



Welcome to Mercury,

A new season of international prints, drawing and paintings exhibitions gets under way this month with *Kabuki Heroes* – a striking insight into Japanese pop culture at the beginning of the 19th century.

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

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[Download Africa programme](#)

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COMPASS

Bookmark the **MUSEUM'S ONLINE COLLECTION SITE** with comprehensive features on over 5000 unparalleled examples of human creativity.

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

Check out

our online shopping for an exclusive range of books and gifts

Eat

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

IN THIS EDITION

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NEW EXHIBITION: Kabuki Heroes

30 June – 11 September

Kabuki Heroes celebrates the devotion surrounding Japanese urban theatre between 1780 and 1830, the intense rivalries among actors, poets and artists and the colourful memorabilia, from scrapbooks to songbooks, they produced. Bringing together some 300 prints, books and paintings from Britain, Europe, USA and Japan, this is a vivid reminder that the drama of pop culture runs through the centuries and across the globe.

£5, concessions £3

[Booking Information](#)



Africa Live

Sunday 26 June 10.00 - 17.00



The British Museum and the BBC invite you to 7 action-packed hours of African music, dance, storytelling, talks and workshops.

- Meet the stars of Ground Force as you wander round the Africa Garden
- Enjoy the best in live African music on the forecourt stage and around the Museum
- Listen to special performances by BBC celebrities in the famous Round Reading Room
- Join in the construction of a fantastic African inspired sculpture made from recycled materials in the Great Court

Africa Live will mark the lead-up to BBC One's week of programming about Africa in the first week of July and forms an important part of the British Museum's contribution to the Africa 05 cultural season.

All events are free but some maybe ticketed due to space restrictions.

VIEWS FROM AFRICA

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

20 June 2005 - 8 January 2006
IRAN BEFORE ISLAM
religion and propaganda,
AD 224-652

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

The Guardian/British Museum Public Forum

Wednesday 15 June, 19.00



Currencies of Trust:
has religion succeeded where the nation state has failed?

Chair
Jon Snow, writer and broadcaster

Speakers
• Neil MacGregor, Director, The British Museum
• Dr Christopher Davis, writer and anthropologist
• Bishop Joseph Osei-Bonsu, Ghana
• Ian Linden, SOAS

£10, concessions £8

[Book online](#)

COMING SOON: David Milne Watercolours

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
visionary journey through the bustle of New York City, the
scarred terrain of war-torn Europe, and upstate New York and
Ontario, where Milne discovered a simplicity that informed his
finest compositions. Featuring more than 80 watercolours and
colour drypoints, including *Dreamland Tower*, *Coney Island*
(1912) and *The Boarding House*, *Boston Corners* (1916).

Admission Free

*Organised by the Art Gallery of Ontario with the assistance of
the Canadian High Commission, London*

African Music: discussion and performance

Thursday 16 June, 18.30



Part of Africa at the British Museum

African music has influenced centuries of Western music, from samba and jazz to reggae, funk and soul. A panel of music and culture writers, including Mercury Prize nominee, Soweto Kinch, and award-winning novelist, Diran Adebayu, trace the connections.

£5, concessions £3

[Book online](#)



Workshop Creativity

Friday 17 June, 14.00-17.00



Printmaking: drypoint and etching workshop

Fancy yourself a Rembrandt? Demonstrating how some of the world's greatest artists have made their etchings, this workshop offers a rare chance to create your own prints using traditional techniques.

£20, BM Friends and concessions £15

[Booking information](#)

Saturday 25 June, 10.00-17.00



Stone carving workshop – an introduction to tools and materials (limestone)

Work on a relief carving taking inspiration from sculptures in the Museum. Participants are encouraged to arrive with ideas and sketches of projects to undertake. You will be working outside and are advised to wear old clothes.

£30, BM Friends and concessions £20

[Booking information](#)



Masai Movies

Thursday 30 June, 18.30



MASAI DOUBLE BILL

Masai Women

The Masai are cattle herders living in the East African Rift Valley. Men have exclusive control over rights to cattle and women are dependent throughout their lives on father, husband or son for rights to access to property. This television film, part of the Disappearing World series, uses extensive interviews to detail key moments in the women's lives.

Director: Chris Curling 1974, 53 mins

Masai Manhood

A vivid view of the lives of Masai men, especially of the moran (warriors) and the dramatic eunoto ceremony which marks their transition from warriorhood to the responsibilities of elderhood. A fascinating insight into rituals and ceremonies which have now disappeared.

Director: Chris Curling 1975, 53 mins

BP Lecture Theatre

Admission Free

no pre booking

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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.