

Welcome to Mercury,

Things are heating up at the Museum this month, from the tropical climes of the [Africa Garden](#) to a series of exhibitions celebrating the history and culture of [ancient and modern Iran](#).

Make the most of the Summer hours with Thursday & Friday Lates, when all tickets for the award-winning virtual reality film *Mummy: the inside story* are HALF PRICE.

The Museum's permanent galleries, from ancient Egypt to contemporary Asia, are **open and free** seven days a week. Discover the world's greatest anthropology library. Bring children and pick up a Ford Activity Backpack. Or simply stroll among your favourite objects – exploring quietly or meeting friends for a drink or music from across the world...

[Download Mercury](#)
[Download Africa programme](#)
[Download What's On](#)

Bookmark the **MUSEUM'S ONLINE COLLECTION SITE** with comprehensive features on over 5,000 unparalleled examples of human creativity.

'a potpourri of exotica that displays a key curatorial eye... fascinating and timely'
The Sunday Times

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Eat



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Celebrating Africa

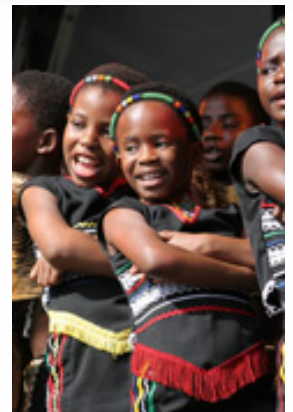
Saturday 16 July, 12.00–18.00

The British Museum invites you to a day of community-led music, arts and family activities celebrating African culture in London and across the globe.

Watch the story of Papa Mandela come to life in front of Mozambique's 'Tree of Guns'. Unite the rhythms of the continent with teenage dance ensemble Mpopoma from Zimbabwe. Spot the Chikukuangu body artists in the Great Court. And create your own stories and pictures around a collection of African objects that has inspired writers and artists, from Karl Marx to Baaba Maal, for centuries.

In association with the Africa-Europe Forum.

Admission free



Kabuki Heroes on the Osaka Stage

30 June – 11 September



Visit the [Kabuki Heroes microsite](#) and gear up for this special exhibition of 300 colourful prints, books and paintings exploring the phenomenal 'pop culture' of Japanese Kabuki theatre between 1780 and 1830.

Plus your chance to win two return tickets to Tokyo.

With **20% off your bill** and the fabulous surroundings of the Great Court, Great Court Restaurant is the only place to do lunch...

AFRICA AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

8 May - 4 September
GROUND FORCE AFRICA GARDEN

Until 26 June
WEALTH OF AFRICA
the iconographic development of a continent through its economic administration

Until 24 July
VIEWS FROM AFRICA
from the ordinary to the extraordinary - African encounters with Europe

Extended until 14 August
The BP special exhibition MUMMY: THE INSIDE STORY
acclaimed 3D journey into an unopened 3000 year old mummy

Until 30 October
TREE OF LIFE
astounding sculpture from the Arms into Tools programme

Until 30 October
THRONE OF WEAPONS UK TOUR

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

Until 29 August
MOUNTAINS AND WATER
Chinese landscape paintings

Until 4 September
MAKING OF THE MASTER
The art of Arabic calligraphy

Until 11 September
KABUKI HEROES
The drama of Japanese popular culture

7 July – 25 September
DAVID MILNE

Exploring World Theatre

Monday 18 July, 18.30

'All the world's a stage,' and this evening of gallery talks sets out to show the wherefore and why.

Join the Friends of the British Museum in discovering, via *Kabuki Heroes*, the wider cult of theatre through the ages and across the globe.

£10 (refunded if you join as a Friend)
BM Friends free. [Booking information](#)



David Milne: exhibition and events

7 July – 25 September



Introducing the work of one of Canada's most acclaimed and original painters, *David Milne Watercolours: "Painting toward the Light"* traces a journey through the bustle of New York City, the scarred terrain of war-torn Europe and upstate New York and Ontario where Milne discovered the simplicity and seclusion that informed his finest compositions.

Admission free

TALKS

- Tuesday 12 July, 18.30, **David Milne: "A Sense of Destiny"**, Katherine Lochnan, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Arts Gallery of Ontario, **£5/£3**
- Thursday 15 September, 18.30, **Who is David Milne? Questions of fame and identity**, Michael Tooby, Director of the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff, **£5/£3**

FILMS

Friday 22 July and Thursday 4 August, 13.00, **A Path of His Own: The story of David B. Milne**. Milne's own words tell the story of his life, in colour and line.

Admission free.

- Thursday 21 July, 18.30, **The Sweet Hereafter**, winner of the Grand Prix at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival.

£3/£2.

Seminar for Arabian Studies

One of Canada's most original and visionary artists

Book British Museum
events through the
Box Office
10.00 –16.45 daily
+44 (0)20 7323 8181

Thursday 21–Saturday 23 July



The British Museum's Seminar for Arabian Studies introduces a series of summer exhibitions celebrating the art and culture of ancient and modern Iran. From religion to propaganda, explore the latest humanities research, watch Turkish masters practising the art of Arabic calligraphy, and discover the ancient Sasanian Kings in the free exhibition, *Iran Before Islam*.

£75, or £30 per day

BM Friends £40/15 • Students £20/10

Booking enquiries

seminar.arab@durham.ac.uk

COMING SOON

Iran before Islam: religion and propaganda, AD 224-651

30 June 2005 – 8 January 2006

Forgotten Empire: the world of Ancient Persia

8 September 2005 – 8 January 2006

Contemporary Iranian Posters

18 August – 30 October 2005

Portraits of Power: kings and heroes of Ancient Iran

From 6 September

Object in focus: weapon wildlife



Mozambique suffered heavily from a civil war which ended in 1992 and it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. However, artists Cristóvão Canhavato (Kester), Hilário Nhatugueja, Fiel dos Santos and Adelino Serafim Maté seek to challenge the view that Mozambican identity is static.

The Gazelle, Snake, Bird and Crocodile sculptures in the Africa Garden were made from weapons through the Transforming Arms into Tools (TAE) project, supported by Christian Aid.

People hand in guns in exchange for sewing machines, bicycles, even tractors, and the artists make sculptures out of them.

Like the Tree of Life in the Museum's Great Court and Kester's Throne of Weapons, currently touring venues across the UK, the works carry messages of

transformation and hope for the future of Mozambique.

The Africa Garden

Museum forecourt until 4 September

Admission free



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Have you been to an exhibition or event at the Museum recently?
[Tell us what you thought of it](#) and it might be published in next month's Mercury.

What would you like to see (or see more of) in the
Museum's newsletter? [email](#) your suggestions.