

Walpole

Cultural Calendar

2023

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD





British Library

FANTASY - REALMS OF THE IMAGINATION

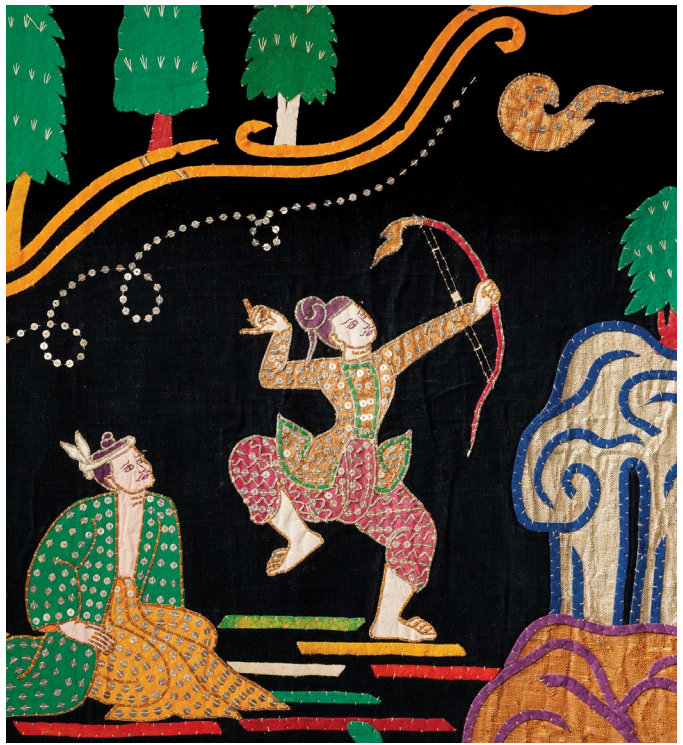
Friday 27th October 2023 - Sunday 25th February 2024

Join the British Library and libraries nationwide to explore the beautiful, uncanny and sometimes monstrous makings of the fantasy genre. Celebrate some of its finest creators and discover how their imagined lands, languages and creatures came into being.

Journey from fairy tales and folklore to the fantastical worlds of Studio Ghibli. Venture into lands occupied by goblins and go down the rabbit hole, through Middle-earth, and into the depths of Pan's Labyrinth.

The exhibition delves deep into the traditions of a genre that has created some of the most passionate and enduring fandoms, and it shows how the oldest forms of literature continue to inspire fantasy authors and creators today. You can also join some of the best fantasy authors of our time in an immersive live events programme that also features gaming and performances.

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British Museum

BURMA TO MYANMAR

Thursday 2nd November 2023 – Sunday 11th February 2024

From influential superpower to repressive regime, Myanmar – also known as Burma – has seen dramatic fluctuations in fortune over the past 1,500 years. Experiencing decades of civil war and now ruled again by a military dictatorship, Myanmar is an isolated figure on the world stage today, and its story is relatively little known in the West. However, the extraordinary artistic output of its peoples, over more than a millennium of cultural and political change, attests to its pivotal role at the crossroads of Asia.

Image Credit: Textile hanging (detail) with scenes from the Ramayana, Myanmar, early 1900s. © 2023 The Trustees of the British Museum

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English National Opera

7 DEATHS OF MARIA CALLAS | MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

Friday 3rd – Saturday 11th November 2023

As the prima donna of the 20th century, Maria Callas has long fascinated internationally renowned performance artist, Marina Abramović. Now, Abramović's celebratory opera project, *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, receives its UK premiere.

Image Credit: W. Hoestl

The deaths of 'the Tigress', as Callas was called, are recreated featuring some of the arias that were most important to the singer. In the production of *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, Marina Abramović and co-performer Willem Dafoe will die seven times in seven films. Seven singers including Sarah Tynan, Elbenita Kajtazi, Nadine Benjamin, Eri Nakamura, Aigul Akhmetshina, Karah Son and Sophie Bevan perform well-known arias by Bellini, Bizet, Donizetti, Puccini and Verdi while Abramović herself appears on stage.

Israeli-American conductor, Yoel Gamzou, makes his ENO debut after premiering the production in Munich, Athens, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam and Naples. The opera will also include new music arranged by Serbian composer Marko Nikodijevic. This staging marks 100 years since the American-born Greek soprano's birth.

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Historic Royal Palaces

CROWN AND CORONATION

Friday 17th – Saturday 25th November 2023 | Tower of London

This November, join Historic Royal Palaces at the Tower of London for a stunning and immersive light show, Crown and Coronation, before it begins its UK wide tour in 2024.

Historic Royal Palaces have partnered with Luxmuralis Artist Collaboration to create an immersive sound and light show that celebrates the spectacle, significance and shared experience of the Crown Jewels and Coronation Ceremony.

The splendour of Coronations and the Crown Jewels will be brought to life like never before in this unique event. From the reign of William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, the show will feature stunning imagery spanning across the centuries projected onto our magnificent buildings.

See imagery and footage of monarchs and coronations past and the Crown Jewels regalia in exquisite detail, projected onto the famous White Tower, and then enjoy special access to see the Crown Jewels after hours, without the usual crowds.

Running for only nine nights in November, don't miss your chance to visit this stunning sound and light show.

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Image Credit: Created by the Luxmuralis artistic collaboration, Peter Walker Sculptor and David Harper Composer, in partnership with Historic Royal Palaces. In association with the Royal Collection Trust



London Philharmonic Orchestra

BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH

Wednesday 29th November 2023 | Royal Festival Hall

Some composers make their own rules, and with just four notes, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony reset the agenda for Western music.

Image Credit © Benjamin Ealovega

It's a timeless tale – defiant, impetuous, and as gripping now as it was in the age of revolution: worthy musical company, in other words, for two women who defied impossible odds. Leonore, the courageous heroine of Beethoven's only opera, is a fictional character. But the pioneering African American composer Florence Price was absolutely real, and LPO Leader Pieter Schoeman steps into the spotlight to bring her neglected Second Violin Concerto to vibrant, songful life tonight.

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The National Gallery

THE CREDIT SUISSE EXHIBITION: FRANS HALS

Saturday 30th September 2023 – Sunday 21st January 2024

Four hundred years since they were painted, Frans Hals's portraits still breathe with life. Hals gained prominence for pioneering a unique portrait style characterised by relaxed, animated subjects often smiling or laughing, diverging from the norms of his era. This retrospective exhibition, the first in over three decades, showcases around 50 of Hals's masterpieces, including the famed 'Laughing Cavalier'. Organised in collaboration with the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, and the Gemäldegalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the exhibition aims to reintroduce Hals's significant contribution to Western art, encompassing a range of his works, from intimate pieces to grand group portraits, reuniting marriage portraits and genre scenes from global collections.

Image Credit: *Banquet of the Officers of the St George Civic Guard*. Frans Hals, 1627 © Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem

Launched as a response to the cost-of-living crisis, the Gallery will be extending its Pay-What-You-Wish scheme, allowing people to visit the exhibition on Friday evenings for as little as £1.

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Natural History Museum

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Friday 13th October - Sunday 30th June 2024

Every Autumn, the Natural History Museum unveils its annual Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, featuring 100 remarkable photographs that illustrate the precious beauty of our planet.

This year, WPY59 will open to the public on 13th October, showcasing the winning entries from the 2022 competition. The world's oldest and most prestigious wildlife photography competition, for its fifty-ninth iteration it attracted an astounding 49,957 entries from photographers of all ages and experience levels from 95 countries.

The exhibition brings to life a global showcase of emotive images, from animal portraiture and photojournalism to urban wildlife and underwater worlds. A forest rodeo, a hidden stargazer and a mason bee at work are just a few of the awe-inspiring images featured this year.

Image Credit © Trustees at Natural History Museum London

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The Old Vic

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Saturday 11th November – Saturday 6th January 2024

Matthew Warchus' big-hearted, smash hit production of Charles Dickens' immortal classic returns to The Old Vic, joyously adapted for the stage by Jack Thorne (*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *His Dark Materials*) and starring Emmy Award-winner Christopher Eccleston (*Accused*, *The Leftovers*) as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Image Credit: *A Christmas Carol* at The Old Vic. Photo by Manuel Hartan

A Christmas Carol fills the auditorium to the brim with mince pies, music and merriment. A unique staging immerses the audience in London's longest running adaptation of this beloved festive favourite.

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The Old Vic offers a range of exclusive event opportunities around A Christmas Carol, which can be tailored to celebrate your staff, stakeholders, clients and their families at this special time of year. By partnering with The Old Vic, you can align your business with a beacon of British culture and position yourself as a critical supporter of the arts and community.

For further information contact: corporatepartnerships@oldvictheatre.com



Royal Academy of Arts

MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

Saturday 23rd September 2023 - Monday 1st January 2024

Marina Abramović at the Royal Academy of Arts is one of the hottest tickets in London's autumn culture calendar. The exhibition presents key moments of the performance artist's 50-year career, through sculpture, video, installation and live performance. Works such as *The Artist is Present* is strikingly re-staged through archive footage while others such as *Imponderabilia* is reperformed by the next generation of performance artists, trained in the Marina Abramović method. Experience it for yourself until New Years' Day, 2024.

Image Credit: Marina Abramović.
Courtesy of the Marina Abramović
Archives. © Marina Abramović

About the artist: [Marina Abramović Hon RA](#) has earned worldwide acclaim as a performance artist. She has consistently tested the limits of her own physical and mental endurance in her work, subjecting herself to exhaustion, pain and even the possibility of death.

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Royal Court

IMPOSTER 22 BY MOLLY DAVIS

Saturday 23rd September - Saturday 14th October 2023

Seven friends are in the frame for murder and the police are closing in. They must clear their name and in order to do so, they've enlisted the most unlikely of help.

As the pressure mounts, friends become suspects and the experience changes them all. This funny, dark whodunnit will take you on an unexpected journey; with jokes, sex, songs, crimes, plot twists and a comeuppance.

Developed collaboratively over five years by Access All Areas' learning disabled and autistic Associate Artists: Kirsty Adams, Cian Binchy, Housni Hassan (DJ), Dayo Koleosho, Stephanie Newman, Lee Phillips and Charlene Salter alongside writer, Molly Davies and director, Hamish Pirie, Imposter 22 is a playful account of navigating barriers, neurodiversity and the power of sharing a platform.

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Royal Opera House

JEPHTHA, THE ROYAL OPERA

Wednesday 8th – Friday 24th November | Main Stage

Jephtha's devotion to God is unshakeable. But when he unwittingly vows to sacrifice his own daughter, he will test the bonds of faith – and family – to the limit. Continuing our odyssey into Handel's Covent Garden works, this gripping new staging by Oliver Mears sheds powerful new light on a timeless biblical tale. Allan Clayton (*Peter Grimes*) returns to Covent Garden in the title role, joined by a largely British cast including Alice Coote, Brindley Sherratt and Jennifer France, with musical direction from baroque specialist Laurence Cummings.

Image Credit: Allan Clayton in Oliver Mears' *Jephtha*, The Royal Opera © 2023 Sebastian Nevols

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Saatchi Gallery

CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE: BOUNDLESS

Monday 15th November – Monday 22nd January 2024

As part of its Season of Sculpture, Saatchi Gallery announces *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Boundless*, an upcoming co-headline Winter exhibition, showcasing the largest retrospective of the renowned artist duo Christo and Jeanne-Claude ever in the UK.

Image Credit: 'Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin 1971-95'

Tracing their artistic journey, from experimental beginnings in Paris across six decades of collaboration, the exhibition showcases rarely seen works and offers a glimpse into future projects to be undertaken by the estate of the artists.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Boundless introduces visitors to the couple's seminal projects, ranging from their early collaborations to monumental masterpieces, among them *Wrapped Coast in Australia (1969)*, *Surrounded Islands (1983) in Miami/Florida*, *The Pont Neuf Wrapped in Paris (1985)*, and *The Umbrellas (1991)*. This exhibition is the last to ever be signed off by Christo before his death and is divided into ten thematic chapters.

Journey through the unrealised dreams that shaped their legacy, with insight into *The Mastaba* (project for Abu Dhabi). Larger than the Great Pyramid of Giza, this visionary concept stands as a testament to the enduring impact of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's expression and drive.

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V&A

DIVA

Saturday 24th June – Sunday 7th April 2024 | Gallery 40

DIVA celebrates the power and creativity of iconic performers, exploring and redefining the role of 'diva' and how this has been subverted or embraced over time across opera, stage, popular music, and film. Showcasing over 250 objects drawn from the V&A collection and loans from across the world, the exhibition explores the powerful and personal stories of creativity, ambition, and resilience of some of the best-known divas, from opera goddesses and silent movie stars to sirens of the big screen and today's global megastars.

Image Credit: Image of Grace Jones wearing Issey Miyake moulded corset, Drury Lane, 1981. Photograph © David Corio

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Other Cultural Events

CULTURAL INSTITUTE	EXHIBITION & EVENT	DATES
Barbican	Mahabharata	Until 7th October 2023
	Yerma	From 23rd – 28th October 2023
Bush Theatre	Dreaming and Drowning	From 28th November – 23rd December 2023
Design Museum	REBEL: 30 Years of London Fashion	Until 11th February 2024
	Skateboard	From 20th October – 2nd June 2024
Frieze	Frieze London	From 11th October – 15th October 2023
Harold Pinter Theatre	Lyonesse	From 17th October – 23rd December 2023
Hayward Gallery	Hiroshi Sugimoto	From 11th October – 7th January 2024
	Amol K Patil: The Politics of Skin and Movement	From 11th October – 19th November 2023
Lyric Hammersmith	The Empress (RSC)	From 4th – 28th October 2023
National Portrait Gallery	David Hockney: Drawing from Life	From 2nd November – 21st January 2024
National Theatre	The House of Bernarda Alba	From 16th November – 6 January 2024
Rose Theatre	A View From The Bridge	From 31st October – 11th November 2023
Royal Shakespeare Company	My Neighbour Totoro	From 21st November – 23rd March 2024
	Hamnet	From 30th September – 17th February 2024
Serpentine	Georg Baselitz: Sculptures 2011-2015	From 5th October – 7th January 2024
Tate	Women in Revolt! Art and Activism in the UK 1970 - 1990	From 8th November – 7th April 2024
	Art Now: Rhea Dillon: An Alterable Terrain	Until 1st January 2024
	Sarah Lucas: Happy Gas	Until 14th January 2024
Tate Modern	A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography	Until 14th January 2024
	Philip Guston	From 5th October – 25th February 2024
The Wallace Collection	Turner and Bonington: Watercolours from the Wallace Collection	Until April 2024
Wellcome Collection	Genetica Automata	Until 11th February 2024
	The Cult of Beauty	From 26th October – 28th April 2024
Young Vic	Tribe	From 28th October – 4th November 2023
	The Homecoming	From 27th November – 27th January 2024

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