

PRESS RELEASE

THE BIG DRAW

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

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Creatives, cities and countries unite for global drawing festival

The Big Draw Festival | 1-31 October 2017 | Worldwide

From 1-31st October, creatives, cities and entire countries will take part in the world's biggest celebration of drawing - Living Lines: An Animated Big Draw Festival.

The Big Draw Festival is the annual, international celebrating of the universal language of drawing; attracting more festival-goers than Glastonbury, each year. The Big Draw Festival regularly takes place in over **25 countries**, involves **1000s of events** and, since launching in 2000, has taken place on **7 continents** and encouraged **over 4 million people** back to the drawing board.

2017 event highlights:

- In Italy, paper manufacturer, **Fabriano**, has partnered with The Big Draw to run over 200 events across the country throughout the festival.
- Technology company, **Apple**, will be hosting a series of hands-on sessions in celebration of The Big Draw throughout October, at its Regent Street store in London.
- **The Millennium Gallery** in Sheffield will be hosting The Big Draw in Sheffield - a free, family-friendly highlight event on Saturday 14th October.
- A day of creativity combining dance and drawing inspired by **Origami**: An incredible dance performance, which unites a monumental shipping container and a gravity-defying dancer as part of **Dance Umbrella Festival 2017**, will take place on Sunday 15th October.

The 2017 festival theme, Living Lines: An Animated Big Draw Festival, aims to unite pixels, pencils and people from across the globe to learn, experiment and bring ideas to life through drawing and animation. Living Lines will explore the long history of people finding ways to create moving images; from pre-film animation devices such as Zoetropes, to the most cutting edge digital drawing and animation technologies. Many events will host masters of animation, but organisers and participants do not need to have any animation experience themselves.

Anyone can attend or register to host an event as part of the festival. Individuals and organisations - from small community groups and individuals, to global businesses, entire cities and even countries -

can register to host events of different sizes. This year, organisers can also opt to become Sponsor-Partners, to receive the next level of reciprocal support.

Sponsor-partners include:

Cass Art, (UK); **Daler-Rowney** (UK); **Fabiano** (Italy); The Royal Collection Trust: **Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle** and **Palace of Holyroodhouse** (UK); **Walt Disney Family Museum** (San Francisco, USA); **Rijksmuseum** (Netherlands); **Fundacio Museu Picasso de Barcelona** (Spain); **Gloucester Cathedral** (UK); **Guildford Borough Council** (Surrey, UK); **Pintar Rapido** (London, UK; Amsterdam, Netherlands); **Peabody Essex Museum** (Salem, Massachusetts, USA); **The Big Draw Nijmegen's** (Nijmegen, Netherlands); **Soong Ching Ling International Kindergarten** (Shanghai, China); **Artsdepot** (London, UK); **The Albertina** museum (Vienna, Austria); **Historic Royal Palaces** (UK); **Stichting Expoplus** (Nijmegen, Netherlands); **Southbank International School** (London, UK); **University of Lincoln**, (UK); **Dehong Chinese International School** (Shanghai, China); **Leaping Hare Press** (Brighton, UK); **Norwich University of the Arts** (Norwich, UK); **Stroud District Council's** The Museum in the Park (Gloucestershire, UK); **Tamworth Borough Council** (Staffordshire, UK); **Inspire Culture** (Nottingham, UK).

Arts education charity, The Big Draw, which is the founder and driving force behind the festival believes that 'everyone can draw', and promotes drawing as a universal language that has the power to change lives and unite people of any age, background, race, or religion from around the globe. Supporters of The Big Draw and its work promoting visual literacy and drawing as a universal language, span the worlds of acting, arts, physics and beyond.

Commenting on the importance of drawing, **David Hockney**, Patron of The Big Draw, said:

If you can draw, even a little bit, you can express all kinds of ideas that might otherwise be lost - delights, frustrations, whatever torments you or pleases you.

Actor Benedict Cumberbatch, supporter of The Big Draw said:

"Everyone has a different way of viewing the world and I firmly believe that everyone has an ability to draw and paint that view. It's a great meditative process that can still a troubled mind in troubled times. Also there is as much joy in the viewing as there is in the doing."

Kate Mason, director of The Big Draw said:

"As always, The Big Draw Festival is for anyone who loves to draw, as well as those who think they can't! Whether organising or participating, Living Lines, it is an opportunity for individuals, organisations and even countries to join a global community in celebration of the universal language of drawing."

Those inspired to bring the festival to their community are encouraged to organise an event of their own. Registration for 2017 is open until 31 October. No previous drawing experience is required.

To find out more about the festival, visit www.thebigdraw.org - #LivingLines17.

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CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Official Festival Sponsors



CASS ART AND DALER-ROWNEY ARE SPONSORS OF THE BIG DRAW FESTIVAL 2017.

Cass Art is on a mission. A mission to fill every town with artists, underpinned by the company's long standing [manifesto](#). Cass Art is committed to encouraging everyone to realise their creative talents, because it believes in the power of art, and knows the freedom and joy that it brings.

Established in 1984, Cass Art is now the UK's leading art supplies retailer. There are currently 12 Cass Art stores across the UK and an online shop offering the world's best brands at affordable prices. Cass Art works with numerous national and local galleries, art institutions, universities and schools nationwide to make art accessible to all. For more information, visit www.cassart.co.uk

The Big Draw Festival

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over four million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000).

The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number had risen to over 1,000, with over 400,000 people participating each year. What began as a one day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now an annual month-long festival of drawing across the world. To find your nearest event or find out more about organising one visit: www.thebigdraw.org

A new People's Choice Award of £500, will be up for grabs for 2017 organisers. The award will be selected by public vote, placing the choice firmly in the hands of visitors, and accompanies The Big Draw's 8 annual, panel selected awards. Voting will open after the festival finishes after October 2017.

The Big Draw charity

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is an arts education charity that promotes visual literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a

diversified programme encompassing advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world’s biggest celebration of drawing.

The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw. www.thebigdraw.org.

Patrons include: Quentin Blake, Andrew Marr, Bob & Roberta Smith RA, Lord Foster of Thames Bank, David Hockney OM CH, Sir Roger Penrose OM, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE and Children’s Laureate, Chris Riddell.

Sponsor-Partners

The Big Draw's continued development is made possible by the support of many organisations and individuals who share its vision. Without them and the commitment of hundreds of venues across the UK and beyond, our mission would be unachievable. With the introduction of a tiered subscription system, The Big Draw has developed (in response to organiser feedback) a 'Sponsor-Partner' tier for those organisations and individuals who want to show extra support for The Big Draw Festival - in exchange for a host of benefits outlined [here](#).