

Watts Gallery exhibitions and events

August - October 2025

WATTS
GALLERY
ARTISTS'
VILLAGE

Exhibitions

Scented Visions: Smell in Art 1850 - 1915

15 May - 9 November 2025

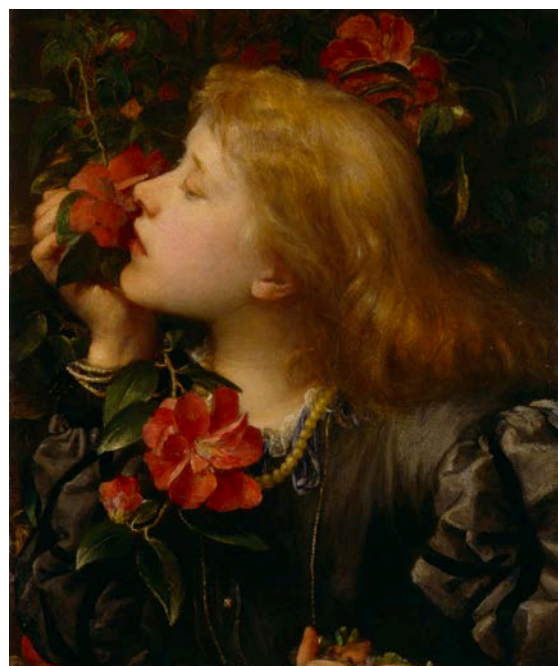
Included with admission | Friends go free

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of Pre-Raphaelite art through the evocative power of scent at Watts Gallery. Engage your sense of smell and gain a new appreciation for the artists' intentions and the cultural context in which they created their works. This exhibition includes 3 bespoke scents, created by Puig in collaboration with Artphilia and AirParfum, that are inspired by key elements within selected Pre-Raphaelite works.

Featuring the works of renowned artists such as Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale, John Frederick Lewis, John Everett Millais, Evelyn De Morgan, G F Watts, Simeon Solomon, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

This exhibition originated at [The Barber Institute of Fine Arts](#), and has been expanded by Watts Gallery to include seven new paintings.

Image: G F Watts, *Ellen Terry (Choosing)*, 1864, oil on strawboard mounted on Gatorfoam, 47.2 x 35.2cm © National Portrait Gallery



Exploring Senses: The Society of Graphic Fine Art

Watts Contemporary Gallery

10 July - 7 September 2025

Free entry, all works for sale

Discover a compelling collection of works by members of The Society of Graphic Fine Art at Watts Contemporary Gallery. *Exploring Senses* delves into how artists interpret and evoke the world around us through the fundamental act of drawing, highlighting the incredible versatility and expressive potential of the drawn line.

Image: Lynda Clark, *The Scent of Spring*



Peter Brookes: Political Cartoonist of The Times

Watts Contemporary Gallery

11 September - 23 November 2025

Free entry, all works for sale

Watts Contemporary Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of one of the UK's most iconic satirical cartoonists. *Peter Brookes: Political Cartoonist of the Times* features a selection of Peter's cartoons over the turbulent last 12 months, commenting on national and global events, as well as his regular *Times* cartoons and the *Nature Notes* series.



Image: Peter Brookes, 3 Feb 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

Women of Influence: The Pattle Sisters

27 November 2025 - 4 May 2026

Included with admission | Friends go free

Discover the untold story of seven remarkable sisters whose influence rippled through the worlds of art, literature, photography, and society in the 19th-century. Nicknamed “Pattledom” by the writer William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863), the sisters’ world was one of rich cross-cultural exchange, where Anglo-Indian heritage, European influence, and artistic experimentation converged in a vibrant social sphere that defied Victorian convention. Whilst the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron (1815–1879) is today the most celebrated of the sisters, this exhibition uncovers their collective impact. Through rarely seen portraits, evocative photographs, treasured possessions, and new research, discover how their influence extended from Calcutta, India (now Kolkata) to Kensington, and from the salons of Little Holland House to the Bloomsbury Group.



Image: G F Watts, *The Sisters*, also known as Sophia Dalrymple and Sara Prinsep, 1856. Collection of Watts Gallery Trust.

Workshops

Pottery in practice

Weekly on Fridays, see website for fortnightly themes

£45 | Members £40.50

Join Watts Gallery’s resident potter Bahareh Khomeiry on Fridays for a creative and inspiring pottery workshop, exploring a variety of techniques and skills. This workshop is suitable for all skill levels, whether you’re new to the world of clay or an experienced potter. Each session is standalone with themes changing fortnightly, so take part in a one-off workshop or attend regularly to develop your pottery skills.



Inspired at Watts: monthly artist-led workshop

Saturday 23 August, 20 September and 18 October 2025

£60 | Members £54

Head to Watts Gallery for a creative monthly workshop series led by professional artists. Each session offers the chance to explore new materials, techniques, and ideas, taking inspiration from the surrounding woodland, historic collections, and changing exhibitions. Whether you're an experienced artist or just starting out, these sessions are a space to experiment, learn, and be inspired.



Pottery course: handbuilding techniques

Five-week course on Fridays, 5 September - 3 October 2025

£200 | Members £180

Join a five-week ceramics course led by ceramicist Bahareh Khomeiry, designed for all skill levels. Explore a range of handbuilding techniques, including pinch, coil and slab construction, as well as a range of surface decoration techniques. This course offers a welcoming, creative space for anyone looking to refine their craft or try something new.



Pottery: beginners throwing course

Five-week course on Wednesdays

Course 1: 10 September - 8 October 2025

Course 2: 15 October - 12 November 2025

£250 | Members £225

The five-week beginners throwing course at Watts Gallery, taught by resident ceramicist Bahareh Khomeiry is perfect for those new to the wheel. Experiment with various techniques, focusing on learning and practice. By the end of the course, you will produce up to four hand-thrown pottery pieces which you will be able to decorate using slips, sgraffito and underglazes.



Pottery: throwing taster sessions

Weekly on Thursdays, starting 11 September 2025 (no session on 30 October)

£54 | Members £48.60

Head to Watts Gallery for a special opportunity to try your hand at wheel throwing with resident potter, Bahareh Khomeiry. In this hands-on taster session, you'll learn the fundamentals of throwing; preparing, centring, opening, and pulling clay to create your own unique forms. Choose as many pieces as you wish to be fired and glazed (at additional cost of £5 per piece) as a lasting memento of your experience.



Sculpted caricature masterclass with Jethro Crabb

Saturday 27 September 2025

£125 | Members £112.50

Join sculptor Jethro Crabb at Watts Gallery for a unique one-day masterclass exploring the expressive art of sculpted caricature. Learn how to capture personality through form, by accentuating key features and revealing the essence of your subject. Using coloured, tactile plasticine, you'll sculpt your own expressive caricature portrait to take home.



Masterclass: oil painting

Two-day masterclass, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 October 2025

£280 | Members £252

Join professional artists Michael Gallone and Sarah Thien for an immersive two-day oil painting masterclass set against an evocative Autumnal theme. This workshop combines expert demonstrations with guided, hands-on painting as you create a complete oil painting from start to finish. Material are not included in the price of this workshop, but can be purchased at the venue — both complete sets and individual items to supplement your existing supplies.



Talks and tours

Exploring Senses: meet the artists

Saturday 6 September 2025

Watts Contemporary Gallery | Free entry

Head to Watts Contemporary Gallery for the opportunity to meet four members of the Society of Graphic Fine Art, currently exhibiting in the *Exploring Senses* exhibition. Watch demonstrations of them creating, and get the opportunity to discuss their practice and works.

Image courtesy of the artist



Peter Brookes in conversation with Martha Kearney

Wednesday 10 September 2025

£25 | Members £22.50

Head to Watts Gallery for a special evening with Peter Brookes, acclaimed political cartoonist for The Times, in conversation with award-winning journalist and broadcaster Martha Kearney. This event coincides with an exhibition at Watts Contemporary Gallery, highlighting his satirical take on the turbulent events of the past year, including works from his iconic Times cartoons, as well as pieces from his Nature Notes series.

Image courtesy of the artist



Art and Scent online talks

Mondays 15, 22, 29 September and 6 October 2025

£12 per talk | Members £10.80

A bundle ticket which includes the three paid talks can be purchased for £30

Discover an online series of talks inspired by the exhibition *Scented Visions: Smell in Art 1850-1915*. Leading scholars will guide us through the invisible world of fragrance in art, and how scent was imagined, symbolised, and spiritually charged in Victorian and early 20th-century painting. From the olfactory imagination to sacred incense and symbolic flowers, these talks reveal how smell shaped meaning and emotion in some of the period's most evocative artworks. All talks are online and can be booked individually or as a series. Recordings will also be made available.



Image: Simeon Solomon, A Saint of the Eastern Church (formerly called A Greek Acolyte), 1867 - 1868. © Birmingham Museums Trust

Special events

Scent seekers trail

15 May - 9 November 2025

Outdoor trail | Included with admission or can be purchased separately for £5

Unearth the secrets of flora and scent at Watts Gallery with a scented outdoor trail, inspired by their current exhibition, *Scented Visions: Smell in Art 1850-1915*. Explore the very flora that George and Mary Watts would have known, discovering interesting and unique facts as you follow the trail through the Watts Gallery estate.



Pay if and what you can days

First Wednesday of every month

Pay if and what you can for admission (usually £18 per adult)

Watts Gallery are now offering pay if and what you can days on the first Wednesday of each month. See the temporary exhibition, *Limnerslease*, home to George and Mary Watts and the Historic Galleries full of George's paintings and monumental sculptures. Watts Gallery is a charity and we rely on our visitors, donors and members to keep our doors open for all. Please donate what you feel you are able to and support our mission of *art for all by all*.



Heritage open day

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September 2025

Free entry

To celebrate Heritage Open Days, we are offering free entry on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September 2025. Learn more about our unique history. See the work of Victorian artist George Frederic Watts in the Historic Galleries. Discover the Grade I listed Watts Cemetery Chapel with magical decorative features designed by Mary Watts. Visit *Limnerslease*, the Arts & Crafts historic home and studios of our artist-founders. You can also explore 18 acres of woodland and gardens.



Surrey library cardholder open day

Saturday 11 October 2025

Free admission for Surrey library cardholders

Surrey library cardholders can enjoy free entry to Watts Gallery with Surrey County Council. See Victorian art in the Historic Galleries, the *Scented Visions* exhibition and discover the Grade I listed Watts Cemetery Chapel with unique decorative features. Visit Limnerslease, the home and studios of Mary and George Watts, and wander up to the free Contemporary Gallery to see the latest exhibition with artworks for sale.



Families and young people events

Clay Club

Weekly on Sundays, see website for fortnightly themes

Child £12 | Member child £10.80

Adult £12 | Member adult £10.80

Head to Watts Gallery for Clay Club! Get hands-on and messy with clay to mould, roll, sculpt and create clay masterpieces. Themes change fortnightly, inspired by Watts Gallery's rich heritage of pottery and current exhibitions, as well as lots of fun and imagination! Take part in a one-off workshop or build Clay Club in as a regular part of your families' creative time together.



Scented puzzle trail

24 May - 9 November 2025

£1 add-on to admission

Inspired by the *Scented Visions* exhibition, test your sense of smell as you adventure around Watts Gallery with a puzzle trail! Work together to tackle a mega crossword, deciphering clues and solving puzzles.



Summer holidays (23 July - 31 August 2025)

Head to Watts Gallery for a sensational summer of fun. Bring the whole family for a full day of art, creativity, imagination, scent and sensory delight. Get crafty and creative during The Make Space and extra Clay Club workshops. On top of that, every day that the gallery is open, enjoy a fantastic range of free activities included with admission – and completely free for members!

The Make Space

Wednesdays 23, 30 July and 6, 13, 20, 27 August 2025

Child £12 | Member child £10.80

Adult £12 | Member adult £10.80

Join us every Wednesday over the summer holidays for fabulous, fun, and creative workshops designed for the whole family! Each week features a brand-new theme to spark your imagination, from painting to paper art. Come along to one or join us for them all.



October half term (25 October - 2 November 2025)

This October have an adventure with a day out at Watts Gallery, with lots of free with admission activities (and some extra-special bookable experiences too!). Play dress-up in the Historic Galleries and step back in time to Victorian England, enjoy a drop-in sketching studio, and make your mark in the Artist in Residence studio!

The Make Space

Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October 2025

Child £12 | Member child £10.80

Adult £12 | Member adult £10.80

Join us for The Make Space and get crafty and creative as a family. Enjoy craft workshops on select days during each school holiday, exploring seasonal themes. Get hands-on with making, creating, and exploring your artistic side together. Whether you're painting, building, or crafting, there's something exciting for everyone.



Volunteer with us

If you enjoy art and meeting new people, learning something new or developing your skills and opportunities, why not become a Watts Gallery volunteer?

We are always looking for additional talent to bring new skills and a fresh perspective to our team. Everyone is welcome to join the Watts family!

To find out more, call the Visitor Experience Team on 07990 954 408 or email volunteers@wattsgallery.org.uk



[Click here to view and download images](#)

For further information: wattsgallery.org.uk

Instagram [@wattsgallery](https://www.instagram.com/wattsgallery)

Facebook [wattsgalleryartistsvillage](https://www.facebook.com/wattsgalleryartistsvillage)

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