



PRESS RELEASE

THE FROST FAIR

The Whitworth announces full programme of free events to celebrate The Frost Fair.

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 December 2018, 11am – 7pm

A two-day celebration of winter, art and togetherness. Come one, come all and witness the weekend wonders of The Frost Fair to celebrate 250 years of the circus in Britain. Be astounded and amazed by our ringmaster Baron Bazaar and his troupe of performers.

The weekend programme of free activities will begin on Saturday 1 December at 11am, with a rotation of live performances outside on the gallery's front Sculpture Terrace. Fire and LED performers from Manchester's very own Travelling Light Circus will light up the event with sensational routines that blend dance and awesome skills, perfectly choreographed to create a show that will amaze and delight all ages and musical entertainment will be provided by the rabble of mischievous northerners Mr Wilson's Second Liners.

The Circus House work hard to deliver incredible experiences and will be doing just that for The Frost Fair bringing their Baby Circus Workshop inside from 11am – 1pm, Have-a-Go Circus Skills, live Trapeze performances and roaming stilt walkers throughout the weekend.

Elsewhere in the gallery, other activities include Family Floristry Workshops with Craig Bullock from 11am onwards and hear about the Heritage Blackpool & Whitworth Collections.

Join in Crafty Circus activities in the Grand Hall from 11am - 5pm and on Saturday, get involved in BBC6 Music's "*Art is Everywhere*."

Grab a bite to eat from the Modern Caterer and enjoy the sounds from the Café Music stage across the weekend with live music from Manchester's finest Jenna G and DJ sets from Matthew Halsall (Gondwana Records) and others.

The Outdoor cinema returns to The Art Garden featuring "*Cirque Du Soleil: Worlds Away*" from 4.30pm.

Manchester Food & Drink Festival present street food offers for both vegan and non-vegans such as contemporary Mediterranean and Ottomen inspired cuisine from The Ottomen and Wood Fired pizzas from Proove. Warm up with a hot chocolate, churros or sample Squawk Brewing Company's special Frost Fair Ale.

Why not find that perfect Christmas gift in the artisan crafts markets from local craftsmen and women such as Jo Lavelle Jewellery, The Chorlton Potter, The Glass Gardener and then finish it off with some lovely greenery from Plant Shop Manchester.

Walk The Plank, one of the UK's foremost outdoor arts companies, will transform the front of the Whitworth into a fiery courtyard and will mark the finale of the weekend with an enthralling firework display on Sunday evening.

Please note: On the weekend of The Frost Fair the gallery will be open from 11am until 7pm on the Saturday and until 6pm on the Sunday for the firework finale at 6.40pm.

Although entry to the event is free, please note there will be a small charge for some of the fair attractions.

#whitworthfrostfair
#galleryinthepark
#circus250

About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is part of The University of Manchester. It is home to internationally renowned collections of modern art, wallpaper, textiles, watercolours, prints, drawings and sculpture. Created in 1889 as the first English gallery in a park, the Whitworth has developed a new vision for the role of a university gallery. A creative laboratory within an ambitious university, the Whitworth is a place where good, unusual things happen. The Whitworth re-opened to the public on 14 February 2015 after a major £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. The Whitworth has welcomed over one million visitors since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment has doubled public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities including expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize and named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe.

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth