Schools at Ikon Gallery

Learning is at the heart of Ikon’s aim to provide everyone with access to the visual arts.

With our exhibitions changing every 3 months, we provide teachers and students with a unique gallery experience as well as opportunities for further learning and professional development in art practice.

Led by a team of gallery educators, our exhibition tours start with close looking at material processes and end with discussion around the larger historical, social and global context of art.

In addition to paid tours and workshops, we provide free resources, including printed material and events, to help plan your visit.

Our Core Offer

KS1 + KS2
Workshop - What is a gallery?, 2 hours, £120

KS3, KS4 + KS5
Self-guided tours, FREE
Guided exhibition tour, 1 hour, £30
Bespoke half day workshop, 3 hours, £150
KS1 + KS2

What is a gallery?
Tuesdays - Fridays, 10am–12pm, £120
Booking essential, maximum 30 students

In partnership with architectural and urban designers Space_Play this workshop introduces your class to contemporary art and design.

During the 2 hours you will enjoy a tour of the galleries, developing questions and engage in discussion to form your own opinions.

You will produce drawings with a focus on line, form and shape inspired by the current exhibitions, before getting creative with your own model of Ikon Gallery, a former Victorian School.

Skills include drawing, colour mixing and painting. This is a perfect workshop for those wishing to explore the role of art galleries and the artwork you find inside them.

As part of your visit we can offer our Events Room out for a lunch room from 12pm-1pm.

KS3, KS4 + KS5

Tours
Self-guided tours, FREE
Guided exhibition tour, 1 hour, £30
Guided tours and workshops encourage your students to interrogate the exhibition, employ critical thinking skills, generate and share opinions.

Booking essential for both guided and self guided visits, maximum 30 students

Workshops

Bespoke guided tour and introductory workshop in drawing or printmaking
Tuesday - Fridays, 10am-1pm, £150
Booking essential, maximum 15 students

Follow a guided tour with a practical workshop for students to process their ideas around the current exhibition. The workshop translates the ideas generated in discussion into practical art making. This session will include experimenting with markmaking, either with monoprinting or lino cutting.

Tours are booked through our website. As our exhibitions change every 3 months, Ikon advises a site visit in preparation for your trip.

Please introduce yourself to our Learning Team
learning@ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
Our Exhibitions

Spring/Summer

Hew Locke

8 March — 2 June 2019

This is the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by Hew Locke, involving a wide range of media – painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and installation – making extensive use of collage and found objects.

Since his emergence as an artist in the 1980s, Hew Locke has been consistent in his preoccupation with the languages of colonial and post-colonial power, and the symbols through which different cultures assume and assert identity. He appropriates coats-of-arms and trophies, weaponry, naval warships and the costumes of monarcy in a subtle critique of governmental authority.

Gallery closed for installation: 3 June – 12 June

The Aerodrome – An exhibition dedicated to the memory of Michael Stanley

12 June — 8 September 2019

This exhibition is presented in memory of Michael Stanley, Curator at Ikon before becoming Director of Milton Keynes Gallery and then Modern Art Oxford, who tragically died in 2012. Co-curated with David Austen and George Shaw and structured loosely on Rex Warner’s war-time novel The Aerodrome (1941), a book that made a great impression on Stanley, it includes many of the artists he worked with.

A group show, The Aerodrome fills Ikon’s premises entirely and is organised with Stanley as a presiding spirit; a celebration of an extraordinary vitality that continues to make a deep and lasting impression.

Gallery closed for installation: 13 June – 18 September

Media: Painting, drawing and installation

Subject: History and geography

Discussion: British Values

Media: Installation, sculpture and video

Subject: Literature and history

Discussion: War and global power
John Walker

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

John Walker (b. 1939 Birmingham) was the first artist to show at Ikon when it moved to new premises above New Street Station in 1972.

This exhibition will feature new “anti-scenic” paintings, inspired by the landscape of Maine where Walker is now living, especially locations that are polluted, neglected or abandoned. His connection to the natural world in which he works is evident in his tendency to mix natural materials—mostly mud—into his paints. Stripes and zigzags, frequently occurring, are graphic versions of the changing rhythms of how the ocean meets the shore, as waves or tide.

Media: Painting

Subject: Geography (landscapes and culture)

Discussion: Abstraction

Meryl McMaster

4 December 2019 – 23 February 2020

This will be first UK solo exhibition by young Canadian artist Meryl McMaster (b. Ottawa 1988). She belongs to a generation of Indigenous artists who, by means of photography and a performative approach, explore First Nations’ identity and their cultural horizon. McMaster trains a self-reflexive eye on the exploration of her dual heritage. With an ecological proposition, she presents herself in nature and sees the landscape and seasons as an integral part of the cultural context, where myth and narration go hand in hand.

Gallery closed for installation: 24 February - March.

Dates to be announced

Media: Photography and performance

Subject: Storytelling

Discussion: Identity (passed down through generations of grandmothers, mothers and daughters)