

# The Big Draw Press Release

**Patrons:** Sir Quentin Blake, Bob & Roberta Smith RA,  
Andrew Marr, Lord Foster of Thames Bank, Sir Roger Penrose OM FRS,  
David Hockney OM CH RA, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE

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## Top science, media and architecture institutions open doors for international drawing festival

This October, arts education charity The Big Draw, teams up with a record number of partners to create an extensive programme of free drawing events as part of its annual international festival, The Big Draw.

From 1 to 31 October, The Big Draw festival is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> year with a month-long programme of activities on every continent, including hundreds of free events for all ages created by an extraordinary range of organisations UK-wide – from nursery schools to national museums.

### Highlights include:

1. **The Big Draw 2015 public launch with Children's Laureate Chris Riddell illustrating live a Philip Pullman story read aloud by the celebrated author** as part of a free all day event in the Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford. Other contributors include internationally exhibited artist **Patrick Tresset** and his three talented drawing robots; artists **Adam Dant** and **Tamarin Norwood**. Additional activities across nine partner venues include an invitation to sign-in with a drawing to the world's longest visitor book, master classes, 3-D drawing, a loop the loop wall to ceiling drawing, animation, and even drawing with bows and arrows. A free drawing trail will connect all participating venues (19 September, Oxford).
2. **The Big Draw's first Architecture Drawing Day** will be launched in partnership with the RIBA (10 October, London) and supported by an exciting series of workshops to encourage different approaches to drawing buildings and places. An evening event will see special guest hosts architect Will Alsop and artist Patrick Vale challenge their audience to a BIG architectural sketch-up (6 October, RIBA, London).
3. **Drawing the World** with **UAL's Central Saint Martins**, Quentin Blake's **House of Illustration** and **King's Cross** will take over Granary Square with an epic drawing of the world made by 30 postgraduate students and directed by **Stephen Farthing RA** via drone and mobile phones, a 'Ready Steady Colour your dinner' tent with singing waiters and more (11 October, London).
4. **Seeing Closer** with **The Royal Society** is where art and science overlap to enable fascinating invention and discovery. With talks, historic engraving demonstrations and free activities for all ages, from making takeaway smartphone microscopes to creating microscopic drawings with the **Gurdon Institute** team (17 October, London).

5. **Light Fantastic: Adventures in the Science of Light** at the **National Media Museum** is a free half-term extravaganza exploring art and light as the culmination of the Light Fantastic season. There will be *Light Drawing*, *Digital Doodling*, opportunities to *Draw Differently - Ask the Experts*, with top tips from Aardman Studios storyboard artist, **Jay Clarke** (24 October – 1 November, Bradford).

The arts education charity – The Big Draw – is the creator and driving force behind the annual, international Big Draw festival. Launched in 2000, the festival promotes the belief that drawing changes lives for the better, and its mission is to give everyone an opportunity for self-expression through the universal language of drawing. The charity champions visual literacy and highlights the importance of creativity in education, literature and society. In 2014, 414,000 participants took part in over 1800 Big Draw festival events in 26 countries.

**Sue Grayson Ford, Big Draw Founder and President**, commented:

*“Drawing allows us to interpret, invent and communicate; it helps to develop individual creativity and breaks down cultural and generational barriers. The Big Draw festival celebrates drawing’s social, economic and health benefits, and our highlight events demonstrate drawing’s vital role across all disciplines. The festival is an open invitation to get everyone drawing!”*

The 2015 Big Draw Festival provides a unique platform for people to explore, discover, take part in and organise creative activities throughout the UK and abroad from 1 to 31 October. To find out more visit [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) or follow @The\_Big\_Draw

## ENDS

**Photocall, Interviews and Your Own Robotic Portrait: The Big Draw Media Launch is at the Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford, OX1 3BG on 19 September, 10-11 am, followed by the public launch from 11 to 11.15 am. Creative activities continue until 5pm across Oxford.**

To discuss highlights and the launch day events, please contact: Sue Grayson Ford – [sue@thebigdraw.org](mailto:sue@thebigdraw.org) - T: 020 8351 1719; M: 07947 346050

To RSVP, find out more, discuss interview and photo opportunities for the launch and highlight events, please contact: Amy Clancy – [amy@thebigdraw.org](mailto:amy@thebigdraw.org) - T: 0203 758 4118

## Details of Highlight Events

### The Big Draw Festival Launch

1. **19 September 2015, 11am-5pm in the Bodleian Library’s Weston Library, Oxford OX1 3BG and across the city, renowned author Philip Pullman, and Children’s Laureate Chris Riddell, will launch The Big Draw 2015**, the 15th international drawing festival, at a free public celebration connecting nine of Oxford’s leading cultural venues in an explosion of creativity. This kicks-off hundreds of events across the UK and on five continents, encouraging an estimated 400,000 people to pick up pencil, paint brush, chalk, crayon, charcoal or stylus in order to observe, design, invent, and communicate – through drawing.

### First Architecture Drawing Day, plus more! with RIBA and The Big Draw

2. **6 October, 7-8.40 pm: Picture This!** RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD  
Special guest hosts, architect Will Alsop and artist Patrick Vale, challenge their audience to a BIG architectural sketch-up, where interpretation, imagination and speed are key.
3. **10 October, 10am - 5pm: The RIBA launches The Big Draw's first Architecture Drawing Day**, to celebrate both the joy and challenge of drawing places, and the importance of drawing in the building and design professions. This inaugural annual event is an invitation to explore architecture in different ways, from Drawing through a Lens with a DIY camera obscura and taking it on a sketching tour, to iPad drawing workshops in the RIBA's Palladian exhibition.
4. **10 October, 11am - 4pm: RIBA Explore & Draw workshop** at Chiswick House.  
Everyone can join in, whether attending any of the above or not, by sharing drawings of places and buildings – CAD drawings or quick neighbourhood sketches – using the hashtags **#bigdraw** and **#architecturedrawingday** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The RIBA and The Big Draw will share favourites throughout the day.

For more information, visit [www.architecture.com/thebigdraw](http://www.architecture.com/thebigdraw)

### Drawing the World with The Big Draw, UAL Central Saint Martins, House of Illustration & King's Cross

5. **11 October, 11-4 – Drawing the Word**, Granary Square, London N1C: The Big Draw joins forces with UAL Central St Martins, the Rootstein Hopkins Professor of Drawing, Stephen Farthing RA and the House of Illustration to animate King's Cross. The result is an exciting programme of urban exploration and collaborative drawing. Dynamic free activities will encourage visitors to become artists, architects, fashion illustrators, 3-D drawers, map-makers or emoji-designers for the day, with free materials provided by GreatArt.

For more information, visit: <http://www.thebigdraw.org/drawing-the-world>

### Seeing Closer with The Royal Society and The Big Draw

6. **17 October, 10am -5pm – Seeing Closer** at The Royal Society invites visitors to explore areas where art and science overlap, from creating microscopic drawings using microscopes with the Gurdon Institute team to making takeaway smartphone microscopes. Visitors can draw rarities from scientific history, learn about historic scientific engraving and listen to talks on seminal scientific illustrations.

For more information, visit: <https://royalsociety.org/events/2015/10/big-draw/>

### Light Fantastic: Adventures in the Science of Light with National Media Museum and The Big Draw

7. **24 October-1 November – Light Fantastic: Adventures in the Science of Light**, at the National Media Museum, Bradford is a free half-term extravaganza exploring art and light as the culmination of the **Light Fantastic season**.

8. **Drawing Differently: Ask the Experts** – Drop-in for top drawing tips from special guests, including Aardman Studios storyboard artist, Jay Clarke. Discover why drawing is essential to a wide range of professions and find out which careers value creative skills in a week-long programme supported by Arts Council England.
9. **Light Drawing** – visitors can draw with light and photograph their creations for the Museum’s online gallery (booking may be required).
10. **Digital Doodles** – simple computer coding workshops to create a picture with pixels (booking may be required).
11. **31 October, Noise Orchestra: Play the Collections:** The **Light Fantastic** artists’ residency finale offers a spectacular live light and sound show. Artists-in-residence David Birchall and Vicky Clarke have been converting beautiful paper stencils of Museum objects into electronic sound frequencies which will be used to create a grand final symphony. Families can also visit the artists’ experimental drop-in lab throughout half term week to make and ‘play’ their own paper sculptures.

For further information visit [www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk](http://www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### The Big Draw arts education charity

12. Established in 2000, arts education charity The Big Draw, is much more than a festival. It works with cultural and educational organisations, policymakers and businesses to promote visual literacy. The charity is piloting collaboration and research to demonstrate the social, economic and health benefits that drawing can bring. In addition to the Big Draw festival and Big Draw Awards, the charity runs the John Ruskin Prize, CPD events, conferences and more.
13. Chris Riddell is The Big Draw’s newest Patron, joining Sir Quentin Blake, Andrew Marr, Lord Foster of Thames Bank, David Hockney OM CH, Sir Roger Penrose OM, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE, and Bob and Roberta Smith RA.

Find out more at [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org).

### The Big Draw international drawing festival

14. The Big Draw is the world's biggest drawing festival offering hundreds of enjoyable and inclusive creative activities across the UK and the globe throughout October.
15. The festival grows more successful each year – with over 1800 events in 26 countries in 2014. This October’s target is to involve over 400,000 participants in events spanning every continent. The Big Draw is for everyone; it provides proof of the importance of drawing across all sectors and shows why STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART & Maths) is more powerful than STEM (the same subjects minus art).