Our Collections**

Date & Time: Saturday 10th July 2021, 11am & Thursday 15th July 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-sharing-our-collections/>

### **Curator Talk: Curating a Nationally Significant Costume Collection**

Date & Time: Thursday 22nd July 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum



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Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link:<https://wtam.uk/event/curator-talk-curating-a-nationally-significant-costume-collection/>

### WORKSHOPS

#### **Still Life Class - From a Curator's Perspective**

Date & Time: Thursday 3rd June 2021, 6:30pm & Saturday 5th June 2021, 11am

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link:<https://wtam.uk/event/workshop-still-life-class-from-a-curators-perspective/>

#### **Dress Illustration - From a Curator's Perspective**

Date & Time: Saturday 19th June 2021, 11am & Thursday 24th June 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link:<https://wtam.uk/event/workshop-dress-illustration-from-a-curators-perspective/>

#### **Archaeological Photography - From a Curator's Perspective**

Date & Time: Saturday 26th June 2021, 11am & Thursday 1st July 2021, 6:30pm

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Age Guidance: Suitable for Ages 12+

Link:<https://wtam.uk/event/workshop-archaeological-photography-from-a-curators-perspective/>

#### **Children's Historic Hat Making**

Date & Time: Saturday 17th July 2021, 11am

Venue: Museum Education Room, Worthing Museum

Price: £7.50

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/workshop-childrens-historic-hat-making/>

### ARCHAEOLOGY WALKS

#### **Cissbury Ring**

Date & time: Saturday 29th May, 9:30am & Thursday 17th June, 6:30pm

Price: £5



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Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/archaeology-walks-2021-cissbury-ring/>

### **Highdown Hill**

Date & time: Thursday 3rd June, 9:30am

Price: £5

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/archaeology-walks-2021-highdown-hill/>

### **Chanctonbury Ring**

Date & time: Saturday 12th June, 9:30am

Price: £5

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/archaeology-walks-2021-chanctonbury-ring/>

### **Burpham Downland**

Date & time: Saturday 24th July, 9:30am

Price: £5

Link: <https://wtam.uk/event/archaeology-walks-2021-burpham-downland/>

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### **For press enquiries please contact:**

Kathryn Follis: Marketing Coordinator for WTM

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IMAGE DOWNLOADS

[WTM Venues](#)

[WTM Museum Spring/Summer 2021](#)

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