The Big Draw Festival 2018 Launch Partners Announced

Art in Liverpool and National Museums Liverpool will join The Big Draw as launch partners of The International Big Draw Festival 2018, it has been announced, today.

Free and open to the public, the launch event at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool will present a packed programme of drawing activities that invite visitors to let loose, embrace happy accidents, discovery, and most importantly to have fun!

The launch event will take place from 1-4pm on Saturday 29th September, and will mark the start of a month-long international festival celebrating the importance of drawing and play.

Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw said:

‘I am delighted to announce that Art in Liverpool and National Museums Liverpool will be partnering with The Big Draw to host the launch of The Big Draw Festival 2018 and Awards Ceremony at The Walker Art Gallery.

The launch will be the first of hundreds of drawing events taking place across the globe throughout the month of October as part of the festival.

This year we will be celebrating the importance of Play!, and we encourage people of every age, background and artistic ability to join us on the day, register their own event as part of the festival, or to check The Big Draw website to find an event near them.’
Founded in 2000, The Big Draw Festival is an international month-long celebration of drawing, which will take place from 1-31 October, this year. For kids and big kids alike, The Big Draw Festival 2018 will be a foray into the world of ‘Play!’ – this year’s festival theme.

Patrick Kirk-Smith, Director of Art in Liverpool said:

“We’re thrilled to be welcoming The Big Draw to Liverpool to coincide with Independents Biennial 2018. Both festivals in 2018 are inviting artists and audiences to test and play with new ideas, new materials and new spaces.

Walker Art Gallery is the perfect setting for this international festival launch Working as a creative centre for one day only, Independents Biennial artists, John Ruskin Prize winners and playful sketchers come together to respond to the Walker’s collections for a day of drawing right through the galleries.’

Angelica Vanasse, Education Manager for the Walker Art Gallery, part of National Museums Liverpool said:

“We are thrilled to be partnering with The Big Draw to host the launch of the festival and their annual awards ceremony. Liverpool is a city bursting with culture and we are home to some fantastic arts venues, including the Walker Art Gallery.

“One of our main purposes is to inspire our visitors with the beautiful works of art on display, and our regular programme of activities for people of all ages encourages visitors to get involved and try their hand at creating artwork. Hosting the Big Draw launch will be a fantastic addition to the weekend on 29 September.’

Also taking place of the evening of the launch event will be The Big Draw Awards Ceremony; a private, annual event celebrating the organisers of the most imaginative and engaging events from the previous year’s festival.

All registered organisers of The Big Draw Festival events can apply for an award. This year’s Big Draw Award winners include: Stanley Grove Primary Academy, Criftins CE Primary School, Riverside International School, Young Animators Club, Royal Society of Sculptors, Claire Davenhall, Redlees Studios, The Drawing Circus, and the Education Department at HM Prison Lewes.

The Big Draw Festival Awards 2017/18 are supported by: Cass Art, Simon’s Group, The Arts Society, Fabriano, and Marmalade on Toast.

Anyone can attend or organize a Big Draw Festival event. To find out more visit www.thebigdraw.org.

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CONTACT

For further information, comments, images and interviews, or to request a press pass for the launch event or awards ceremony, please contact Amy Clancy (Press Manager, The Big Draw): E: press@thebigdraw.org  T: +44 (0) 203 758 4118  W: www.thebigdraw.org
#thebigdraw

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Big Draw Festival 2018 Launch
The public launch event will take place at The Walker Art Gallery, William Brown St, Liverpool L3 8EL, from 1-4pm on Saturday 29th September.

The Big Draw Festival Awards Ceremony
The Big Draw Awards Ceremony (4-6pm) and reception (6-7.30pm) will also take place on Saturday 29th September at The Walker Art Gallery, This is an invitation-only event. Ambassadors of The Big Draw will be in attendance. Further information can be found here: https://thebigdraw.org/awards

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

The Big Draw Awards
The Big Draw Awards recognise innovation, resourcefulness, widening participation and engagement with the universal language of drawing and the annual theme. The theme for 2017 celebrated Living Lines.

Anyone can organize an event for The Big Draw Festival, and every organizer is eligible to apply for an Award. Registration is now open for those wishing to participate in this year’s Big Draw Festival 2018, which will celebrate the art of Play, and will take place from 1-31 October. Visit www.thebigdraw.org to find out more.
The Big Draw Award Winners

Primary School Award - £375
Winner [1]: Stanley Grove Primary Academy, Manchester, UK

Primary School Award - £375
Winner [2]: Criftins CE Primary School, UK

Secondary School Award - £750
Winner: Riverside International School, Prague, Czech Republic

Art Clubs and Societies Award - £250 Cass Art vouchers (Sponsor: Cass Art)
Winner: Young Animators Club, UK

Community, Participatory and Libraries Award - £500 (Sponsor: The Arts Society)
Winner: Tamworth Arts and Events, UK

Museums and Galleries Award - £500 (Sponsor: Fabriano)
Winner: Royal Society of Sculptors, UK

Guest Panellist’s Choice Award - £250 (Sponsor: Simon’s Group)
Winner: Claire Davenhall, Artist, Australia

Founder’s Award - £250
Winner: Redlees Studios

People’s Choice Award - £500 (Sponsor: Marmalade on Toast)
Winner: The Drawing Circus, UK

Special commendation:
Education Department HMP Lewes, UK

The Big Draw

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that promotes the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diverse programme of 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 its national contemporary art prize, 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 | www.ruskinprize.co.uk
National Museums Liverpool

National Museums Liverpool comprises eight venues, including some of the most visited museums in England outside of London. Our collections are among the most important and varied in Europe and contain everything from Impressionist paintings and rare beetles to a lifejacket from the Titanic. We attract more than 3.3 million visitors every year. Our venues are the Museum of Liverpool, World Museum, the Walker Art Gallery, Merseyside Maritime Museum, International Slavery Museum, Seized! (UK Border Force National Museum), Sudley House and the Lady Lever Art Gallery.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Walker Art Gallery

The Walker Art Gallery houses an internationally-renowned collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative art. It is one of Europe’s finest galleries, with a collection that ranges from outstanding modern and contemporary works to Medieval and Renaissance masterpieces. Some of the greatest British artists of the last century are represented in the contemporary galleries, from Lucian Freud to David Hockney, while the Gallery’s Impressionist collection is not to be missed. Visitors can also see paintings by 17th and 18th century masters including Poussin, Rembrandt and Gainsborough, before taking in the Walker’s famed Pre-Raphaelite collection. Younger visitors will love Big Art for Little Artists, a gallery designed to introduce children to art in a fun and interactive way. The Walker Art Gallery is an Arts Council Collection National Partner. Between April 2016 and March 2019, the Gallery will curate and host an exciting and innovative series of contemporary art exhibitions, drawn from the Arts Council Collection.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker

Art in Liverpool

Art in Liverpool is producing Independents Biennial 2018, an international arts festival focussed on giving North West artists a voice, as well as space to develop and create new work. Working over 75 venues, with over 200 events and over 250 artists in Liverpool, St Helens, Wirral, Sefton and Knowsley, this year’s festival aims to reach a whole new audience, and work with local and national partners to build a stronger platform for local artists.

Art in Liverpool Magazine runs online, and in print, bringing weekly news, reviews and events listings dedicated to visual art in Liverpool and the City Region.