



PRESS RELEASE

V&A announces 6 August reopening date, and major exhibition and gallery openings, including the Raphael Court and new *Design: 1900-Now* Gallery

Following one of the most significant closures in the museum's history, the V&A is delighted to announce that it will reopen its doors to visitors on 6 August 2020.

Initially opening Thursday to Sunday each week, the V&A will reopen in phases. From 6 August 2020, visitors will be able to enjoy all of the ground floor collection galleries including the iconic Medieval & Renaissance Gallery, the monumental Cast Courts, the stunning artefacts of The Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art and the much-loved Fashion Gallery, as well as the Europe 1600–1815 galleries on lower ground floor.

To coincide with the August Bank Holiday weekend, the first and second floor collection galleries will reopen on 27 August, including the ever-popular The William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery, Theatre & Performance Galleries, and the Photography Centre as well as our Paintings, Tapestries and Silver Galleries. The critically acclaimed exhibition *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk*, which closed just two weeks into its run, has now been extended and will reopen on 27 August – 25 October alongside the museum's *Filthy Lucre* installation.

Our Exhibition Road neighbours, the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum have also announced that their doors will reopen on 5 August and 19 August respectively. The three museums are staggering opening dates and times to reduce footfall on Exhibition Road and ease visitor flow at nearby underground stations.

South Kensington is London's home of arts and science – the original cultural quarter since its foundation 175 years ago – providing free access to astonishingly diverse collections held on behalf of the nation, all within a stone's throw of each other. At a time when ideas, beauty, curiosity and connection to nature have never been more important, the three South Kensington museums have all bases covered. Galleries, exhibitions and experiences span art, design, performance, fashion, science, technology, engineering, medicine and the wonders of the natural world. Visitors will be able to welcome culture back into their lives and enjoy fantastic days out in wide open, safe spaces they can reclaim as their own.

The museums are collaborating with their two local authorities, local businesses and more than a dozen other cultural institutions to improve provision for cyclists and pedestrians and take other steps to ensure South Kensington offers the same vibrant experiences supported by all the reassuring safety measures.

Director of the V&A, Tristram Hunt said “*The V&A’s galleries flourish in dialogue with visitors, and after so many months, I am delighted we will be reopening our doors to the world. Our seven miles of galleries in South Kensington will open in phases, and we have a range of exciting exhibition and gallery openings to come in the next few months. The V&A has ample space for social distancing, and all safety measures are in place for our visitors to enjoy 5000 years of ingenuity in art, design and performance. Reopening is only the first phase to our recovery, which is set to last well into next year, and we remain hugely grateful to all our visitors, members and supporters – now more than ever.*”

A new blog post by Director Tristram Hunt has also been published to coincide with this announcement providing an insight into the behind-the-scenes work of the V&A and our ongoing mission.

A number of measures will be in place across the V&A to ensure that the museum is a safe, relaxing and inspiring place for visitors, staff and volunteers. Free timed tickets will be introduced to ensure that visitors can freely explore and discover the wonders of the V&A’s collection within a socially distanced environment. Further details on how we are preparing the V&A for reopening and the range of safety measures that are in place, from screens to sanitiser, can be found on the V&A website.

Alongside an extensive range of content and information, visitors will be able to go online and use the V&A’s digital map to make the most of their visit. In addition, from 3 August three self-guided trails, available on the V&A website, will explore highlights from the collection, the building’s architecture, and a selection of family favourites. The trails will link through to further online content including articles and videos to learn more about our collection pre or post visit. As the museum’s first and second floor galleries reopen from 27 August, additional trails, including a digital version of the museum’s African Heritage Tour and its LGBTQ Tour, will also be available.

The V&A’s forthcoming programme and opening dates for the next nine months are as follows:

Bags: Inside Out – 21 November 2020 – 12 September 2021

Epic Iran – 13 February – 30 August 2021

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser – 27 March – 31 December 2021

Timed tickets to see the museum’s permanent collection and *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk* are now available from the V&A website. Tickets for *Bags: Inside Out* will launch in August, and *Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser* and *Epic Iran* will launch in later 2020.

The *Renaissance Watercolours* exhibition will now be reimagined as a free display, opening November 2020 and presenting rare examples from the museum’s collection. The exhibition catalogue is also now available in the museum shop offering detailed essays and insights into this often under-appreciated art form.

The reopening of the museum will see the delivery of major FuturePlan projects over the coming months. The museum’s stunning Raphael Court will reopen on 14 November, following a major redevelopment that includes full redecoration, state-of-

the-art lighting and new digital interpretation. Visitors will be able to zoom in on the Cartoons, loaned to the V&A by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection, to reveal the texture and detail of the paintings like never before. The gallery houses some of the most significant Renaissance works in the UK and its relaunch will mark the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death.

Design: 1900–Now on the museum's second floor, will open February 2021 and feature over a century of works from the V&A's world-leading collection of modern and contemporary design including Margaret Calvert and Jock Kinneir's iconic British Road Sign and the Mae West lips sofa by Salvador Dali. The gallery will explore the history of design and its impact on how we live, work, travel, communicate and consume as well as providing a new home for the museum's celebrated Rapid Response Collection.

V&A Dundee will re-open on Thursday 27 August with *Mary Quant*, the first international retrospective on the iconic British designer as well as a major project with Turner Prize-winning architecture collective Assemble who are the museum's designers in residence. Across the museum, both inside and out, there will be a new exhibition on design's response to the pandemic. *Mary Quant* will run until 17 January 2021 and tickets are available at www.vam.ac.uk/dundee

The V&A Collection at World of Wedgwood, based at Barlaston near Stoke-on-Trent, will reopen from 22 July 2020. New safety measures are now in place so visitors can explore over 3000 objects of ground-breaking design and production, and discover Josiah Wedgwood's lasting influence on industry and society. The *Precision and Skill* temporary display – a unique collection of the Etruria factory's prestige production models, dating back to Josiah Wedgwood I (1730–1795) – has also now been extended.

The redevelopment of the V&A Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green is now underway, and will see the beloved institution evolve into a dynamic museum dedicated to empowering children and young people through creativity and design skills.

The museum's ongoing commitment to education programmes is now more vital than ever. V&A Innovate – a national challenge for secondary school pupils – will launch digitally in September and be accessible to every school in the UK. Following the themes of Home and Community, students will be asked to use design practices to address major issues including climate change, accessibility, isolation and more. For adult learners, the V&A Academy moves online – a first for the museum – and will later develop as a mixed model of both online and onsite course. Available from September with a rich programme of art history courses, experts from the museum will be able to connect with students around the world using the breadth of the V&A's collection to explore the story of human creativity.

– ENDS –

Notes to editors

For further PRESS information about the exhibition, contact the Press Office on 020 7942 2502 or press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

Opening hours:

From 6 August, the V&A will be open Thursday to Sunday each week from 11am to 3pm. From 27 August opening hours will be extended to 11am to 7pm. Free timed tickets to visit the museum's collection will be released on a monthly basis. Keep in touch with us on social media, or check our website for the latest information.

Collection Galleries

Permanent collection galleries open from 6 August: Buddhism (The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Galleries of Buddhist Art), Sculpture (The Dorothy and Michael Hintze Galleries), Fashion, Islamic Middle East (The Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art), Japan (The Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art), China (T.T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art), Korea, Cast Courts, Medieval & Renaissance, Europe 1600–1815.

Additional permanent collection galleries open from 27 August: Medieval and Renaissance (300–1600), Britain (1500–1760), Sacred Silver, Gold, Silver & Mosaics (The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Galleries), Paintings, Tapestries, Prints and Drawings (The Julie and Robert Breckman Gallery), Jewellery (The William and Judith Bollinger Gallery), Theatre & Performance, Photography Centre, Ironwork, Sculpture (The Dorothy and Michael Hintze Galleries).

V&A South Kensington

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk

Sponsored by MUFG

Supported by GRoW @ Annenberg, Shiseido and Yoshikimono

The ultimate symbol of Japan, the kimono is often perceived as traditional, timeless and unchanging. *Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk* counters this conception, presenting the garment as a dynamic and constantly evolving icon of fashion. The exhibition reveals the sartorial and social significance of the kimono from the 1660s to the present day, both in Japan and in the rest of the world. Rare 17th- and 18th-century kimono are displayed for the first time in the UK, together with fashions by major designers and iconic film and performance costumes. The kimono's recent reinvention on the streets of Japan is also explored through work by an exciting new wave of contemporary designers and stylists.

Filthy Lucre

Filthy Lucre is an immersive installation by contemporary American artist Darren Waterston, presenting a detailed reimagining of James Abbott McNeill Whistler's famed *Peacock Room* – the sumptuous 19th-century dining room once housed just a stone's throw away from the V&A and now installed at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Waterston has faithfully recreated each of the room's individual elements with a twist, with the installation revealing a magnificent ruin crumbling under the weight of material decadence and the egos of those involved in its creation.

Bags: Inside Out

Sponsored by Mulberry

The UK's most comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the ultimate accessory. From designer handbags to despatch boxes, vanity cases to military rucksacks, the exhibition will explore our longstanding fascination with the bag. Featuring innovative designs from Mulberry to Karl Lagerfeld, bags carried by Vivien Leigh to Sarah Jessica Parker, the heritage of Hermès to the streetwear of Off-White, and an exclusive look inside the world of the factory and atelier; *Bags: Inside Out* provides an unprecedented look at this global obsession.

Epic Iran

Epic Iran will explore 5000 years of art, design and culture, bringing together 300 objects from ancient, Islamic and contemporary Iran. It will be the UK's first major exhibition on Iranian art and culture in more than 90 years that presents an overarching narrative from 3000 BCE to the present day. From sculpture, ceramics and carpets, to textiles, photography and film, the exhibition will comprise rarely seen objects from the V&A alongside international loans and significant private collections, including The Sarikhani Collection. Revealing new discoveries, this landmark exhibition will offer a fresh perspective on a country that is so often seen through a different lens in the news. *Epic Iran* will shine a light on one of the greatest historic civilisations, its journey into the 21st century and its monumental artistic achievements, which remain unknown to many.

Organised by the V&A with the Iran Heritage Foundation in association with The Sarikhani Collection

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser will celebrate one of the most iconic, imaginative and inspiring stories of all time. Offering an immersive and mind-bending journey down the rabbit hole, this fantastical exhibition will explore Alice in Wonderland's origins, adaptations and reinventions over 158 years, charting its evolution from manuscript to a global phenomenon beloved by all ages. Supported by the Unwin Charitable Trust

Raphael Court

The Raphael Cartoons are loaned to the V&A by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection. The redevelopment of the Raphael Court is supported by Lydia and Manfred Gorvy, Julia and Hans Rausing, American Express, the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, The Hintze Family Charitable Foundation, the Robert H. Smith Family Foundation, the American Friends of the V&A, and many other generous donors.

V&A Dundee**Mary Quant**

Mary Quant disrupted the fashion establishment, connecting with an energised, youthful audience looking for something fresh and fun. From rising hemlines to androgynous shapes and styling, Quant captured the zeitgeist of the moment. This exhibition is the first international retrospective on the iconic British designer who started a fashion revolution that a whole generation wanted to take part in.