

Press Release

1 May 2024

York Art Gallery



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York Children Get Creative!

Children from Park Grove Primary Academy School in York look forward to Monet's world renowned masterpiece, *The Water-Lily Pond*, coming to York Art Gallery for *National Treasures: Monet in York* in May by getting creative with origami. Inspired by Monet's iconic lilies, children aged between 8 and 11 have got creative with paper and made a number of beautiful forms in origami reminiscent of Monet's lilies, but also reflecting some of the other loans being shown as part of the exhibition such as work by Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige.

In addition to works that inspired Monet and in turn work by artists who were inspired by Monet, acclaimed artist Michaela Yearwood-Dan has been commissioned to produce work exclusively for the exhibition which will be unveiled to the public on 10 May. The exhibition runs to 8 September.

Siona Mackelworth, who heads up communications at the Gallery, is delighted with the results: "The children's work is a lovely community project to engage youngsters so they get to know the masterpiece and enjoy being inspired by one of the world's most recognisable pieces of work. We wanted them to enjoy using their hands, understanding a little about origami and have the chance to get up close to the works on show. We absolutely love their own little masterpieces and hope to display some as part of the exhibition."

Vicky Hearson, Deputy Head at Park Grove adds: "The children all volunteered to take part in these art workshops which took place in lunchtimes across a week and a half. We were so surprised about how much they already knew about Monet, his garden and how easily they

recognised some of the bridges in the Japanese work. We are grateful to Laura Savoia and Sue Stone for their efforts to show the children how origami can create these lovely folded forms!”

Monet’s ‘The Water Lily Pond’ is the central feature of this major exhibition which marks the 200th anniversary of the National Gallery in London. Hidden Treasures includes other works by artists such as Roy Lichtenstein as well as the central Monet painting.

York Art Gallery is one of twelve partners across the UK and the only Yorkshire location participating in National Treasures, hosting a masterpiece from the National Gallery’s outstanding collection to celebrate 200 years of the National Gallery. The exhibition at York will bring together key loans from regional and national institutions alongside collection works from York Art Gallery. By displaying canvases by those contemporaries he inspired, as well as more modern artworks including this outstanding new large-scale commission by Michaela, the exhibition will reveal how Monet’s radical approach to painting had, and continues to have, an enduring influence on artists.

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National Treasures: Monet In York runs from 10 May to 8 September 2024 at York Art Gallery. Open Wed to Sunday 10am to 5pm.

Editors Notes:

National Treasures is a key strand of the National Gallery’s programme celebrating the Gallery’s Bicentenary. Each partner venue will receive a masterpiece from the Gallery’s collection and will curate around it, involving interpretation, community engagement and events, or exhibitions. For the duration of the displays, 35 million people - more than half the UK population - will be within an hour’s journey of a National Gallery masterpiece.

The opening of National Treasures around the UK kickstarts a year of Bicentenary celebrations, where three strands of activities showcase the Gallery across the nation; to the community in Trafalgar Square; and to virtual visitors around the world. The ambitious programme showcases the breadth of skill and creativity in the UK cultural sector, and is just as much about looking ahead to the next 200 years in the Gallery’s future as it is about celebrating its past. Concluding the celebrations in May 2025 will be the opening of the new Sainsbury Wing developments in Trafalgar Square.

The exhibition at York Art Gallery is supported by wealth management company JM Finn and Little Greene Paint Company as the official paint partner.

Image credits:

Children at Park Grove School show off their origami 'lilies', credit Gareth Buddo for school photos.

Image 1:

Daisy Johnson age 11
George Palmer age 10
Katriel Agbontaen age 11
Ella Bourne age 11
Filippa Polito age 11
Clara Rio age 10
Imogen Milner (front) age 9

Image 2:

Sue Stone (dark hair) Art Lead, Park Grove School and Laura Savoia School Art Consultant, with the children making their origami.

Image 3: As per image 1, portrait orientation.

Image 4: L to R

Clara Rio (top)
Daisy Johnson
Katriel Agbontaen
Filippa Polito

Claude Monet (1840 – 1926), *The Water-Lily Pond*, 1899 © The National Gallery, London

Water Lilies with Japanese Bridge, 1992 by Utagawa Hiroshige

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York Art Gallery Opening Times: Wednesday – Sunday 10am - 5pm

For more information on York Art Gallery go to: www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

About York Art Gallery

York Art Gallery's collection of paintings spans more than 600 years and works range from 14th century Italian panels and 17th century Dutch masterpieces to Victorian narrative paintings and 20th century works by LS Lowry and David Hockney. The Gallery also holds the most extensive and representative collection of British Studio Ceramics, thanks to the acquisition of collections from Dean Milner–White, WA Ismay and Henry Rothschild and the long term loan of Anthony Shaw's collection. Highlights are on show in the Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA). The Gallery and its collections are cared for by the charity York Museums Trust, established in 2002.

More information at [York Art Gallery](#).

About The National Gallery

The National Gallery is one of the greatest art galleries in the world. Founded by Parliament in 1824, the Gallery houses the nation's collection of paintings in the Western European tradition from the late 13th to the early 20th century. The collection includes works by Artemisia Gentileschi, Bellini, Cézanne, Degas, Leonardo, Monet, Raphael, Rembrandt, Renoir, Rubens, Titian, Turner, Van Dyck, Van Gogh and Velázquez. The Gallery's key objectives are to care for and enhance the collection and provide the best possible access to visitors. Admission free.

On 10 May 2024 the National Gallery will be 200 years old, and they will start their Bicentenary celebration, a year-long festival of art, creativity and imagination, marking two centuries of bringing people and paintings together. More information at nationalgallery.org.uk

As part of National Treasures, the partners and the paintings they are receiving are:

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, **The Wilton Diptych** (about 1395-9)

Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Self Portrait at the Age of 34 (1640), **Rembrandt** (1606-1669)

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, The Hay Wain (1821), **John Constable** (1776-1837)

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, Venus and Mars (about 1485), **Sandro Botticelli** (about 1445-1510)

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria (about 1615-17), **Artemisia Gentileschi** (1593-1654 or later)

Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, The Fighting Temeraire (1839), **Joseph Mallord William Turner** (1775-1851)

Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, The Umbrellas (about 1881-6), **Pierre-Auguste Renoir** (1841-1919)

The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, The Stonemason's Yard (about 1725), **Canaletto** (1697-1768)

Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, A Young Woman standing at a Virginal (about 1670-2),

Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675)

Ulster Museum, Belfast, *The Supper at Emmaus* (1601), **Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio** (1571-1610)

Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, *The Rokeby Venus* (1647-51), **Diego Velázquez** (1599-1660)

York Art Gallery, *The Water-Lily Pond* (1899), **Claude Monet** (1840-1926)

About JM Finn

JM Finn is a wealth management firm that provides a personalised approach to investment and wealth management for today's private investors. With over 100 investment professionals, JM Finn looks after investment portfolios on behalf of over 18,500 clients (as at 31st December 2023) across the UK. The firm is headquartered in London and has regional offices in Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Winchester and York.

More information at [Homepage | JM Finn](#)

About Little Greene Paint Company

Little Greene is an eco-friendly, family-run business cataloguing 300 years of paint and wallpaper. Based in the UK.

More information at [Little Greene - Buy Luxury Paint and Wallpaper Online](#)

York Museums Trust