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**HORNIMAN**  
MUSEUM  
& GARDENS



## **Horniman Highlights Hair's Untold Stories**

A new exhibition at the Horniman Museum and Gardens highlights hair's untold stories, from the meaning and importance of our hair, to how we use this extraordinary fibre, both on and off our heads.

**Hair: Untold Stories** opens at the Horniman in Forest Hill, south London on Saturday 4 December and features objects from the Horniman's collection alongside artworks and installations.

From jewellery and dresses to armour and environmental protection, the show explores the potential of hair as a material. It also explores our complex relationship with hair – how and why we care so much about our hair, and how hair is entangled with society's expectations and our relationships to others.

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- a dress made of human hair by artist Jenni Dutton, and two giant wigs – one displayed in the Horniman Gardens – by artist Isaac Olvera
- a hair shop installation from Korantema Anyimadu, which explores the experiences of Black women and non-binary people with their hair in the UK
- intricate clothing and jewellery made from hair by Naga people in India, and historic and contemporary hair jewellery made by Swedish women
- stories and creative contributions of a group of people local to the Horniman, who met via Zoom over the summer of 2020, deep in the first Covid-19 lockdown, to share hair stories about identity, creativity and hair loss.

Weaving in stories from Forest Hill hairdressers to the global hair trade, and featuring the work of artists, film makers, designers and members of the public, Hair: Untold Stories is intimate, surprising and wide-ranging.

The exhibition was curated in partnership with Emeritus Professor of Anthropology Emma Tarlo and Goldsmiths, University of London. The lead curator for the Horniman is Dr Sarah Byrne.

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Sarah Byrne, Senior Curator of Anthropology at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'Hair touches on so many aspects of life. It is deeply personal but is also caught up in social relationships and expectations. Hair is also an extraordinary fibre used to make a wide range of things from wigs, extensions, clothing, jewellery and embroidery to booms for mopping up oil spills.

'We are delighted to have worked with so many talented artists, collaborators and co-curators in the realisation of this show. We know it will start some new and unexpected conversations about hair for our visitors.'

Hair: Untold Stories features work from artists, filmmakers and curators including Jane Hoodless, Sanne Visser, Jenni Dutton, Isaac Olvera, Farrah Riley Gray, Studio Swine, Rambisayi Marufu, Ufuk Gokkaya, Julian Knxx, Anna Sparr, Rose Sinclair, Habiba Nabisubi, Alix Bizet (in collaboration with Aasha John and students from Haberdashers' Knights Academy, Bromley), and Cat Dunne (in collaboration with the Halo Collective).

Hair: Untold Stories is complemented by two other current exhibitions at the Horniman. Photographs from INFRINGE's **Cult Hair** series feature some of London's unique and diverse hairstyles, celebrating hair unrestrained by mainstream beauty standards. The **Intimate Archives** exhibition is an assemblage of personal and found collections, Horniman Museum archives, and artistic collaborations – curated by Rambisayi Marufu – offering a window into African diasporic social experiments, rituals, and practices of hair care.

**Hair: Untold Stories is open daily (except Wednesdays) 10am-5.30pm, from 4 December 2021 to 19 June 2022.** Cult Hair is open now, until 31 August 2022. Intimate Archives is open now, until December 2022. **All are free to visit but tickets must be booked in advance at [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk).**

Hair: Untold Stories is the inaugural exhibition created for the Museums and Galleries Network for Exhibition Touring ([MAGNET](#)), supported by Art Fund, and will tour to two partner venues after its run at the Horniman – Tullie House in Carlisle in September 2022 and Museums Sheffield in 2023.

**Ends**

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**Images - [Download](#) a small selection of images from the exhibition.** Additional images are available on request.

Spokespeople: Sarah Byrne and Emma Tarlo are available for interview, along with selected artists and contributors. Please contact the Press Office for more information.

**Notes to Editors:**

- Hair! Untold Stories, and the Museums and Galleries Network for Exhibition Touring ([MAGNET](#)) are supported by Art Fund. [artfund.org](#)
- **Art Fund** is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. A further £2 million has been made available in 2021 for Reimagine projects. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 131,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 is Firstsite in Colchester.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](#)
- **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us/](#)
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at [horniman.ac.uk/climate](#).