Members' Festive Open Evening
Sunday 6 December, 18:45–22:00

Programme

Curate your perfect evening with our programme of activities and experiences.

With so much happening throughout the evening, we recommend choosing your top 2–3 activities and planning your night around these. Activities are designed to accommodate as many members as possible, but demand is expected to be high, so please bear in mind that it won't be possible to take part in everything. We encourage you to prioritise your favourites and enjoy them at a relaxed pace.

The full programme with timings will be available closer to the date of the event.

Performances & Music

Şifa Contemporary Whirling Dance performance– single performance
Experience the mesmerising movements of traditional dervish dance in a captivating display of rhythm and spirituality in the Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre.

Analiza Ching – Queen and Christmas Set – two performances
Enjoy Queen anthems and festive favourites performed by renowned rock violinist Analiza Ching.

Festive DJ Set – all night
Dance beneath the dazzling Chihuly chandelier to a soundtrack of Christmas classics and festive favourites.

Workshops

Each workshop will run for 20–30 minutes and be repeated 4–5 times throughout the night. Some workshop spots will require sign-up on the night, other spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. More information to come in final programme.

Arabic Calligraphy: A Creative Taster
Discover Arabic calligraphy with artist Soraya Syed and create your own composition using traditional tools.

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Şifa Contemporary Whirling Dance
Discover the graceful movements and spiritual traditions of dervish dance in this hands-on workshop.

Kilo Kāpala
Explore traditional Native Hawaiian printmaking with Studio Puluma and create your own printed design.

Capturing Emotion Through Smartphone Photography
Learn to capture expressive portraits inspired by *Rising Voices: Contemporary art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific* with photographer Jasprit Singh and take home a printed photograph.

Sahar Millinery Feather Fascinators
Discover the art of feather manipulation and create your own beautiful bespoke fascinator.

Miniature V&A Museum and Toy Theatre
Create your own miniature paper V&A Museum or charming toy theatre, finished with a beautiful satin ribbon.

Blooms and Evergreen Terrarium Bauble Workshop
Create a miniature botanical world in a glass bauble, perfect as a unique festive decoration.

Furoshiki and the Japanese Art of Gift Wrapping
Discover the Japanese art of Furoshiki and learn to create beautiful, sustainable gift wrapping with artist Tomoko Kakita.

Macaro Bespoke Lapel Pins
Design a personalised lapel pin inspired by the V&A's collections with Macaro founder Monisha Robinson.

Embossed Metal Ornament Workshop
Create an elegant animal-inspired metal ornament using traditional embossing techniques and finish with a velvet bow.

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Expressive Sketching with Rodin
Capture the expressive forms of Rodin's sculptures through drawing, exploring light, shadow and movement.

Talks and Gallery Experiences

Each talk runs for 10–15 minutes and will be repeated 2–4 times throughout the night. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Dressing the City: Byzantium, the Ottomans and Beyond
Travel through history as spectacular costumes and live performers bring the fashions of Constantinople and Istanbul to life. This activity will last 25 minutes.

A Victorian Christmas at the Library
Enjoy out of hours access to the National Art Library and discover Victorian Christmas traditions through fascinating books and manuscripts.

The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon
Discover the heritage and craftsmanship behind one of fashion's most iconic designs.

Splendid Things: Freddie Mercury Trail
Uncover the stories behind Freddie Mercury's most iconic looks.

Bharti Kher at the V&A
Discover Bharti Kher's thought-provoking work exploring mythology, womanhood and cultural identity.

Aziza Kadyri: Sender Unknown
Explore how artist Aziza Kadyri brings traditional Uzbek craft and emerging technology together in a striking new installation.

Dimensions: Contemporary Chinese Studio Crafts
Discover the artists, stories and creative communities shaping China's contemporary craft scene.

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Lost Music Venues: Stories Unsung
Explore the stories of iconic music venues, including the Rainbow Theatre and Hacienda, and their fight to survive.

The Urushi Now: Contemporary Japanese Lacquer
Discover the beauty, artistry and craftsmanship of contemporary Japanese lacquer.

The Gilbert Collection: Decorative Arts that Dazzle
Explore the exquisite materials, intricate details and exceptional craftsmanship of the Gilbert Collection.

Golden Threads from Saudi Arabia and Iranian Printmakers
Discover exquisite garments gifted by King Abdulaziz alongside a fascinating collection of modern and contemporary Iranian prints.