

# the Whitworth

## 2026 Exhibition highlights

Press release: OCTOBER 2025

The Whitworth is delighted to announce its 2026 exhibition highlights. It offers dynamic exhibitions from Delaine Le Bas, Michaela Yearwood-Dan, and textile art from Korea and India, to community-led art projects. Our programme also presents historic art through a contemporary lens, including William Morris and Japanese woodblock print to explore themes of identity, beauty, community and social change in contemporary and historical contexts.

### Delaine Le Bas

13 February – 31 May 2026



The Whitworth is proud to present a new major solo exhibition by Delaine Le Bas following her recent nomination for the 2024 Turner Prize.

One of the most distinctive voices in contemporary art, Le Bas is renowned for her work addressing nationhood, belonging, gender and identity, using a diverse range of media including embroidery, decoupage, painting, sculpture, installation, and performance. The exhibition provides new insights into Le Bas's practice, placing her work in close dialogue with works selected from the Whitworth collection.

The exhibition features new and recent works by Le Bas – including *Un-Fair-Ground*, her monumental freestanding mural created for the 2024 Glastonbury Festival, showcasing the themes and, cultural motifs that energise the artist's work: ancient, modern and mythic spirits, and political and pop-cultural references.

The exhibition includes a new installation exploring the artist's deep engagement with magic, folklore and witchcraft, providing a space to host works by artist peers and predecessors, including Pearl Alcock, William Blake, Madge Gill, John Martin and Paula Rego. The heart of the exhibition is a performance space, programmed with live events and creative activities to facilitate new forms of engagement with Le Bas's practice.

Exhibition credit: The exhibition is organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

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## Beneath the Great Wave: Hokusai, Hiroshige, and ukiyo-e print

14 March – 16 November 2026



The Whitworth's first exhibition dedicated to Japanese prints in over 100 years, *Beneath the Great Wave* presents iconic artworks by Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) and Utagawa Hiroshige (1797–1858) to explore the evolution of traditional ukiyo-e woodblock prints and paintings.

Showcasing rarely seen prints from the Whitworth collection alongside institutional and private collection loans, *Beneath the Great Wave* celebrates the enduring cultural impact of its dazzling imagery which continues to shape art, design, animation, and popular culture, from manga and anime to advertising and contemporary fashion.

Translated as 'Pictures of a Floating World', ukiyo-e prints were popularised during the Edo period (1615–1868) and reveal Tokyo's emergence as a city at the cusp of the modern age. Exploring the work of Japan's most celebrated artists, the exhibition shows how Hokusai and Hiroshige's landscape prints transformed the genre.

Exhibition credit: *Beneath the Great Wave: Hokusai, Hiroshige, and ukiyo-e print* is organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

Michaela Yearwood-Dan

17 April – 18 October 2026



The Whitworth is proud to present the first institutional solo exhibition by Michaela Yearwood-Dan – a rising star in contemporary painting. The exhibition centres on a major new commission from the artist incorporating elements of painting, drawing, ceramics, furniture and sound to create a contemplative, multi-sensory environment in the gallery.

Meditating on Blackness, queerness, femininity and healing, Yearwood-Dan creates spaces of joy, abundance and inclusion. Singing with colour, her work is alive with swirling botanicals, diaristic writings, song lyrics, gold leaf, beading and ceramic petals, combining art historical references with pop culture.

Exhibition credit: The commission and exhibition is developed by the Whitworth in partnership with Towner Eastbourne and Arnolfini in Bristol, where the exhibition will tour in 2026-27.

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## Hyundai Translocal Series: Entangled and Woven

10 July 2026 – 3 January 2027



A landmark exhibition bringing together the textile traditions and contemporary practices of Korea, India and the UK.

*Hyundai Translocal Series: Entangled and Woven* showcases newly commissioned works by eight contemporary artists and collectives, developed through research trips to India and Korea. These will be shown alongside textiles from the Whitworth's collection, spanning over 400 years of textile history.

The featured artists are Boito, Yeonsoon Chang, Youngin Hong, Kaimurai, Kosomi, Somi Ko, PÉRO, Sumakshi Singh, and Jounghye Yoo. Centred on craft and community, this ambitious project is the part of the Hyundai Translocal Series, a multi-year initiative supported by Hyundai Motor Company that fosters international collaboration through research, commissions, exhibitions, and public programmes.

The exhibition launched at the Cheongju Craft Biennale in Korea in September 2025 and will travel to the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy in New Delhi, India, in February 2026, before presenting at the Whitworth in July 2026.

Exhibition credit *Hyundai Translocal Series: Entangled and Woven* is co-organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester and the Cheongju Craft Biennale 2025, in collaboration with the National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy in New Delhi, and in partnership with Hyundai Motor.



## Everyday Art School: Still Care, and Reflections: Sangat and the Self

1 August 2026 – 18 July 2027



The Whitworth's Everyday Art School is an open, participatory environment for exploring how art can be part of everyday life. Two new collaborative projects will shape this next phase of Everyday Art School:

### Still Care

This exhibition has been developed in partnership with Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, featuring creative work and reflections from the Whitworth's Still Care project, which supported midwives and healthcare professionals working with bereaved parents. Presented alongside a co-curated selection from the Whitworth's collection, *Still Care* explores the emotional labour of caregiving, using art as a tool to nurture, sustain and make visible those who care for others. The exhibition builds upon our award-winning exhibition *Still Parents* (September 2021-December 2022).

### Reflections: Sangat and the Self

This exhibition brings together new and recent works by artists Jasmir Creed and Roo Dhissou, alongside selections from the Whitworth collection to explore themes of the individual, kinship and healing through community and spiritual practices. Created in collaboration with without SHAPE without FORM – an assembly of artists, thinkers and cultural practitioners rooted in Sikh philosophical concepts – the exhibition invites visitors into a shared space of contemplation and conversation, where healing is seen as both a personal and collective process.

Exhibition credit Everyday Art School: *Reflections: Sangat and the Self* is developed in partnership by without SHAPE without FORM and the Whitworth. *Still Care* is developed by the Whitworth in partnership with the University Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

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## William Morris: Common Paradise

12 December 2026 – 14 November 2027



The Whitworth presents a major exhibition exploring the radical and enduring legacy of the 19th century designer, writer and activist William Morris. Drawing on the collections at the Whitworth and key loans. The exhibition explores Morris's belief that beauty, equality and the natural world were the essential foundations for a just society through more than 100 works – including textiles, wallpapers, ceramics, stained glass, books and personal artefacts.

*Common Paradise* brings to life Morris's 'art for all' philosophy, his collaborations with family and friends, and his pioneering efforts in sustainable making and social reform. The exhibition explores how Morris's ideas connect to contemporary issues including environmental consciousness, encouraging visitors to consider how his vision can inspire our present and shape a better, more equal future.

Exhibition credit *William Morris: Common Paradise* is organised by the Whitworth, The University of Manchester.

-ENDS-

## NOTES TO EDITORS

For all press information, images and interview requests please contact, Melissa McFarlane, Communications Manager at [whitworthpress@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworthpress@manchester.ac.uk)

### Image credits – in order of appearance

1. Delaine Le Bas at Glastonbury Festival 2025. Courtesy the artists and Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix London. With thanks to Sam Haggarty.
2. *Kanagawa oki nami ura* (Under The Great Wave off Kanagawa) ["Great Wave"] Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) On loan from a Private Collection. © 2023 Christie's Images Limited.
3. Michaela Yearwood-Dan, *In these bodies we live*, 2025 Oil, acrylic, ceramic petals, glass beads, glitter, foil, paper and ink on canvas 250 x 1100 x 6 cm © Michaela Yearwood-Dan. Courtesy the artist, Hauser & Wirth and Marianne Boesky Gallery. Photo: Deniz Guzel.
4. Jounghye Yoo, *Gilded Veil A Mysterious Curtain Lightly Draped in Gold*, 2025, installation view in Hyundai Translocal Series: Entangled and Woven, Cheongju Craft Biennale 2025 © Cheongju Craft Biennale Organizing Committee, photo by Wooil Kim
5. Design for *Willow Bough wallpaper*, William Morris, 1887. Image courtesy of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester. Photography by Michael Pollard.
6. *Everyday Art School* 2024 installation, courtesy of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester. Photo: Michael Pollard.

### Listings information

the Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Free entry

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

Discover more via the website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth)

### About 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.