

the Whitworth

Spring 2025 Exhibitions and Collections highlights

The Whitworth is pleased to announce its spring 2025 programme. It brings together must-see exhibitions by international artists and innovative historic displays, underpinned by its vibrant learning and engagement activities. The Whitworth is proud to continue its support for artists and to engage with many of the pertinent issues of our times, ensuring that a plurality of voices is represented across its galleries.



JMW Turner

In Light and Shade

7 February 2025 – 2 November 2025

Marking the 250th anniversary of his birth, this exhibition will explore the work and technique of legendary British landscape artist JMW Turner. It presents a rare opportunity for audiences to see the *Liber Studiorum* in its entirety for the first time in over 100 years. Turner is renowned for the vitality of his landscape paintings and the *Liber Studiorum* is a compelling visual manifesto in print, widely regarded as his most ambitious series of landscape engravings. The exhibition will pair Turner's evocative *Liber* prints with a series of Turner's watercolours from the Whitworth's collection, as well as loaned works from institutional and public collections. Visitors are invited to explore Turner's artistic legacy and the significance of his prints.

This exhibition is supported by the Manchester Accommodation BID.

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Women in Revolt!

Art and Activism in the UK 1970-1990

7 March – 1 June 2025

This landmark exhibition at the Whitworth will feature over 80 women artists and collectives whose ideas helped fuel the women's liberation movement during a period of significant social, economic and political change. The exhibition has been specially reshaped and refreshed for the Whitworth, speaking to Manchester's radical histories. Alongside a dynamic public engagement programme, the exhibition includes Bobby Baker's *An Edible Family in a Mobile Home*, a sculptural installation of delicious edible life-size family figures formed from cake and biscuit. This will be the first free-to-enter presentation of this major touring exhibition.

Women in Revolt! is organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester, in collaboration with Tate Britain and National Galleries of Scotland.

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Małgorzata Mirga-Tas

11 April – 7 September 2025

The Whitworth is proud to present the work of celebrated Roma-Polish artist Małgorzata Mirga-Tas. Mirga-Tas creates narrative-rich works using textiles and fabric, producing vibrant large-scale panels that transform perceptions of Romany culture and history. The exhibition will offer an opportunity to consider the Whitworth's textile collection in a new and nomadic-centric light, while honouring the lives of stateless communities. Mirga-Tas was selected to represent Poland at the 2022 Venice Biennale, the first ever Roma artist to be represented in a national pavilion in the Biennale's history.

Małgorzata Mirga-Tas is organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester, in collaboration with Tate St Ives.

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Recoverist Curators

25 July 2025 – June 2026

In Summer 2025, the Whitworth will present a new project developed in partnership with Portraits of Recovery, a Manchester-based visual arts charity supporting people who identify as being in recovery from substance use. The project participants with their own lived experiences will work with the Whitworth to explore, reinterpret, and influence our understanding of recovery. This will result in a co-curated exhibition that interprets the Whitworth's collection through the lens of recovery, positioning art as a tool for connecting with and learning from others. *Recoverist Curators* aims to better represent our recovery communities within the Whitworth, its art collections and across wider society. The project will demonstrate how art can be used to encourage and support positive mental health and wellbeing.

Supported by the Baring Foundation.

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Collections:



ABC Wax Archive

The Whitworth is proud to have acquired the ABC Wax Archive, the last surviving industrial design archive of a significant Manchester textile printing company. An incredibly valuable resource, it shows the rich history of British textiles made for export to the African (and some Middle Eastern or Asian) markets. The acquisition presents an opportunity for the Whitworth to engage with local communities and histories, while contributing a more expansive, nuanced and complex view of the textile industry in Manchester and globally. Over the next 18 months, research into the archive will be undertaken and an emerging curator supported by Frieze and Deutsche Bank.

ABC Wax Archive was donated by the Cha Chi Ming family and transferred to the Whitworth with support from the Friends of the Whitworth.

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Everyday Art School

Alongside exhibitions, the Whitworth offers a broad programme of award-winning civic engagement and education activities, events and workshops that support and are informed by and support our local communities. Throughout 2025, Everyday Art School will continue to present live projects and partnerships where together, we use art for positive social change. Alongside these projects are changing displays from across the Whitworth's fantastic collections of art, textiles, and wallpaper as a tool to inspire and create an environment for artistic thinking. This space explores the idea of art being a work in progress, and enables visitors to reconnect art with their day-to-day lives using the key themes Play, Purpose and Working Together.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Image credits in order of appearance

Images 1-7

Image 1 – *Storm in the Pass of St. Gotthard, Switzerland*, 1845 JMW Turner
© the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

Image 2 – *Peat Bog, Scotland*, plate 45 from *Liber Studiorum* JMW Turner (1775-1851)
Engraved by G. Clint (1770-1854) © the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

Image 3 – Gina Birch *3 Minute Scream*, 1977 © Gina Birch

Image 4 – Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, *Trzy Gracje / The Three Graces*, 2021. Presented to Tate by the artist in 2022. Photo: Marek Gardulski. © Małgorzata Mirga-Tas

Image 5 – Recoverist Curators Whitworth store session. Photo: Andy Harman

Image 6 – Detail of African Wax Printed Cloth from the ABC Wax Archive

Image 7 – Everyday Art School, the Whitworth 2024. Photo: Michael Pollard

Listings information

The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm, Thursday late opening until 9pm

Free entry

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Acknowledgements

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The Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of The University of Manchester, operating as a convening space between the University and the people of the city. Founded in 1889 for “the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester” it continues this mission today in new contexts. The gallery, its park and gardens are home to the collection of over 60,000 works of art, textiles, sculptures and wallpapers and provides a platform for artists from around the world. The Whitworth is driven by a vision to actively seek and manifest connections between art, creativity, and their role in developing a more resilient and caring society through its exhibitions and award-winning civic engagement programme.

Gallery opening times: Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm, Thursday late opening until 9pm
www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth.