

THE BRITISH MUSEUM



MERCURY

April 2005

Welcome to Mercury,

Africa at the British Museum moves into its second season this month, with *Views from Africa*, a series of exhibitions, discussions and performances telling the uniquely African story of encounters with Europe.

In addition, *Mountains and Water* explores the subtle art of Chinese landscape painting; Kester's *Throne of Weapons* tours to Belfast, Leicester and Gateshead; and you can still join a number of our Spring courses, from *Sexuality and Gender in Native North American Culture* to *Creative Writing*.

COMPASS collections online

Bookmark the **MUSEUM'S ONLINE COLLECTION SITE** with comprehensive features on over 5000 unparalleled examples of human creativity - and make your own connections.

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AFRICA 05 EXHIBITIONS

28 April – 24 July

VIEWS FROM AFRICA

from the ordinary to the extraordinary - African encounters with Europe

Until 29 August

TREE OF LIFE

IN THIS EDITION

[Mummy extended](#) | [Mountains and Water](#) | [Living Under One Roof](#) | [Views from Africa](#) | [Shop online](#) | [Ben Burt's Africa connection](#) | [Creative writing course](#) | [Africa Commission at the Museum](#) | [Download Mercury as PDF](#)

Mummy: the inside story extended to 14 August



The BP Special Exhibition



For the first time the unopened 3000 year old mummy of Nesperunnub, priest of Karnak, reveals its secrets .

Using the latest CT-scan technology this extraordinary 3D film narrated by Sir Ian McKellen and its accompanying exhibition take you back in time to glimpse the life, and the death, of the Ancient Egyptians - the bridge between Africa and the Northern world.

'Completely mind-blowing'

BBC Radio 4

Winner, Temporary Exhibition Design, Design Week Awards 2005

£6/£3

Family

ticket £15, Children under 5 free

[Find out more](#)

Mountains and Water

astounding sculpture from the
Arms into Tools programme

Until 26 June

WEALTH OF AFRICA

the iconographic development of a
continent through its economic
administration

Extended until 14 August

The BP special exhibition
MUMMY: THE INSIDE STORY

acclaimed 3D journey into an unopened
3000 year old mummy

9 February - 30 October

THRONE OF WEAPONS
UK TOUR

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

Until 29 August

MOUNTAINS AND WATER

Chinese landscape paintings

Until 5 June

COLUMBUS: RENAISSANCE
COLLECTOR

European printmakers gaze upon
new worlds

Until 23 April

THE SPINARIO

the great Italian bronze on loan from the
Capitoline Museum, Rome

Until 8 May

CUTTING EDGE

master swords from the great schools of
Japan

25 April - 4 September

MAKING OF THE MASTER

the art of Arabic calligraphy

Until April

FEASTS AND PICNICS

eating and drinking in Islamic painting

WHAT'S NEXT ?

30 June - 11 September

KABUKI HEROES

urban cult of the actor on the Osaka
stage, 1780-1830



9 February - 29 August

***Explore the most important and popular subject in
Chinese painting: landscape.***

In China, mountains are associated with religion because
they offer a pathway to the heavens. Water, on the other
hand, returns the mind to earth keeping the human being
in balance. Such subtle and contemplative works are
traditionally considered 'food for the soul' and they are
only brought out on the most special occasions.

Admission free

[Find out more](#)



Living Under One Roof



Friday 22 April, 19.15 - 21.00

Full Spectrum Productions presents a dramatic series of
monologues about the celebrations and tensions of a
disparate group of West Indians living under the same
roof. Based on the life experiences of three characters,
the performance follows their journeys from the
Caribbean in the 1960s and their attempt to build a new
life in Birmingham.

*Supported by the
Heritage Lottery
Fund*

£5/£3

Family ticket £15, Children under 5 free

[Find out more](#)



Coming soon: *VIEWS FROM AFRICA*

7 July - 25 September

DAVID MILNE WATERCOLOURS:

"Painting toward the Light"

introducing the visionary Canadian poet of landscape



28 April - 24 July

Discover a uniquely African story of encounters with Europe over the last 500 years.

From masquerade masks to exported salt cellars, many of the objects featured in *Views from Africa* depict Europeans directly. Others explore Europe's diverse influences - the sacred, comic, economic and fashionable - among African communities and cultures. Through the challenges of trade, religion, war and peace, *Views from Africa* reflects not only the most personal experiences but also a dynamic social engagement with change.

Admission free



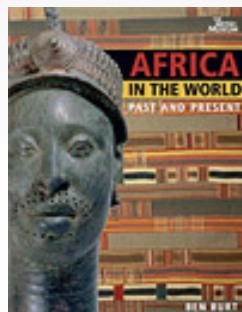
Shop online



The British Museum online store provides original gift ideas. From authentic replicas to stunning stationery, and unique jewellery to books for all ages. There is something to suit each taste and pocket. Every purchase directly supports the work of the British Museum.



Ben Burt on Africa in the World



Buy online

Monday 4 April, 13.00

Human culture began in Africa and its influence, from Egypt to America, is uniquely captured in the collections of the British Museum.

In a special illustrated lecture, Ben Burt, author of *Africa in the world, past and present: a museum history*, looks at African connections in the culture, imagination and innovation of human society.

Admission free

[Find out more](#)



Creative Writing Course



10 Thursday mornings from 14 April

Looking at contemporary literature and exploring a range of techniques, this course, in collaboration with the Workers' Education Association, uses the Museum's collections as inspiration to generate new writing. Course members will share their work each week. Suitable for beginners.

Booking through the Box Office +44 (0)20 7323 8181

[Other courses starting in April](#)



Commission for Africa report launched at the British Museum



"There can be no excuse, no defence, no justification for the plight of millions of our fellow beings in Africa today... "

Tony Blair

On Friday 11 March the Commission for Africa launched its report 'Our Common Interest' at the British Museum. In attendance were Tony Blair (Prime Minister), Gordon Brown (Chancellor of the Exchequer) and key members of the Commission including the Band Aid singer Bob Geldof.



[Find out more and download the Commission report.](#)



THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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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.

Mummy: the inside story - photographic imagery courtesy of SGI

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