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For immediate release

**Doors open to first of three MAGNET touring shows coming this year**

This Saturday (31 May) sees the doors open to the first of **three new touring exhibitions** opening this year, created by the [MAGNET](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/magnet/) partnership (Museums and Galleries Network for Exhibition Touring).

The three exhibitions will tour across a total of **12 museums and galleries** around England and be seen by **more than half a million visitors** by the end of 2028.

The exhibitions are:

* [*Gender Stories*](https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/gender-stories/), opening 31 May at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, before moving on to Brighton Museum & Art Gallery and then Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

* *[Colour: Explore a world of wonder](https://www.sheffieldmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/colour/)*, opening on 19 June at Millennium Gallery, Sheffield and then touring to Tullie in Carlisle, Gosport Museum & Art Gallery in Hampshire, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter and Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.
* *Human Natures*, opening on 27 September at Derby Museum and Art Gallery, going on to Manchester Museum, The Great North Museum: Hancock and the Horniman Museum and Gardens, before finishing its run at Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery.

Each exhibition has been co-created by the museums and galleries it will visit, and will be ‘personalised’ by each new venue to maximise its relevance to local audiences – with venue-specific public programmes led by artists and local communities.

MAGNET is funded by Arts Council England and Art Fund, following a successful trial which saw the *Hair: Untold Stories* exhibition tour across three venues (the Horniman, Tullie and Weston Park, Sheffield) from November 2021 to October 2023.

**More**

A £336,000 Touring Projects grant from Arts Council England, funded by the National Lottery, has enabled the development and touring of the three exhibitions, while £75,000 from Art Fund is helping to fund a three-year full-time MAGNET Coordinator post, to ensure smooth running of the network

The network was established in 2020 and brings the 12 organisations together to pool their resources and share their collections with diverse national audiences. MAGNET is also working in partnership with The Exhibitions Group (TEG), delivering training and sharing resources to develop the skills and knowledge of the network.

Peronel Craddock, Director of Content at Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: ‘MAGNET was conceived as a creative solution to the budget constraints and stretched staff capacity that museums face, and the environmental footprint of single-use exhibitions. Working together allows us to create better and more sustainable temporary exhibitions, and brings regional collections to a wider audience. Everyone involved across all our venues is so excited to see these three exhibitions come to life and begin their journeys around the country.’

In addition to the three new exhibitions, MAGNET will create a raft of resources to be shared across the sector, to support others in the co-creation, touring and sustainable design of their own exhibitions, including:

* a library of resources and templates on how to devise a partnership exhibition, and how to tour it – this toolkit will be shared in two phases from the end of this year.
* a publicly accessible evaluation report to be shared in 2026, giving a detailed review of the process and outputs of the MAGNET network and the three exhibitions – a potential blueprint for the sector.
* the results of an [exploration](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/story/making-environmentally-responsible-exhibitions/) – working with the Design Museum – of how collaborative touring exhibitions can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution for partners, while upskilling colleagues and providing training on the Gallery Climate Coalition’s refreshed carbon calculator tool.

**Ends**

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

***Gender Stories***

* 31 May to 12 October 2025 - Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
* 31 January to 12 April 2026 - Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
* May to September 2026 - World Museum, Liverpool.

***Colour: Explore a world of wonder***

* 19 June to 14 September 2025 - Millennium Gallery, Sheffield
* 26 September 2025 to 25 January 2026 - Tullie, Carlisle
* 7 February to 24 April 2026 - Gosport Museum & Art Gallery, Hampshire
* Summer 2026 - Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
* October 2026 to January 2027 - Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

***Human Natures***

* 27 September 2025 to 24 February 2026 - Derby Museum and Art Gallery
* 1 April to 31 October 2026 - Manchester Museum
* 6 February to 5 September 2027 - The Great North Museum: Hancock
* 20 October 2027 to 23 April 2028 - Horniman Museum and Gardens
* 7 June 2028 to late 2028 - Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery

**Notes to Editors:**

* A £336,000 Touring Projects grant from Arts Council England, funded by the National Lottery, has enabled MAGNET to develop and tour three new exhibitions, opening in 2025. £75,000 from Art Fund funds a three-year full-time MAGNET Coordinator post, to ensure smooth running of the network.
* **Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. Our vision, set out in our strategy *Let’s Create*,is that by 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2023 and 2026 we will have invested over £467 million of public money from Government, alongside an estimated £250 million each year from The National Lottery, to help ensure that people in every part of the country have access to culture and creativity in the places where they live. Until Autumn 2025, the National Lottery is celebrating its 30th anniversary of supporting good causes in the United Kingdom: since the first draw was held in 1994, it has raised £49 billion and awarded more than 690,000 individual grants. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.artscouncil.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cpress%40horniman.ac.uk%7C996c72471aa04027ca5208dd99e1b610%7C81a65814289749baa8e8e6947948e3bf%7C0%7C0%7C638835917159022433%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Xhxw8Z9bdYRRlZCexYhYt1iXv2fWGH25TqigHPR15aI%3D&reserved=0)
* **Art Fund** is the national charity for museums and galleries. For over 120 years, it has helped institutions across the UK to develop and share their collections, invest in people and expertise, grow their audiences and inspire the next generation. Art Fund connects museums and people with great art and culture through funding, advocacy and initiatives, because access to art is vital for a healthy society. It champions the sector through the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year award - the world’s largest museum prize - and supports museum professionals through dedicated training and grant programmes. Independent and people-powered, Art Fund is supported by 142,000 members who buy a National Art Pass, as well as generous contributions from individuals, trusts and foundations. The National Art Pass offers free or discounted entry to hundreds of museums, galleries and historic places in the UK, 50% off major exhibitions, a subscription to Art Quarterly magazine and Art In Your Inbox newsletter. [www.artfund.org](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artfund.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cpress%40horniman.ac.uk%7C96dc06fed2034fe4df3608dd9925ef91%7C81a65814289749baa8e8e6947948e3bf%7C0%7C0%7C638835110410435228%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tEcjDKs2MYa9%2B1C5tWQbSp%2Bd%2F9%2BwzVh4oW4IX3HWeio%3D&reserved=0)
* **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 a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until 2026 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/project/nature-love/)). 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](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/)
* The Natural History Gallery closed for redevelopment from Monday 4 March 2024 as part of our [**Nature + Love**](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/project/nature-love/) project. The gallery will reopen in 2026.
* **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/story/horniman-wins-100000-art-fund-museum-of-the-year-2022/), the world’s largest museum prize.
* The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/support-us/)
* The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
* 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](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/about-the-horniman/climate-and-ecology/).