

Manchester Art Gallery Shortlisted for 2016 Family Friendly Museum Award

Manchester Art Gallery is delighted to announce that it has been shortlisted for the 2016 Family Friendly Museum Award. The Family Friendly Museum Award, organised by Kids in Museums, is the only award in Britain in which children and families are given the chance to vote for the shortlisted organisations. The Award is the largest museum award in Britain and Manchester Art Gallery is honoured to be among the top ten on the national shortlist.

Dr. Maria Balshaw, Director of Manchester City Galleries and the Whitworth, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled to be short-listed, and to be recognised as a welcoming, accessible and creative space by the people who matter most – the children and their carers who have made the gallery part of their family life. We've created a space at the heart of Manchester's city centre where we hope that children of all ages feel safe and welcomed, where they can engage with art, and where families have the space to explore, and can create experiences together. This is not a gallery where children will be told to be quiet; we want them to be excited about art, be curious and be inspired'.

Dea Birkett, Creative Director of Kids in Museums, said 'It's great to see Manchester Art Gallery on the shortlist for the first time and so praised and supported by families and children. It's a very special place that is committed to putting young people and families at its heart and encouraging new visitors. When I visited recently, I found older people staring entranced at the most cutting edge contemporary work and kids ogling at the old Masterpieces. Manchester Art Gallery mashes things up marvellously. We wish the museum best of luck when the undercover family judges arrive!'

Praise from Manchester Art Gallery visitors and voters included:

'I have seen the work the museum does with families, encouraging and welcoming a very diverse range of cultures and ethnicities. They are a very inclusive museum welcoming youngsters of all ages, as well as those with autism, and provide a wide and interesting variety of workshops and clubs.'

'The staff are wonderful; patient, thoughtful and very giving of their time.'

George Fielding, one of the young judges on the shortlisting panel, a student and wheelchair user, said 'They just make me want to go there!'

Councillor Luthfur Rahman, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure at Manchester City Council, said: "Offering free cultural activities for families to take part in together helps to give our young residents the best start in life. That's why we are so proud to see Manchester Art Gallery recognised by Kids in Museums for showing real commitment to engaging people of all ages with culture."

The Family Friendly Museum Award is sponsored by the Philip Mould Gallery and Association of Leading Visitor Attractions. The winner of the award will be announced on 17 October 2016.

Summer Trends Workshops

Every Tuesday to Friday in August, Manchester Art Gallery will host Summer Trends drop-

in workshops. #MAGfamilies can enjoy a season of creative, fashion-focused workshops. During the Summer Trends holiday programme, Manchester Art Gallery is opening the pages of its interactive MAGazine, inspired by the eye-catching *Vogue 100* exhibition, which celebrates the centenary of this leading fashion magazine. Each week families are invited to experiment and evolve with innovative and inspiring artists and volunteers. Participants are invited to take a selfie of their designs and post it on Instagram using #Vogue100 for a chance to win a fabulous activity pack.

Tuesday to Friday throughout August
1-3pm, Clore Art Studio

Aimed at children 2-11 years, but all ages and abilities welcome

About Kids in Museums

Kids in Museums is an independent charity dedicated to making museums open and welcoming to all families, in particular those who haven't visited before. With a dedicated Board of Trustees and an exciting range of events, partnerships and initiatives, Kids in Museums gives families visiting museums and galleries across Britain a dynamic and powerful voice. The Kids in Museums Manifesto and the Family Friendly Museum Award have been incredibly successful ways of encouraging and guiding museums and galleries across the country to make family visits engaging and enjoyable.

About Manchester Art Gallery

Manchester Art Gallery dates to 1835. Originally established to showcase the best art and ideas from across the world, today the gallery's 45,000-strong collection spans six centuries of fine art, design, craft, photography and fashion. It is particularly rich in 19th-century art, including an outstanding collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Yet while Manchester Art Gallery is renowned for its historic collection, it also has a reputation for staging new work by some of the most compelling artists working today, among them Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller, Joana Vasconcelos, Matthew Darbyshire and Raqib Shaw. Alongside its exhibitions run events that range from feminist 'takeovers' to wellbeing sessions, political debate and creative workshops, via award-winning family, community and schools programmes. Part of Manchester City Council, Manchester Art Gallery is one of the country's most popular galleries, with over half a million visitors every year and, housed in an iconic, Grade I-listed building at the heart of Manchester, it has long been part of the creative and political life of one of the UK's most dynamic cities.

manchesterartgallery.org

Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JL

Tel: 0161 235 8888 Text phone: 0161 235 8893

Open daily, 10am - 5pm and Thursdays 10am- 9pm

Free entry

www.manchesterartgallery.org