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Curating Cambridge: our city, our stories, our stuff

20 October – 23 November 2014

Half term family fun at Curating Cambridge

Curating Cambridge: our city, our stories, our stuff will kick off half term family fun this weekend. On Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 October The Campsite will pitch up on Christ’s Pieces in the centre of Cambridge; this two day extravaganza will see museums step out of their normal homes into a pop-up venue with a difference.

The Campsite is a collection of vintage campervans, caravans and tents all of which become venues for theatre, music, poetry and art installations showcasing performances and activities created by artists in collaboration with each of the University’s Museums and Botanic Garden. Hear a story in a vintage campervan, relax and play some camping games or discover live music in a 1980s caravan! All this is free and suitable for the whole family to enjoy.

Following The Campsite weekend each of the artists’ work will be present at their museum of origin on different days throughout half term, allowing families and visitors to chart their way from The Campsite to the various University of Cambridge Museums around the city.

Tom Frankland, Co-Director of The Campsite said, “What has been really exciting is that the artists haven’t been working to a tight brief. The pieces are inspired by each museum and are suitable for family audiences; but the artists have very much responded to what was resonant for them – be that a particular tiny exhibit of even the people who work in the building and the members of the public who frequent it.”

There’s plenty to keep the kids entertained for the rest of half term week as well. For those creative ones aged 8+ bring your own object to Kettle’s Yard on 28 October (10am-12pm) and enjoy an experimental drawing workshop. If you’ve got tech-savvy teenagers check out Curate it yourself! at the Museum of Classical Archaeology on 29 October (2pm-4.30pm) where they will get the chance to produce their own interpretations of classical sculpture using iPads.

Don’t forget to also stop by Cambridge University Botanic Garden for its ever-popular Apple Day on Sunday 26 October.

The Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology has got free kids hands-on activities relating to their fascinating current exhibition Buddha’s Word: The Life of Books in Tibet and Beyond (25, 28, 29 & 30 October), and join them at the end of half term to celebrate the Day of the Dead; have fun building an altar which traditionally consists of flowers, breads and sugar skulls, whilst discovering more about this annual Mexican ritual (31 October, 1 & 2 November).
The Fitzwilliam Museum is being taken over on Wednesday 29 October when seven other Cambridgeshire museums stop by to host family activities in different galleries around the museum. Kettle’s Yard, The Polar Museum, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Museum of Zoology, and Denny Abbey & the Farmland Museum invite you to the Fitzwilliam Museum to create and organise your own collections; a chance for families to discover stories and connections between objects and creatures from across the world and throughout time.

Presented by the University of Cambridge Museums with the Festival of Ideas, cultural partners and community organisations, Curating Cambridge is a city wide cultural celebration with an exciting mix of exhibitions, workshops, music, talks and performances for all to enjoy.

Elly Wright, Events Coordinator for the University of Cambridge Museums said, “Curating Cambridge has such a huge range of events and activities taking place over the next five weeks everyone is sure to find something to enjoy. Families will find loads going on all over the city throughout the festival, and especially during half term week. Hands-on activities, craft sessions, storytelling and performances, many of which are free, are on offer for young and old alike!”

Funded by Arts Council England through its Major Partner Museums programme, with support from Cambridge City Council, Curating Cambridge has been developed by the University of Cambridge Museums as a celebration of our work with cultural partners and community organisations across the city.

Notes to Editors:
Curating Cambridge launches as part of the Festival of Ideas (20 October – 2 November), the Festival that unleashes the research and inspiration behind the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences within the University of Cambridge. We’ve worked closely with the Festival team to develop a programme that is exciting, intriguing and varied, and you’ll see that many events appear in both programmes. Check out the full Festival of Ideas programme at www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk

University of Cambridge Museums
University of Cambridge Museums is a consortium of the eight University Museums, which works in partnership with Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The University’s collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing the country's highest concentration of internationally important collections, all within walking distance of the City Centre.
In April 2012 the University of Cambridge Museums were awarded Major Partnership Funding from Arts Council England to support its ambitious three-year Connecting Collections programme. The programme focuses on unlocking the University's collections, and the research activities which underpin them, for a larger and more diverse audience.
Arts Council England recently announced its continuing support for the University of Cambridge Museums as a Major Partner Museum with indicative funding of nearly £4.5 million for the period 2015-18.

For more information please contact Verity Sanderson, Marketing and Press Coordinator, University of Cambridge Museums on 07872 410663 or vcs25@cam.ac.uk or Stuart Roberts in the Office of External Affairs and Communications on Stuart.J.Roberts@admin.cam.ac.uk