

THE 2016[®]
**BIG
DRAW
FESTIVAL**

the **Whitworth**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



The Big Draw & The Whitworth with support from Arts Council England

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use: Friday 16 September 2016

Photocall: 12noon Thursday 22 September. At The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER, UK.

The Whitworth to host launch of World's Biggest Drawing Festival

On Thursday 22 September 2016, The Big Draw will launch the world's biggest drawing festival, The Big Draw Festival, at The Whitworth in Manchester.

Highlights, 12.30-4pm:

- Performance by immersive theatre group, **Ready Steady Go!**; workshop with **Okido**, the Arts and Science Magazine for Kids; Early Years Atelier with **Isobel Pickup**; a Minecraft workshop by **Gemma Latham**; and, Exploring the 'Evolution of the Peppered Moth' with **Stanley Grove Primary School**
- Introductions to The Big Draw's newest ambassadors; teen 'wonder-cartoonist' **Zoom Rockman**, and 'Digital Portrait Artist Extraordinaire', **Tanya Raabe-Webber**
- Live drawing by Manchester artist, **Oliver East**

6-9pm

- A **Sci-Art illustration showdown** between arts and science students, plus **experimentation, film, live drawing and music**
- The first screening of Lumen Prize Finalist, **David Moraton's** shortlisted film "Visus Sonitus I" in the North of England. Plus, a filmed Q&A about the film-makers' work, with special thanks to Lumen Prize
- Sci-fi themed 'death drawing' with **Art Macabre**
- Life drawing with **Sarah Sanders**

The Big Draw Festival is the world's largest celebration of drawing taking place from **1 to 31 October**, every year. Following a high-profile launch at the Bodleian Libraries in Oxford, last year, thousands of The Big Draw Festival events took place in **26 countries on 7 continents**.

Any individual, organisation or business can register an event as part of the festival, which this year celebrates a STEAM theme as part of the charity's campaign to give arts parity with other subjects and turn **STEM to STEAM**.

Highlight events will be taking place at **The Whitworth**, Manchester, and **Royal Society**, London, with the aim of demonstrating the important role of arts, especially visual literacy and drawing, alongside and within science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The launch will take place at The Whitworth, the award-winning gallery, in the city of Manchester, which The Big Draw sees as the home to innovation across the sectors of engineering, science, business and the arts and a melting pot that has influenced the world as we know it.

Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw comments:

"Manchester is a city that champions arts and science, and so we feel it is the perfect place to launch The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival. We are delighted to be hosted by The Whitworth, where arts and education have united to create a world-renowned institution."

As a charity, The Big Draw aims to raise awareness and understanding of the role of drawing and visual literacy. We see visual literacy as a 'mode of thinking' that plays a vital role in contemporary culture, which is increasingly dominated by visual media."

The festival is The Big Draw's flagship event and The Big Draw hopes that the launch will showcase how **visual literacy** and **drawing**, in the broadest sense, underpins STEM subjects and professional practice across a spectrum of disciplines - from physics to architecture and digital technology to baking. Through interactive workshops, films and talks, it will be a showcase of how arts, science, and digital technology are interconnected, and why art remains so important in the curriculum.

The launch of The STEAM Powered Big Draw festival will begin with an afternoon of interactive STEAM inspired drawing activities for children and families (12.30 - 5pm), followed by an illustration showdown for arts and sciences students and an evening of sci-art films, live drawing, music and experimentation for an older audience (6 - 9pm).

The launch is organised by **The Big Draw** in partnership with **The Whitworth** and supported by **Arts Council England**. The event is free and open to the public. It will take place from 1-5pm, for children and families, and 6-9pm for an older audience, at The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER, UK on Thursday 22 September 2016.

To find out more about The Big Draw Festival, find your nearest event or organise your own, visit: www.thebigdraw.org.

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CONTACT

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Notes to Editors

About - The Big Draw Festival Launch

Thursday 22 September 2016, The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER, UK.

12noon – Photocall

12.30-4pm - Welcome from The Big Draw and The Whitworth, followed by an afternoon of STEAM inspired drawing activities for 'aspiring scientists, artists and tech wizards' among families and local schools. It will feature performances by the immersive theatre group, **Ready Steady Go!**; a workshop by **Okido**, the Arts and Science Magazine for Kids; and Early Years Atelier with **Isobel Pickup**. There will also be introductions to The Big Draw's newest ambassadors; teen 'wonder-cartoonist' **Zoom Rockman**, and 'Digital Portrait Artist Extraordinaire', **Tanya Raabe-Webber**. A Minecraft workshop will be delivered by **Gemma Latham**; there will be live drawing by Manchester artist, **Oliver East**; and, students will be exploring the 'Evolution of the Peppered Moth' with **Stanley Grove Primary School**.

6-9pm - An evening of sci-art experimentation, film, live drawing and music for an older audience, plus a live **illustration showdown** between arts and science students, will take place. It also includes, a Sci-fi themed 'death drawing' workshop with **Art Macabre**, a life drawing class with **Sarah Sanders**, and the first screening of Lumen Prize Finalist, **David Moraton's** shortlisted film "Visus Sonitus I" in the North of England. Plus, a filmed Q&A about the film-makers' work which reveals a fascinating, multi-sensory insight into synaesthesia – the condition where one sense triggers the involuntary experience of another.

About - The Big Draw Festival

Launched in 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over **three 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 Festival includes hundreds of drawing activities in schools, galleries,

museums, libraries, heritage sites, village halls and town squares. In 2015, there were events by more than **1000 organisers** on **seven continents**, engaging around **400,000 people**.

The 2016 theme, The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival 2016, is part of the charity's campaign to give the arts subjects parity with Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, so that STEM becomes STEAM. Anyone can take part in The Big Draw Festival, by finding their nearest event or organising their own. Find out more: <http://www.thebigdraw.org/the-big-draw-festival>

About - The Big Draw

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 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 of The Big Draw

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

About - The Whitworth

The Whitworth is part of The University of Manchester. It is home to internationally renowned collections of modern art, textiles, watercolours, prints, drawings and sculpture. Created in 1889 as the first English gallery in a park, the Whitworth has developed a new vision for the role of a university gallery. A creative laboratory within an ambitious university, The Whitworth is a place where good, unusual things happen. The Whitworth reopened to the

public on 14 February 2015 after a major £15 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. The Whitworth has welcomed over 500,000 since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment has doubled public space and created state of the art new facilities including expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre.

The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize, named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe, and Large Visitor Attraction of the Year by Visit England, continuing to establish itself as a leading cultural destination and housing an internationally significant collection of art.

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth.