

Press Release: For immediate release

**Queering Manchester Museum
LGBTQ+ Programme for Manchester Pride**

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, celebrates Manchester Pride in spectacular style, with a programme of online, digital and download activities and events throughout August and beyond. This includes a fabulous, family friendly digital drag show, **Queer Tales: Myths and Monsters** which premieres on Manchester Museum's YouTube channel at 6pm on Thursday 27 August and a Panel Discussion on Thursday 3 September in response to the performance, themed around belonging and LGBTQ+ inclusion in museums.

Co-curated with Cheddar Gorgeous, one of Manchester's most celebrated drag queens, **Queer Tales: Myths and Monsters** explores both ancient and modern mythologies through a queer eye. The reworking of mythologies from marginalised perspectives is not only a reminder that LGBTQ+ people have always existed, it is also a powerful way to challenge patriarchal narratives and to celebrate the queer experience. The show will include performances by a diverse cast of drag artists who have each used objects from Manchester Museum's collection as the starting point for an artistic response, showcasing queer storytelling at its most creative.

The panel discussion, **Queer Tales: A Conversation**, will bring responses to the performance from diverse perspectives within a conversation themed around **belonging**. We will be exploring how museums can create safe spaces to tell and listen to the stories and histories of the LGBTQ+ community.

The museum has also launched a programme of digital activities and resources on our mobile site Manchester Museum in Quarantine www.mminquarantine.com. This includes **download activities** for families and a **digital trail** which brings LGBTQ+ voices to some of the museum's most iconic objects as well as some hidden gems. There are also **links and resources** from organisations doing great work with LGBTQ+ people and their families. We will continue adding to these activities and resources.

The **Queering Manchester Museum** project celebrates and builds on work we have done in recent years, including 'An Afternoon with the Family Gorgeous' which was recognised for its positive social impact, shortlisted as a finalist for Best Event at the 2019 Manchester Culture Awards. This is an ongoing project.

Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum said:

'Museums should be safe and welcoming spaces where diversity of identity is celebrated. This programme aims to reveal untold stories and amplify the voices of the LGBTQ+ community; this reflects the museum's ambition to become the most inclusive, imaginative and caring museum you might imagine.'

Notes to Editor

About Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, first opened in 1890. It is the UK's largest university museum with a collection of about 4.5 million items from every continent. Its combination of the academic and the popular is what makes the museum so distinctive and lies at the heart of its widespread appeal. The Museum's vision is to build understanding between cultures and a sustainable world. Every year over half a million people visit. Over the next three years, Manchester Museum is working towards an exciting new £13.5 million project *hello future*, to transform and develop the museum becoming more inclusive, imaginative and relevant to the diverse communities it serves.

The museum will remain partially open during this time and in 2022 will become a bigger, more inclusive and more wondrous Manchester Museum.

The hello future transformation includes:

- A new Exhibition Hall
- South Asia Gallery
- Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery
- World's first Centre of Age Friendly Culture
- New entrance and visitor facilities with focus on inclusive and accessible design

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum @mcrmuseum

Further information

For further information and images, please contact Michelle Scott at Manchester Museum on 07708321313 or michelle.scott@manchester.ac.uk