



THE  
BRITISH  
MUSEUM

# What's on

July – August 2006

Celebrating the Middle East,  
past and present, with a  
comprehensive season of  
exhibitions and events

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## Venue key

- 1** Room number
- BP** BP Lecture Theatre, Clore Education Centre (CEC)
- C** Colonnade
- GC** Great Court
- ID** Information Desk
- SR** Sackler Rooms, CEC
- SL** Stevenson Lecture Theatre, CEC
- ST** Studio, CEC



PHOTOGRAPH © NIGEL YOUNG

## Late openings at the British Museum

Selected galleries are **open late** Thursday & Friday until 20.30, giving you more time to:

- enjoy *Word into Art*
- discover the *Middle East Now* season
- take in music, a lecture or a film.

The Reading Room is **open late** Thursday & Friday until 20.30 so you can:

- find resources for visiting with children
- use books for adults and children
- access COMPASS – interactive multimedia database of the collections
- study in the Reading Room.

The Great Court is **open late** Thursday–Saturday until 23.00 so you can:

- eat with friends in the Court Restaurant.

## Online resources

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

- Monthly e-newsletter
- Online booking
- Explore the Museum's collections
- Visitor information.

## Tours, Talks and Hands On

Ask at the Box Office/Information Desk about:

- Guided tours
- Free gallery tours – eyeOpener
- Hands On object handling
- Audio tours, including Highlights tour.

For Gallery talks (45 minutes with a curator or guest speaker) see the Events diary, pages 11–13.

## MIDDLE EAST NOW

Through art, music, film, performance and public debate, experience the vibrancy and complexity of modern cultures of the Middle East, all set within the Museum's displays of some of the greatest achievements of the region's history.

### Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East

Until 3 September 2006

This exhibition demonstrates the powerful and imaginative ways in which artists across the Middle East and North Africa are using the Arabic script today. Beautiful Arabic calligraphies, books of poetry and works that reflect current political issues of the Middle East feature in the exhibition.

Admission free **35**

#### Gallery talks:

11, 19 July, 1, 15 August

#### Related gallery talks:

5, 25 July, 29 August

### Sculptures in the Great Court

Until 3 September 2006

In addition, a specially commissioned sculpture, *Blessed Tigris*, by well known Iraqi artist Dia al-Azzawi, will feature alongside three other sculptures in the Great Court by Iranian artist, Parviz Tanavoli.

Admission free **GC**

### The Oldest Board Game in the World:

#### The Royal Game of Ur The Asahi Shimbun Display

20 July – 3 September 2006

Come and find out how to play one of the oldest known games in the world. The Royal Game of Ur was played in one of the oldest cities on earth in what is today southern Iraq. See the game, learn more about it and play it yourself.

Admission free **3**

Gallery talk: 29 August

**The Asahi Shimbun**  
JAPAN'S LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

### John Addis Islamic Gallery Sense of Place: European images of the Middle East

Until October 2006 **34**

#### Encounters:

#### Travel and Money in the Byzantine World

Until 7 January 2006 **69**

## PRINTS & DRAWINGS

### Avigdor Arikha: from life Drawings and Prints 1965–2005

29 June 2006 – 7 January 2007

An exhibition honouring the Israeli Paris-based artist Avigdor Arikha and his gift to the British Museum of 100 works on paper.

Admission free **90**

Meet the artist: 4 July

Gallery talk: 2 August

Film: details page 10

### French Drawings: Clouet to Seurat

Part one: 29 June –

1 October 2006

Part two: 3 October 2006 –  
7 January 2007

The remarkable achievements of French draughtsmen are shown through almost 100 works from across 400 years.

Admission free **90**

Gallery talk: 23, 31 August

### Rembrandt (1606–1669): A 400th Anniversary Display

29 June – 3 September 2006

Presenting a selection of prints and drawings to mark the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth.

Admission free **90**

Gallery talk: 12 July

Event: 15 July

## OTHER DISPLAYS

### Building of a Goddess **GC**

12 August – 27 September 2006

Visiting craftsmen from West Bengal create an image of the goddess Durga in the Museum.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Dubai Holding is proud to partner with the British Museum on the Middle East Now season incorporating *Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East*.

# Middle East Now

## LECTURES BP

Followed by refreshments  
£5, concessions £3

### **Orientalism Now: the legacy of Edward Said**

Thursday 6 July, 18.30

Edward Said's 1978 book *Orientalism* continues to provoke arguments about how the Orient is imagined. Join the debate with Robert Irwin, Amit Chaudhuri, Michael Wood and Terry Eagleton.

In partnership with the  
London Review of Books

**London Review**  
OF BOOKS

### **Middle Eastern food**

Thursday 13 July, 18.30

Join renowned restaurant critic Fay Maschler and guests including Claudia Roden, Arissa Helou and Mourad Mazouz for an evening devoted to Middle Eastern food.

### **1001 Nights Now**

Friday 21 July, 18.30

Retelling of Arabian fairy tales through the stories of migrant workers from the Middle East in Britain today. Adapted by Northern Stage from their 2005 national tour of the play. Includes discussion with the actors.



© RIC BACON

Barbara Ewing

### **Corridor of Commerce: Archaeology and the lives of the peoples of the Gulf over 7000 years**

Thursday 27 July, 18.30

Dr Derek Kennet, University of Durham, explores how the pivotal position of the Gulf, from Antiquity to the 19th century, is reflected in the rich archaeological heritage of this region.

### **Rosetta: Barbara Ewing and Richard Parkinson in conversation**

Thursday 10 August, 18.30

Barbara Ewing's historical novel *Rosetta*, is set in the tumultuous period of the Napoleonic Wars when the battle for Egypt raged between the British and the French. Richard Parkinson, British Museum, talks to Barbara about the travels and research behind the novel and adds his own perspectives on the changing meanings of the Rosetta Stone.

Followed by a book signing



PHOTO: SIASA SAKIC

1001 Nights Now



## FILMS SL

### Two Girls

With special guest producer  
Gülen Güler

Friday 7 July, 18.30

A vibrant drama of life in Istanbul. Troubled and rebellious teenagers Behiye and Leman embark on an intense relationship and a plan to escape their dysfunctional families. Subtitled

Director: Kutlug Ataman

Turkey, 2005, 107 mins

£3, concessions £2

### Umm Kulthum:

#### a voice like Egypt

Thursday 13 July, 13.00

Born into a peasant family at the turn of the 20th century, singer Umm Kulthum became a symbol of the aspirations of the entire Arab world.

The film connects her life to the tumultuous history of 20th century Egypt.

Director: Michael Goldman

Egypt/USA, 1996, 67 mins

Admission free, no pre-booking



Chant Avedissian, Umm Kulthum's greatest hits



© BILL LYONS

Sufi Soul: the mystic music of Islam

### A stranger in her own city

With special guest  
Khadija Al-Salami

Friday 14 July, 18.00

Najmia is 13 years old with a radiant smile; insolent, carefree and without a veil, she roams the streets of the old town of Sana'a. Subtitled

Director: Khadija Al-Salami

Yemen, 2005, 29 mins

Admission free, no pre-booking

### A New Day in Old Sana'a

With special guest  
Bader Ben Hirs

Friday 14 July, 19.15

The inhabitants of the city of Sana'a wait for the wedding of the year, not knowing that the groom has fallen in love with a low class orphaned girl. Subtitled

Director: Bader Ben Hirs

Britain/Yemen, 2005, 90 mins

£3, concessions £2

### Sufi Soul: the mystic music of Islam

Thursday 20 July, 13.00

The film follows William Dalrymple's personal journey into the mystical and musical side of Islam as he charts the traditions of Sufi music in Syria, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Morocco.

Director: Simon Broughton

UK, 2005, 50 mins

Admission free, no pre-booking

### In the Battlefields

Friday 28 July, 18.30

Lebanese director, Danielle Arbid, sets her courageous debut in Beirut in the midst of the civil war, where 12 year old Lina watches the decline of the world of adults including her own family's fall. Subtitled

Director: Danielle Arbid

Lebanon/France/Belgium, 2004, 90 mins

£3, concessions £2

### The Dreams of Sparrows

Thursday 3 August, 18.30

After the capture of Saddam Hussein a group of Iraqi film makers search for the truth in war devastated Baghdad. The film moves from intimate encounters with Iraqi writers and artists to the dark side of the politics of occupation and resistance. Subtitled

Director: Hayder Daffar

Iraq/USA, 2005, 80 mins

£3, concessions £2

# Middle East Now

## PERFORMANCE

### The Rhythm of the Heart – Middle Eastern music and dance

Sunday 2 July, 14.00–17.00

Internationally renowned belly dancer and choreographer Mia Serra, leads a day of public performances, with audience participation and Arabic percussion workshops for all ages. Come and learn about traditional belly dance with a Sufi-trained performer in a friendly and relaxed setting.

Admission free, just drop in 




PHOTO: MARCUS IVON

Mia Serra

### Hilal dance workshops

Saturday 22 July  
& Sunday 23 July

#### Talk/demonstration

12.00–12.30 

#### Workshop

13.00–16.00 

Dancer and choreographer Suraya Hilal explains Hilal dance, a dance form which expresses the depth of Egyptian/Arab culture by transforming age-old dance traditions into holistic modern form. After the talk, join a workshop to learn for yourself. This weekend is part of the Big Dance – a London wide initiative.

Admission free for talk,  
no pre-booking

Admission free  
for workshop,  
booking required



### Word into Art: music and performance

Tuesday 25 July, 19.00–20.30

An evening of music, dance and art performance set among the stunning works in the exhibition *Word into Art*. Features music and images from singer and artist Houria Niati, performance artist Ninar Esber, stories from 1001 Nights and traditional Arabic music.

60 places 

Admission free,  
booking required

In partnership with  
Saqi Books

**SAQI**

### Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East

The accompanying book to the exhibition *Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East* is available £16.99 (hardback), £11.99 (paperback) online or in the Museum shops.



© JUSTIN BARTON

Suraya Hilal: Hilal dance Spirit of the Heart

## FAMILY EVENT

### Middle East Family Summer August events

1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24  
August, 11.00–16.00

Enjoy a feast of Middle Eastern entertainment. Pit your wits against the opposition at the Royal Game of Ur and backgammon, or thrill to gripping tales of heroes, genies, riddles and kings in daily storytelling sessions for adults and teens. Details available from the Reading Room and online.

Admission free, just drop in 



Family events in the Great Court



*Homage to Baghdad No 6*, print on paper by Dia al-Azzawi

## DAY EVENT

### Contemporary art of the Arab world

Saturday 1 July, 10.00–13.00

Join British Museum curator Venetia Porter, with Suzanne Cotter from the Museum of Modern Art Oxford, and other speakers for a special tour of the *Word into Art* exhibition and an introduction to the work of contemporary artists from the Arab world.

£15, BM Friends and concessions £12

50 places 

Supported by



Karim Rida Said Foundation

# Lectures & seminars

Vladimir G. Lukonin  
Memorial Lecture  
**The Archaeology of the  
Luristan Bronzes from  
Ancient Iran**

Tuesday 4 July, 18.00



Luristan Bronze

The lecture will be given by Dr Bruno Overlaet of Brussels and Gent, and will focus on the Luristan bronzes. Among the most characteristic products of Ancient Persia, the design of many of the bronzes incorporates fanciful animal shapes and they have often been found in cemeteries. Yet, while manufactured in great quantities between 1200 and 800BC, little was known about the culture with which they should be associated and so the Belgian excavations in Luristan have provided welcome contextual evidence.

Admission free **BP**

Enquiries to Claire Burton  
+44 (0)20 7323 8315 or  
cburton@thebritishmuseum.  
ac.uk

**Dakhla and the oases of  
Egypt's Western Desert**

Tuesday 18 July, 13.15

Chris Spring, British Museum, presents a pictorial record of four oases in Egypt's Western Desert and of the people who live there.

Admission free **BP**

The Raymond and Beverly  
Sackler Foundation  
Distinguished Lecture in  
Egyptology 2006  
**Islands of the blessed:  
life in the Western Oasis of  
Egypt 4000 years ago**

Tuesday 18 July, 18.00

Delivered by Dr Laure  
Pantalacci, Director of the  
IFAO, Cairo. **BP**

The Annual International  
Egyptological Colloquium  
**On Dakhla and Kharga oases**

Wednesday 19 &

Thursday 20 July **BP**

Tickets for both events are available from 1 June. 2-day colloquium £50, lecture £15, combined ticket £60, discounts: 50% full-time students, 10% BM Friends. Pay by cheque to the British Museum; include S.A.E. and full contact details. For further details, please contact +44 (0)20 7323 8306, acameron@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or visit [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/aes/sackler06.html](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/aes/sackler06.html)



PHOTO: CHRIS SPRING

Making water vessel 'zir', Qasr pottery Dakhla Oasis

## Seminar for Arabian Studies

Thursday 27 – Saturday 29 July

Find out what the experts are thinking in this presentation of the latest research covering archaeology, languages and ethnography on the Arabian Peninsula from the earliest times to the present day. £75/£30 per day, BM Friends £40/£15 per day, full-time students £20/£10 per day **BP**

Booking and further information is available at [www.arabianseminar.org.uk](http://www.arabianseminar.org.uk)



## British Museum and British Library Singers Summer Concert

Saturday 8 July, 18.30–21.00

The annual Nereid Room Summer Concert will include Mozart's Requiem and Bononcini's Stabat Mater, performed by the British Museum and British Library Singers, Canonbury Chamber Choir and Whitecross Orchestra, and conducted by Anthony Milledge.

£12 (advance tickets only)

For booking and further  
information contact

+44 (0)20 7254 8024 or  
foulkeses@netscape.net <sup>17</sup>

Tickets will not be available  
at the door on the night

## Living and dying: creative arts performance

Friday 14 July, 18.00

This performance is the culmination of a week of creative workshops, and includes theatre, design, music and dance by a 25-strong group of South London 15–16 year olds. They have created an original piece, with assistance from Bigfoot Theatre Company, responding to the cultures and themes in the Wellcome Trust Gallery of Living and dying.

Admission free,  
booking required <sup>BP</sup>

Funded by

**wellcome**trust



PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT WORKMAN

Bigfoot Theatre Company's 'London Talent' students perform 'Perchance to Dream' at the Hampstead Theatre in 2005.

# Prints & drawings – events

## Rembrandt at 400

Saturday 15 July, 14.00–17.00

Celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of Rembrandt, this event introduces the world of Amsterdam in its Golden Age, when Rembrandt was its leading master. Lectures by Hilary Williams include Centres of Dutch Painting in the 17th century, and Rembrandt and Amsterdam; the Golden Swamp. This special 'birthday party' also includes Dutch refreshments.

£15, BM Friends and

concessions £12

145 places **SL**

## Film screening:

### Avigdor Arikha

With special guests Patricia Wheatley and Stephen Coppel

Friday 7 July, 13.00

This film follows Israeli-born artist and author Avigdor Arikha, (born 1929), in the context of his paintings, drawings and incisive prints. The documentary was made for the BBC Omnibus series in 1992 and this special screening is discussed by its director, Patricia Wheatley, and the exhibition curator, Stephen Coppel.

Director: Patricia Wheatley

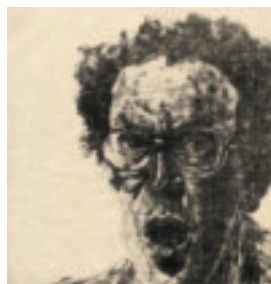
UK, 1992, 50 mins **SL**

Admission free, no pre-booking

## Meet the artist:

### Avigdor Arikha

Tuesday 4 July, 13.15



Avigdor Arikha, *Self-portrait with open mouth*, 1973

Avigdor talks about his work in the special exhibition  
*Avigdor Arikha: from life  
Drawings and Prints  
1965–2005*

Admission free, no pre-booking

**90**

Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-portrait leaning on a stone sill*, an etching, AD1639





## For further information

Pick up an access guide from the Box Office/ Information Desk

### Telephone

+44 (0)20 7323 8299/8599

### Minicom

+44 (0)20 7323 8482

(Information Desk)  
or 8920 (Box Office)

### Facsimile

+44 (0)20 7323 8616

### Email

visitorinformation@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

### Visit

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/visit/access.html

## Sign interpreted



### Gallery talk:

Tuesday 11 July, 13.15

**Curator's introduction to Word into Art**

### Gallery talk:

Saturday 26 August, 13.15

**Durga: Image and goddess**

## Membership – all the difference in the world.

Because the British Museum brings together cultures from every continent on the globe, when you become a Member, your support goes a long, long way.

Become a Member today and enjoy a great range of benefits from as little as £45.

- Unlimited free entry, for yourself and a guest, to all Museum exhibitions.
- The *British Museum Magazine* sent direct to your door three times a year.
- *What's on* published every two months to keep you up to date with Museum events and lectures.
- Four Members' Open evenings each year, themed around exhibitions or the permanent collection.
- Relax in the Members' sitting room overlooking the famous colonnade.

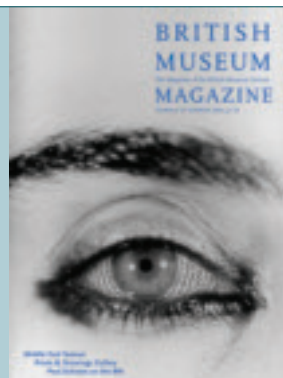
To become a Member today simply call us on +44 (0)20 7323 8195, visit our website at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/friends](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/friends) or ask at the Great Court Box Office/Information Desk for more information.

Want to give Membership as a gift?

Call us to find out more about Gift Membership.

### The current *British Museum Magazine* includes:

- The exciting season of Middle Eastern art
- *Clouet to Seurat: French Drawings* in the newly reopened Prints & Drawings gallery
- The story of the Coenwulf coin
- Features on the Museum's latest acquisitions



We offer a sound enhancement system for some gallery talks. Facilitated by the British Museum volunteers.

Pick up *What's on* in large print from the Box Office/ Information Desk or telephone +44(0)20 7323 8599/8850



## Ask in the Reading Room



Hamlyn family trails

### Hamlyn family trails *free*

Six trails to help you explore different parts of the Museum at your own pace. Available for different ages:

Under 5s and 6+ years.

Supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust in memory of Paul Hamlyn

### Ford activity backpacks *free*

Puzzles, games and other activities to do in the galleries.

### Art materials *free*

Find your favourite object and draw it for a friend.

### Children's COMPASS

#### The Museum online *free*

Made possible by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

### Ancient Civilizations

Websites to support Key Stage 2 and 3 learning  
[www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk](http://www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk)

### Paul Hamlyn children's library *free*

A wide range of books about your favourite objects and cultures.

## Ask at the Box Office/ Information Desk

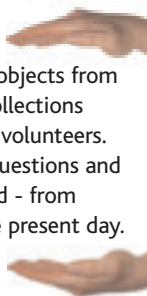
### Family audio tour *£3.50*



Join Stephen Fry on the trail of bodies, beasts and board games.

### Hands On *free*

Handle genuine objects from the Museum's collections with our trained volunteers. Ask them your questions and explore the world - from prehistory to the present day.



## Shopping & eating

### Bookshop

North side of Great Court

Monday – Wednesday

09.30–18.00

Thursday – Friday

09.30–20.00

Saturday 09.30–18.00

Sunday 12.00–18.00

### Souvenir Shop

West side of Great Court

Monday – Wednesday

09.30–18.00

Thursday – Friday

09.30–20.00

Saturday 09.30–18.00

Sunday 10.00–18.00

### Grenville Shop

Weston Great Hall at the

Great Russell Street entrance

Monday – Wednesday

09.30–18.00

Thursday – Friday

09.30–20.00

Saturday – Sunday

10.00–18.00

### Children's Shop

East side of Great Court

Monday – Saturday

09.30–18.00

Sunday 10.00–18.00

### Self-service Cafés

Gallery Café: hot and cold

meals, snacks and drinks,

special children's counter

Main floor next to room 12,  
daily 10.00–17.00

Court Café: sandwiches,  
salads, home-made cakes, hot  
and cold drinks, Great Court,  
daily 10.00–17.00

### Court Restaurant

Morning coffee, lunch  
including a two-course set  
price menu, afternoon tea,  
dinners, waiter service.  
Upper floor Great Court.  
Saturday – Wednesday  
11.00–18.00 (last orders  
17.00) Thursday – Friday  
11.00–23.00 (last orders  
21.00). Bookings  
+44 (0)20 7323 8990.



Shop online

[www.britishmuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmuseum.co.uk)

and choose from over 1000 exclusive books and products

## Gallery opening hours

Saturday–Wednesday 10.00–17.30, Thursday–Friday 10.00–20.30

Closed 1 January, Good Friday and 24–26 December

Certain galleries are subject to different opening times.

Full details are available from the Box Office/Information Desk or

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

## Great Court opening hours

Early or late, relax over a book or enjoy a meal with friends under the most contemporary roof in London. See page 14 for more details.

Sunday–Wednesday 09.00–18.00, Thursday–Saturday 09.00–23.00

Closed 1 January, Good Friday and 24–26 December

## Reading Room opening hours

Saturday–Wednesday 10.00–17.30

Thursday & Friday 10.00–20.30

Closed 1 January, Good Friday and 24–26 December

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8838

Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8113

[readingroom@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:readingroom@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

## Booking

Unless otherwise stated, book events through the Box Office/Information Desk 10.00–16.45 daily

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8181

Facsimile +44 (0)20 7323 8616

Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8920

[boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

Book selected events online at

[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/tickets](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/tickets)

Booking fees apply

# THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

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