

Conference

Creating the Museum

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Exploring the Museum Impulse in Local,
Regional and National Contexts

Day 1: Friday 26 September 2025

10.00am

Arrival via Sainsbury Wing Entrance – Tea & coffee served outside the Pigott Theatre

10.30am

Welcome and introduction – Jack Hartnell, Head of Research at the National Gallery
and Mark Westgarth, Chair of the Museums and Galleries History Group

Keynote

Introduced by Sria Chatterjee

Head of Research at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

10.35am

Keynote Lecture – Old Collection, New Spaces, New Perspectives, New Audiences –
Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of V&A East

Panel 1

Museums Across Borders – Chaired by Caroline Cornish, Research Associate
at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

11.10am

**Exile as Museum Impulse: The Role of Museums in Materialising the Tibetan
Nation and its People** – Emma Martin, Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester

11.30am

Musée Khai-Dinh – Museum Creation as Civilising Mission – Diêu Ly Hoàng,
MA Student at the Technische Universität Berlin

11.50am

**National Gallery (London) / National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC):
The Anglo-American Inheritance** – Elizabeth A. Pergam, Co-Chair of the Society for the
History of Collecting

12.10pm

Questions

12.25pm

Lunch Break (1 hour 5 mins)

Panel 2

Museums and Social Change – Chaired by Mark Liebenrood, Postdoc Researcher at Birkbeck, University of London

1.30pm

'Beaubourg' and May '68: The Museum Between Social Reconciliation and Cultural Subversion – Nicolas Heimendinger, Postdoc Researcher at Paris Nanterre University Centre Pompidou

1.50pm

A Museum as a Tool for Community Cohesion: The Creation of Hackney Museum in the 1980s – Rebecca Odell, Project Curator at Hackney Museum

2.10pm

Bifurcated Gaze(s): The Museum of Mankind in Post-imperial Britain as Case Study – Olga Nikonenko, PhD Candidate at University College London

2.30pm

Questions

2.45pm

Break for Tea & Coffee – Served outside the Pigott Theatre (30 mins)

Panel 3

Museums and the Shaping of Knowledge – Chaired by Kate Hill, Professor of History at the University of Lincoln

3.15pm

Whose Line is it Anyway? Mummy Portraits and the Boundaries of Collecting at the National Gallery – Alan Crookham, Chief Librarian and Archivist at the National Gallery

3.35pm

The Creation of the Gallery of Mineralogy and Geology at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris) as a Mirror of a Hierarchy of Sciences – Adèle Chevalier, Postdoc at the Center Alexandre-Koyré, CNRS; Diane Courtin, PhD candidate at PALOC, National Museum of Natural History; and Romane Le Roux, PhD candidate at IMPMC, National Museum of Natural History

3.55pm

Seeds of Change: Eco-Museums, Climate Museums and Emergent Ecologies of Practice – Colin Sterling, Senior Lecturer in Heritage, Museums and the Environment at the University of Amsterdam

4.15pm

Questions

4.30pm

Questions from Attendees on Day 1 – Chaired by Kate Retford

Head of Research Resources & Publications, Paul Mellon Centre

5.00pm

Drinks Reception (1 hour)

Served outside the Pigott Theatre

6.00pm

Close of Day 1

The National Gallery remains open until 9.00pm on Fridays, so attendees may wish to visit the collection after Day 1 of the Conference finishes.

Conference

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Day 2: Saturday 27 September 2025

10.00am

Arrival via Sainsbury Wing Entrance – Tea & coffee served outside the Pigott Theatre

10.30am

Welcome and introduction – Susanna Avery-Quash, Senior Research Lead at the National Gallery and Mark Westgarth, Chair of the Museums and Galleries History Group

Panel 4

A Provocative Reflection on 'Creating Museums' – Chaired by Jack Hartnell, Head of Research at the National Gallery

10.35am

Roundtable Discussion – Fiona Candlin, Director of the Mapping Museums Lab, Birkbeck, University of London; Tony Butler, Director of Derby Museums; Rachael Browning, Director of Programme and Policy, Arts Council England; and Kate Hill, Professor of History, University of Lincoln

11.15am

Break – (15 mins)

Panel 5

Museums, Networks and Ecologies – Chaired by Laia Anguix, Postdoc Researcher at Utrecht University

11.30am

The Making of the West Bund Museum – Anqi Li, Hong Kong-based scholar, writer and curator

11.50am

A Blessing or a Curse? A Longer Look at the History of Loans Between the National Gallery and the Nation's Galleries – Susanna Avery-Quash, Senior Research Lead at the National Gallery

12.10pm

Measled Pork and Alimentary Adulteration: The Food Museum at South Kensington and Bethnal Green – Mary Clayton-Kastenholz, CDP PhD Candidate at the Warburg Institute and Victoria and Albert Museum

12.30pm

Questions

12.45pm

Lunch Break – (1 hour)

Panel 6

Museums, Institutional Identity and Transformation – Chaired by Zoë Varley

CDA PhD Candidate at the University of Leeds and the Wellcome Collection

1.45pm

Charting the Museum Impulse Through Shifting Tides: Trinity House and the Elusive 'museum of Leith' – Alina Botezatu, PhD Candidate at the University of Stirling and Historic Environment Scotland

2.05pm

Erasing Convent? The Museum Impulse and the Reframing of Female Religious Heritage – Sabina Rosenbergová, Assistant Professor of Cultural Heritage & Marie Curie Fellow, Centre for Religion and Heritage University of Groningen, Netherlands

2.25pm

The Reinvention of the National Gallery for the Twentieth Century: How Conflicting Agendas Shaped the Purpose of the Nation's Art Collection – Elena Greer, Property Curator at Kingston Lacy, National Trust

2.45pm

Questions

3.00pm

Break for Tea & Coffee – Served outside the Pigott Theatre (30 mins)

Panel 6

Museums, People and Organisations – Chaired by Anna Reeve, Research Fellow at the

Institute of Classical Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London

3.30pm

Oxford University Museum of Natural History: Creation and Use 1854–1914 – Helen Goulston, CDP PhD Candidate at the University of Birmingham and Oxford University Museum of Natural History

3.50pm

'The finest geographical museum in the world': Curating Exploration at the Royal Geographical Society – Emma Yandle, PhD Candidate on the Techne-AHRC funded project 'The Geographical Museum: Making Knowledge Through Objects', Royal Holloway, University of London and the Royal Geographical Society, with IBG

4.10pm

Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Founding Collection and Contemporary Collection at the History of Science Museum, University of Oxford – Sumner Braund, Curator of Founding Collections at the History of Science Museum, University of Oxford; and Tina Eyre, Curator of Oxford Science at the History of Science Museum, University of Oxford

4.30pm

Questions

4.45pm

Reflections on the Conference – Felix Driver, Professor of Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London

5.15pm

End of Conference

Acknowledgements

This conference is jointly organised by the **National Gallery** and the **Museums and Galleries History Group (MGHG)**.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the **Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art** for this event.

Alongside National Gallery staff, both MGHG Board members and Paul Mellon staff are involved in hosting panels for the conference.

The Museums and
Galleries History Group

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