

# 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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**Embargoed: 3.30pm, 18 May 2015**

**\*The Big Draw Awards ceremony will take place from 14.30-17.30pm on Monday 18 May.**

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## **Mike Leigh announces winners of International Big Draw Awards**

- The Big Draw award-winners were announced today by Director **Mike Leigh** at a ceremony in the prestigious Painters' Hall, London.
- Special guests included Artists Bob & Roberta Smith RA and Jessica Voorsanger.
- The Big Draw is an annual, international drawing festival. 2014 was a record year with **414,000 people** attending over **1800 events** across **26 countries**.
- Over 1000 Big Draw 2014 event organisers were invited to enter the Awards and shortlisted entries came from **India, Hungary, China, Singapore**, and the **UK**.
- Judges included: **Sue Grayson Ford MBE** (Director, Campaign for Drawing), **Caroline Marcus** (creative education consultant), **Henry Ward** (artist, writer and educator), **Sally Manser** (Royal Opera House), **Ian Thompson** (University of the Arts London).

Today, **Director Mike Leigh** announced the winners of the **international Big Draw Awards** at a prestigious ceremony at **Painters' Hall**, home to the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers. Big Draw award-winners were selected by a distinguished jury from a shortlist of projects, which were part of the international Big Draw Festival in October 2014. **Winners** included the **Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art**, Gateshead; **The Open Museum**, Glasgow; **Ordsall Community Arts**, Salford; **Tyssen Community School**, Hackney, London; **Stanley Grove Primary Academy**, Longsight, Manchester; and **Eastbury Comprehensive School**, Barking, Essex.

**Sue Grayson Ford, Big Draw Director commented:** *"This is our 15<sup>th</sup> ceremony celebrating the amazing work of gallery, museum and heritage educators, teachers, community leaders and individual artists, all united by their belief in **The Big Draw** and in **drawing**. Between us, we*

*have inspired thousands of people of all ages to pick up pencil, paper, paintbrush - or less conventional tools - in order to **create** and **connect**. Creating & Connecting - that's what The Big Draw is all about. Congratulations to our wonderful winners, and thanks to every event organiser for their commitment."*

**Big Draw Winner, Leslie Holmes, said:** *"The Big Draw has been an important conduit to look at cultural roots and identity, conservation and regeneration. It has brought people and groups together in a deprived area, in a way that most other initiatives have failed to do".*

**Actor Benedict Cumberbatch wrote:** *"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."*

**Henry Ward, Big Draw Judge and former Head of Education at The Southbank Centre commented:** *"Being a judge was tremendously rewarding. To see such an incredible range of projects, covering so many interpretations of drawing, was inspirational. The Big Draw is vital in encouraging people all over the world to engage with drawing and visual arts".*

During the event artist Bob & Roberta Smith RA, was revealed as a new Campaign for Drawing Patron, and spoke eloquently about the value of art, drawing and visual literacy in making people powerful. 'Every School should be an Art School' is the message of his recent film made in partnership with the Campaign for Drawing and National Society for Education in Art & Design.

The Big Draw Awards reward drawing without borders - activities that extend our definitions of drawing and audiences by being both **experimental** and **inclusive**. The prizes are donated by the Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust, which has supported the Awards for 10 years. NADFAS also sponsors a Prize for the best event by, and for, young people.

Anyone can organise a Big Draw, and every organiser is eligible to apply for an Award. The Big Draw 2015 will take place from 1-31 October. Its theme is ***Every Drawing tells a Story***. Visit [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) to find out more.

**ENDS**

**The Awards ceremony will take place from 14.30-17.30pm on Monday 18 May. For a press pass, interviews, images and enquiries contact:** Amy Clancy on +44 (0) 208 351 1719 or by email [press@campaignfordrawing.org](mailto:press@campaignfordrawing.org)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Launched in 2000, **The Big Draw** has encouraged over a 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 Big Draw has transformed national museums, Trafalgar Square, and even the South Kensington underground tunnel into dynamic creative spaces enjoyed by thousands of people for a day. Every year, The Big Draw season includes hundreds of drawing activities in schools, galleries, museums, and heritage sites UK-wide. In 2014, **414,000 people** attended over **1800 events** by more than **1000 organisers** across **26 countries**. [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) Watch Andrew Marr announce the 2015 theme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=patmFfNjibE>
2. **The Campaign for Drawing** aims to get everyone drawing. It raises drawing's profile as a powerful tool for thinking, creating and communicating. Its long-term ambition is to change the way drawing is perceived and used by the public and professionals. The Campaign's annual flagship, The Big Draw, proves that drawing can be a public activity as well as a private passion. The original inspiration came from visionary Victorian writer and artist John Ruskin, whose mission was to teach people to see through drawing. The Campaign demonstrates that drawing can also connect communities. [www.campaignfordrawing.org](http://www.campaignfordrawing.org)
3. **The Big Draw Awards will take place on Monday 18 May, 2.30-5.30pm at Painters' Hall, home to the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, 9 Little Trinity Lane, London EC4V 2AD. Award-winners from The Big Draw 2014 will be announced and The Big Draw 2015 will be launched.**

Guest speakers include Mike Leigh, writer-director of film and theatre and Bob & Roberta Smith RA, artist and Campaign for Drawing Patron. There will also be a guest performance by Jessica Voorsanger.

The Big Draw Awards are made possible by The Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust. The event has been generously sponsored by Good Old Drawing (G.O.D.) and kindly supported by the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, Life's Kitchen and Simons Group Ltd. The Young Arts Award is sponsored by NADFAS.

4. **The Big Draw Awards Judges**  
Judges included: **Sue Grayson Ford MBE** (Director, Campaign for Drawing), **Caroline Marcus** (creative education consultant), **Henry Ward** (artist, writer and educator), **Sally Manser** (Royal Opera House), **Ian Thompson** (University of the Arts London).
5. **The Big Draw Award-Winners and Shortlist 2014**

## Winners:

**NEATEN (North East Art Teacher Educator Network) and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead**

**Organisers: Susan M Coles (NEATEN co-ordinator) & Vicky Sturrs (Baltic Schools and Colleges Programmer)**

September's professional development session engaged teachers and student teachers in experimental activities, while exploring the meaning and purposes of drawing. Afterwards a group of them volunteered to plan and facilitate Baltic's Big Draw, choosing *Hands* as its theme and focusing on collaboration, families and friendship groups.

Their **Mad Hands Tea Party** involved drawing your dinner on paper plates. Ink pads, picket fences and fake grass combined to create a **Thumb Print Zoo**. Projector, marker pens and a paper-lined wall turned hand silhouettes into a **Shadow Gallery**. Rubber gloves, some inflated, some not, were decorated to make leaves, then stapled and strung on to a spotlight paper **Fingertastical Forest**. The inter-generational **Hand Bag** party involved decorating paper bags before swapping them with others, and being photographed bag in hand for the **Vogues Gallery**. Students and teachers found organising a public event for 500 empowering, and took away plenty of new ideas for the classroom.

**Round in Circles: The Open Museum, Glasgow**

**Organised by: Catherine Laing, Outreach Assistant, Glasgow Life**

**In partnership with Scotrail, Queens Park Railway Club and Pollokshields Heritage**

Glasgow Museums' Outreach team takes museum objects to everyday places, turning the city into a museum. **Round in Circles** made drawing and museum artefacts an unexpected part of Glaswegians' commute on the Cathcart Circle overground. Passengers were coaxed to put down phones, books and tablets, and prompted by museum objects and conversation, to connect with fellow travellers and the wider world – through drawing. 3 Big Draw-ing Stations and one Big Draw Train were equipped with artists and varied approaches to get people drawing: from making tools to draw the sounds of the journey, to blind or continuous line drawings, layering and collaging. Last month these drawings were displayed in Queens Street Station in central Glasgow.

**The Big Draw on the Allotments: Ordsall Community Arts, Salford**

**Lead artist: Leslie Holmes**

A 7-year battle by older residents to turn waste-land into an allotment finally paid off last February, and in October this project celebrated the transformation of concrete and rubble to lush greenery and productive plants. After six months of digging and growing, the allotment holders took part in workshops among the roots and shoots of their plots, or sheltering from rain in the community café. The group of mainly retired people, some suffering long-term illness or social isolation, were happy to exchange trowels and secateurs for experimental tools and materials. Bold marker pens allowed even those with limited manipulative skills to make striking imagery. Surplus vegetables became their props and printing tools when they used ink on surplus onions or cabbage leaves to print their own designs on wallpaper, blinds, table covers and more besides for their new sheds.

## Creative School Award Joint Winners

### **The Big Draw: Tyssen Community School, Hackney, London**

**Organiser: Mini Mawi, Art Co-ordinator**

This packed programme involved 500 pupils, aged 6 months to 11, plus 150 parents and guardians. Dropping the timetable and conventionally taught numeracy and literacy transformed Tyssen into an art school for 9 hours, including an after-school club where parents and siblings joined in by drawing movement. Led by local artists and adults with specialist skills, the children explored silkscreen, oil painting, portraiture, observational landscape drawing, stop-start animation and even dynamic bicycle artwork.

### **It's My Manchester: Stanley Grove Primary Academy, Longsight, Manchester**

**Organiser: Emma Martin, Creative Lead**

This imaginative 4-day project expanded pupils' knowledge of the big city beyond their homes. For inspiration, Emma wrote an epic prose poem revealing Manchester's story – past, present, future. The Creative Crew of 4 children helped plan an installation about their city mixing conceptual and expressive art. Each class used folded photocopied images of the city's past and present and copies of their own photos (representing the future) to build a 24 square metre mini-city celebrating Manchester as a multicultural, creative, sporting and inventive city. The children's families were invited in to see the stunning installation, to an accompaniment of live music and Mancunian songs!

## NADFAS Award

### **One World Seven Billion Styles: Eastbury Comprehensive School, Barking, Essex**

**Organiser: Darren Bartholomew, art teacher**

That well-known phrase - the only way is Essex - was overturned by this collaborative 3-month project, which produced 300 very different versions of a dancing figure. Video footage of a 6<sup>th</sup> former dancing to a current Nigerian track, was captured and exported as still frames, printed and numbered 1-320. Using these templates, the 320 students were urged to express themselves freely when completing their drawings, and later assumed an editorial role in assembling the scanned drawings into a vibrant animation orchestrated with the original track. This Award celebrates great teamwork resulting from purposeful collaboration and creative teaching.

## Runners-Up

### **Weekend Drawing Festival: Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass**

**Organiser: Katie Theodoros, Family Programs Coordinator**

Katie used her Big Draw to build bridges with other Salem organisations and to get museum departments working together. Her ambitious programme catered for 1500 people of all ages and abilities. Its runaway success was the **Tape Takeover**, which covered the atrium in colourful tape drawings. Though the public needed no encouragement to slap tape everywhere, Katie had a hard time persuading management that such apparent sacrilege would leave no permanent marks. As she says, the risk was worth it!

**Sketchbook Scavenger Hunt: StoryHands Illustration Collective**  
**Organisers: June Sees and Jenny Robins, Collective Co-founders**  
**Sponsored by Seawhite of Brighton & the Children's Scrap Scheme**

The collective's co-founders led a walk & draw tour of the City of London. Participants were given pencils, pastels and sketchbooks made of recycled materials. The daytime walks attracted families, while young adults joined the evening hunts, with pubs added to the itinerary. Participants enjoyed drawing challenges at each stop, designed to encourage closer observation of the city's visual treats. The role of artist-explorer appealed to everyone.

**Hidden Narratives Dangerous Erasures: South London Visual Artists**  
**Organiser: Laura Moreton-Griffiths, Projects Director**

19 women artists worked together on a visual storyboard in 18 frames exploring female art from cave painting, medieval tapestry, the guilds, renaissance painting and sculpture to Victorian portraiture, early photography, surrealism, abstract expressionism, performance and art now. They challenged themselves to complete a 5- metre canvas with black and red sharpie pens in just 2 weeks, working in public view on the floor of the Albany Theatre foyer. Every evening they hung the canvas for the benefit of theatre-goers.

This was a journey of discovery for both creators and viewers – who were equally fascinated by the hidden narratives of women in art history, with names which have been overlooked. They proved that drawing can reach out to everyone and communicate ideas in ways that are both visceral and immediate.

**Trail-Blazers**

**Underworld UV Drawing: Village School, Kingsbury, London**  
**Organiser: Deirdre O'Flanagan, art teacher**

Deirdre created an exciting space and exceptional experiences for her special needs students by using UV lighting to convert two art rooms into a liberating psychedelic environment. Pupils were prepared for their adventures by other students on an Arts Award Explore course with protective light blocking bin bags and UV body paint on their hands so that they could use them as semi-autonomous creative tools. For 2 days all timetables and rules were suspended, so everyone could express themselves with UV glowing paint tools, large beeping battery-operated cars, household brooms and plentiful supplies of paper. For children whose complex needs make visiting external arts venues challenging, this installation was partly a substitute for such outside stimulus.

**Time Capsule: Retzoz Museum, Kisvarda, Hungary**  
**Organiser: Monika Szarvas, Curator**

Over 10 weeks, children, young people and adults visited the town's 4 historic monuments - the castle, library, Catholic Church and Synagogue to explore, re-imagine and raise awareness of their value to the local heritage. Over 1700 people joined in this enjoyable documentary drawing adventure. Their drawings resulted in 4 eye-catching posters celebrating each landmark, which are now proudly displayed at the museum – and the community's much greater respect for understanding and preserving the past.

**It's Our Cubist World: 3peel Group, Bangalore, India**

**Organiser: Ruchika Kawlra Motwani, 3peel Founder**

Experienced artists from 3Peel helped create a permanent Big Draw mural for Christel House, a well-known education centre for underprivileged children. Their cubist-style **Interconnected World** was brightly painted to reflect its position next to the artroom, where it can now be seen by 1000 children daily. The 8 young people involved in its creation were all holders of an art scholarship; they relished this introduction to spray paint and glowing acrylics, and spontaneously decided to complete the mural with black and white op art stripes.

**Middlesex Drawing Week: Middlesex University**

**Organiser: Andrew Pomphrey, Senior Technician**

500 participants joined 50 staff in a week-long jamboree: children drew close encounters with animals and creepy-crawlies at a mobile menagerie; workshops and events on campus explored World War 1. Wilfred Owen's poetry inspired an animation made by drawing with iron filings on glass. Product Design students created Fallen, tree sculptures representing war-damaged trees to which visitors added portraits cut into leaves to represent lost lives. The Big Jam session involved massive drawings within an enthusiastic multi-media performance by student artists, musicians, dancers and actors.

**Highly Commended**

**International Big Draw: The British School of Beijing, Shunyi**

**Organiser: Richard Harrison, Head of Art, Design & Technology**

A week-long programme promoted creativity in learning, with every department demonstrating drawing's role within their subject. An imaginative choice of activities disarmed even the least confident, who eagerly collaborated on murals of the Beijing skyline. Bold mark-making with large marker pens at the Community Big Draw liberated students and their families to experiment.

**It's Our World: Hinchinbrooke Country Park**

**Organiser: Alison Gray, Countryside Centre Coordinator**

The park's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated by encouraging closer engagement with the landscape. Long brushes and paints resulted in expressive responses to views seen through strategically-placed picture frames. Families produced paper 'trees' with bark rubbings on large sheets of wallpaper – adding trunks and branches full of ants, birds and foxes. The forest floor offered unlimited natural materials for leaf, twig & seed collages.

**House of Wild Plants: Playeum, Singapore**

**Organiser: Dawn Pereira, Arts Manager**

For 6 years The Big Draw has been central to Playeum's campaign for a permanent children's centre, where messy play can coexist with collaborative creativity and learning. Last year's pop-up **Drawing Together** and a Big Draw Festival in the Centre's proposed future home, attracted 3000 participants. Exploring indigenous wild flowers, children studied many specimens – even their roots – thanks to an ingenious table installation before creating a mural with novel tools and processes. Invited to 'go wild' with clay, recycled materials and

paper maché, they built a colourful jungle and rainforest – and urged parents to join in the fun – a welcome opportunity for time-starved adults.

**Big Draw - It's A Wrap!: Rugby Art Gallery and Museum**  
**Organiser: Jessica Hartshorn, Learning & Outreach Officer**

A team of artists, student volunteers and staff invited visitors to respond to an exhibition of Furoshiki (Japanese textile wrapping cloths) on 6 large fabric cloths. They decorated them with sho-do brush writing and ink painting, Japanese comic design and collage. A passion for Manga meant unusually high teenage involvement, while the hangings encouraged collective pattern-making, avoiding the fear often associated with blank paper. Using a fine brush to move black tea leaves around a lightbox created images which were photographed and made into an animated film.

**A Wild Day In: Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter**  
**Organiser: Kate Osborne, Learning & Skills Officer**

As part of a collaboration with the RSPB and NADFAS, families were able to get up close and personal with the museum's wildlife collections, a professional wildlife artist and experts from the RSPB, with admirable support from NADFAS volunteers and curators. Chatting, seeing, learning, doing and contributing to the Skyscape of drawn birds resulted in a real sense of satisfaction and the question: Can we do this EVERY Saturday?