

Temporary exhibitions

Columbus: Renaissance collector

9 February – 5 June  
Room 90, Admission free

Sponsored by the American Friends  
of the British Museum

Ferdinand Columbus (1488–1539), book  
and print collector, was at the heart of the  
intellectual and cultural movements of his  
day. The illegitimate son of Christopher  
Columbus, he sailed with his father on the  
final voyage to the New World. At the time of  
his death he had amassed a collection of over  
3,000 prints. This exhibition shows works by  
all the major printmakers including Dürer,  
Burgkmair, Raimondi and Lucas van Leyden.



Battle of the Nude Men, c1460–75, Antonio Pollaiuolo

Mountains and Water

9 February – 28 August  
Room 91, Admission free

The Chinese term for landscape is literally the  
two characters meaning 'mountains and water'.  
Landscape is traditionally the most important  
subject in Chinese painting, as well as the most  
popular. This exhibition is the first in a series  
which will explore Chinese paintings through  
the British Museum's permanent collection.

Cutting edge: Japanese  
swords in the British Museum

Until 27 February  
Rooms 92–94, Admission free

The Museum has the finest collection  
of Japanese swords in Europe,  
including examples by many of the  
major schools, dating from the late  
Heian period (794–1185) to the  
Meiji era (1868–1912). In 1999 a  
selection of almost one hundred of  
the finest examples were sent to  
Japan for specialist polishing.  
The work was generously funded by the Peter  
Moores Foundation. This exhibition features  
conserved swords and their fittings, together  
with a small group of paintings and prints on  
warrior subjects.

Matisse to Freud: a critic's choice  
The Alexander Walker bequest

Until 9 January  
Room 90, Admission free

'Remarkable collection of artworks'

The Observer

'works by some of the greatest  
contemporary artists'

The Independent on Sunday

Respected film critic and author, Alexander  
Walker, who died in 2003, left his  
extraordinary collection of more than 200  
twentieth-century prints and drawings to the  
British Museum. Artists represented include  
Jasper Johns, Lucian Freud, Bridget Riley,  
Rachel Whiteread, David Hockney as well  
as Picasso, Matisse and Miró.

Temporary exhibitions

Status Symbols: identity and belief  
on modern badges

Until 16 January  
Room 69a, Admission free

'A perfect little exhibition of the kind the  
BM does so well'

Daily Telegraph

An exploration of the symbolic power of  
badges and other similar objects to express  
identity and belonging, belief and dissent.  
Status Symbols includes objects from around  
the world and from all periods, ranging from  
the mass produced to the individually crafted;  
the official to the subversive; the familiar to  
the strange. All are powerful statements of  
the diverse ways people define themselves  
and others.

Join the exhibition: Design your own badge  
and we will make it and send it back to you.  
Then see your badge on the 'badge wall' in  
the gallery and online on the Status Symbols  
website. Prizes will be awarded for the best  
designs. Competition open to adults and  
children.

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



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Small displays

Feasts and picnics: eating and drinking  
in Islamic painting

Until April  
Room 34, Admission free

These 16th to 18th century paintings are  
from Iran, Turkey and Mughal India, and range  
from intimate portraits of solitary drinkers to  
depictions of banquets on a grand scale. They  
reveal how food and drink were served and  
consumed and what types of dishes, bottles  
and bowls were used. Many of these are  
similar to the objects on display in the gallery.

What's next?

March 2005

On loan from the Capitoline Museums,  
Rome, the Great Italian bronze, *the Spinario*

Summer 2005

*Kabuki Heroes*

*David Milne Watercolours:  
Painting toward the Light*

*Sasanian Coins*

Autumn 2005

*Forgotten Empire: the world of ancient Persia*  
*Samuel Palmer*

Spring 2006

*Michelangelo drawings: Closer to the Master*

COVER PHOTO: PHIL SAYER

THE  
BRITISH  
MUSEUM

Exhibitions

Africa 05

February – October 2005  
Our programme includes new displays and installations as well as a wide ranging public programme incorporating performance, from music and dance to storytelling.

Made in Africa

The Asahi Shimbun Displays  
27 January – 3 April  
The First Room, Admission free

Supported by 

The oldest objects in the British Museum come from Africa. These ancient tools, from about 1.8 million years ago, are some of the earliest humanly made objects in the world. To mark the start of Africa 05, this special display will focus on the stone tools from Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania; reminders that the human species and human technology, society and art were first found in Africa.

The Museum’s new exhibition space, the First Room, opens with *Made in Africa* on 27 January. It will be followed by a series of changing exhibitions as part of Africa 05. Made possible through the generous sponsorship of The Asahi Shimbun.

Wealth of Africa:  
4000 years of money and trade

20 January – 26 June  
Room 69a, Admission free

Africa has a long and rich history, spanning ancient kingdoms, colonialism and independence. The exhibition takes you on a tour of this complex continent through its money, from coins to copper ingots, raffia cloth and cowrie shells.

Tree of life

10 February – 28 August, Great Court

The Tree of life was made by Christavao Canhavato (Kester), Hilario Nhatugueja, Fiel dos Santos and Adelino Serafim Mathe of the Nucleo de Arte, Mozambique. The sculpture is made out of weapons and was commissioned by the British Museum and the Transforming Arts into Ploughshares programme, supported by Christian Aid: people hand in guns from the civil war in exchange for sewing machines, bicycles, even tractors. The weapons are then dismantled and the artists make sculptures out of them.



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN AID / DAVID ROSE




Mummy: the inside story  
The BP special exhibition

‘completely mind blowing’  
‘unbelievable experience’  
‘I recommend anyone who can get in to see it’

BBC Radio 4 ‘Front Row’

Joseph Hotung Great Court Gallery  
Room 35  
Admission £6, concessions £3  
Children aged 5–16 £3  
Children under 5 free  
Family ticket £15

Supported by BP 

An extraordinary, virtual reality film narrated by Sir Ian McKellen, and accompanying exhibition. For the first time, the unopened 3000-year-old mummy of Nesperennub, priest of Karnak, reveals its secrets. Data obtained using a CT scanner has been transformed into a unique ‘virtual mummy’. Look inside the mummy-case, under the wrappings, even travel inside the body and wonder at Nesperennub’s recreated face. An unmissable and extraordinary opportunity to learn more about the life and death of the Ancient Egyptians.  
[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/mummy](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/mummy)

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGERY COURTESY OF SGI




Sudan: past and present

Recently the eyes of the world have been on Sudan. It has never been more important to understand the different civilisations and the complex history of this, the largest country in Africa, for millennia the point of contact between central Africa and the Mediterranean world.  
[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/sudan](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/sudan)



The Arabic word, *Bismillah*, ‘In the name of God’, created in the shape of an ostrich by Sudanese artist Hassan Musa. Courtesy of Grandir Editions.

Sudan: ancient treasures

Until 9 January  
Room 5  
Exhibition free but the British Museum asks all visitors to make a donation towards the work of Oxfam and Save the Children in Sudan.  
Programme generously supported by The Pidem Fund 

Karton Hida Said Foundation

The ancient sites of Sudan are among the great monuments of Africa, and were home to one of the most powerful states in the Nile Valley, which briefly overwhelmed the Egypt of the Pharaohs. Using the fruits of recent archaeological research, this exhibition leads the visitor through the fascinating history of the country from the early Stone Age to the 19th century AD, including the medieval Christian and the Islamic periods. Many great objects have been lent by the National Museum of Khartoum, some never before seen outside Sudan.

Modernism in Sudanese Art

Until 3 April  
Montague Place entrance  
Admission free

The artists represented in this display are connected with the Khartoum School of Fine and Applied Art, one of the oldest art schools in Africa. The lasting legacy of the ‘Khartoum School’ and its artists is the way in which Western styles of art and art education have been synthesised with other traditions to produce a distinctive means of expression which reflects the remarkable ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of Africa’s largest country.

Southern and western Sudan

Until 9 January 2005  
Reading Room  
Admission free

Sudan is host to a fascinating diversity of cultures and peoples. Drawn from the collections of the British Museum, this display highlights southern and western Sudan through objects from the Dinka and Bari people, and the Darfur region.



Gilded bronze statue of Kushite king, second half of 1st millennium BC