

EVENTS FOR ALL

Symbols Trail

Throughout time we have used symbols to communicate messages, attitudes and identities. Follow the trail to trace symbols through our collections of art, history and science. Collect your trail from Reception.

Boys of the Island:

A Musical Journey through the Battlefields

Richard Laird and Tracey McRory

Sunday 22 October

1.00pm – 2.00pm

This special concert will highlight the stories of soldiers from the island of Ireland who fought and died during the First World War using film, imagery, music and narrative. Their stories will weave their way throughout the concert creating a musical journey of remembrance and reconciliation. Richard Laird and Tracey McRory will be joined by renowned and champion musicians Darren Milligan and Tom Byrne to take you on a musical journey through the battlefields of the Great War, featuring 'The Messines Suite', which reflects both musical cultures on the island of Ireland. The final piece within the suite called 'The Long Road' expresses the synergy between both these divisions leading up to the capture of the village of Wyttschaete on 7th June, 1917. This piece was commissioned specially to commemorate the Battle of Messines and performed with The Royal Navy Orchestra at The Island of Ireland Peace Tower, Belgium on the 7th June 2017.

Cuimhne / Memory

Friday 3 and Saturday 4 November

1.00pm and 3.00pm

This event will be promenade style and is bi-lingual.

A multi-disciplinary performance, celebrating Irish language arts and art practitioners. Artists were commissioned to create pieces reflecting on the themes of remembrance and memory, lost memories and lost stories. The performance will incorporate a visual installation designed by acclaimed video artist Oisín O'Brien, a specially commissioned poem by award winning performance poet, Gearóid MacLochlainn, contemporary music from singer songwriter J.J. Ó Dochartaigh and traditional music from Dónall O'Connor. Also included will be a segment from new young writer and Tyrone woman, Susannah McKenna's one woman show, 'Alice Milligan – A Girl of Genius'. Milligan a poet, journalist and Republican was of Presbyterian background whose brother fought in the First World War. Commissioned by Belfast International Arts Festival as part of 14-18 NOW.

BOOKING INFORMATION

All events are free unless otherwise stated.

- * The profits from charging events go towards the presentation of Poppies: *Weeping Window* at the Ulster Museum.

To find out more about these events and to book tickets please go to www.nmni.com/um

Telephone **028 9044 0000** (lines open Tuesday – Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm)

Email ulstermuseumreception@nmni.com

For group bookings contact our Community Engagement team on **028 9039 5062** or email communitygroups@nmni.com

Stay up to date with us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

To find out more about the Poppies tour and other 14-18 NOW events, visit 1418NOW.org.uk



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14-18-NOW

WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

BELFAST
INTERNATIONAL
ARTS
FESTIVAL

National
Museums
Northern
Ireland
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POPPIES WEEPING WINDOW

BY PAUL CUMMINS ARTIST AND TOM PIPER DESIGNER



Participate in Poppies

14 October to 3 December 2017

Weeping Window is from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces, originally at HM Tower of London 2014.

Presented by 14-18 NOW, Presented by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, National Museums NI and the Belfast International Arts Festival have partnered to bring Poppies: *Weeping Window* to Belfast.

Weeping Window is one of two touring sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, marking the centenary of the First World War. As with all 14-18 NOW projects, the presentation of this sculpture to new audiences across the UK aims to prompt a new, nationwide dialogue around the legacy of the war. *Weeping Window* is a cascade comprising several thousand handmade ceramic poppies seen pouring from a high window to the ground below. Together with a second sculptural work, *Wave*, they formed part of the iconic installation '*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*' at the Tower of London in 2014, and were visited by over five-million people.

EVENTS FOR ADULTS

War Beyond Words

Professor Jay Winter, Yale University

Thursday 19 October

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Tickets £5 per person*

What we know of war is always mediated knowledge and feeling. We need lenses to filter out some of its blinding, terrifying light. Winter reveals the ways in which different creative arts have framed our meditations on war, from painting and sculpture to photography, film and poetry, and ultimately to silence, as a language of memory in its own right. He shows how these highly mediated images of war, in turn, circulate through language to constitute our 'cultural memory' of war. Jay Winter is Charles J. Stille Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University, Connecticut. He won an Emmy award as co-producer of the BBC/PBS television series *The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth Century* (1996), and is a founder of the Historial de la Grande Guerre, an international museum of the Great War inaugurated in 1992. He is a renowned author and his latest book *War Beyond Words: Languages of Remembrance from the Great War to the Present* was recently published by Cambridge University Press.

Decade of Centenaries Tours

In English – Wednesdays 18 October, 1, 15, 22, 29 November

In Irish – Wednesdays 25 October, 8 November

1.00pm – 2.00pm

A tour of our Modern History gallery, exploring the Decade of Centenaries, a time when Ireland was transformed by war and revolution. Events at home and abroad had a major impact. These included the Home Rule crisis, the First World War, the Easter Rising and the War of Independence. By 1921 partition had divided Ireland. (Additional tour dates may be organised on request).

Reading Rooms

Saturday 21 October

11.00am – 4.00pm

Reading Rooms is a Verbal Arts Centre Programme that uses a unique reading aloud and shared reading model to encourage participants to share their ideas, thoughts or memories and start conversations, inspired by the short stories and poems read by our facilitators. The Reading Rooms Bus will be open for stories and poems linked to the theme of war to accompany Poppies: *Weeping Window*. This is a unique chance to hear some of this literature, particularly the poetry from the First World War. Come on board, listen and join in the conversation.

The Poppy:

Survival in a Devastated Battlefield Landscape

Thursday 26 October

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Shortly after the First World War finally ended, the bright red corn poppy was adopted as the international emblem of war service 'Remembrance'. Poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders and their brilliant red colour made them symbolic of the blood spilled in prolonged trench warfare. Local botanist, Dr Ralph Forbes talks about the biology of the poppy, its relatives and other colourful cornfield weeds, examining how they reproduce and thrive in disturbed ground. The talk will end with information from the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) on how you can identify and record plant life near you.

Why the First World War Failed to End

Friday 27 October

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Without the First World War, much of Europe's history in the twentieth century cannot be adequately explained. The rise of fascism and bolshevism, or the escalation of an even more violent conflict between 1939 and 1945 are unthinkable without the First World War. One hundred years after the end of the First World War, the legacies of that conflict still haunt us today, be it in Ireland or - even more strikingly - in the Middle East and in the current conflict between Russia and the Middle East. Here, the First World War raised questions that remain unanswered even today.

Dr. Marie Coleman - Senior Lecturer in Irish History at Queen's University Belfast

Robert Gerwarth - Professor of Modern History at UCD and Director of the Centre for War Studies

Margaret O' Callaghan MA (NUI) PhD (Cambridge) - Historian and Political Analyst at the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University, Belfast

Hosted by Ronan McGreevy from *The Irish Times*.

Their Spirits' Shadow: Poetry of the Great War

Michael Longley

Wednesday 8 November

1.00pm – 2.00pm

In each of Michael Longley's eleven poetry collections he has written about the First World War and, in particular, his father's experience of it as a boy-soldier. He will read and talk about those poems, as well as sharing work by some of the combatants.

In partnership with the RUA.

Signs of the Times:

Symbols and their Multiple Meanings

Friday 10 November

10.00am – 1.00pm

Poppies are just one of hundreds of symbols we encounter in our lives. Symbols are all around us and have different, often changing, meanings. They can represent belief, identity or ideology. They evoke emotion and can reassure or threaten. People have given meaning to flags and colours, to the Easter lily and the Red Hand and to events such as the Somme and the Easter Rising. Key figures have emerged, like the Maid of Erin and King William III. Hear from historians and commentators as we explore how powerful symbols have played a role in shaping our history.

Joe Austin - Chair of the Belfast National Graves Association

Sophie Long - Living Legacies Project Officer

Philip Orr - Writer and Historian

Glenn Patterson - Writer and Commentator

Margaret Ward - Feminist Activist and Historian

Pioneers to Professionals:

Women and the Royal Navy

Tuesday 28 November

1.00pm – 2.00pm

"Go forth pioneers" instructed the first Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) to her recruits. The establishment of the WRNS, one hundred years ago today, was a watershed moment which ultimately led to the integrated service we have today. Highlighting the impact of women from the First World War to the present, Victoria Ingles, from the National Museum of the Royal Navy, also reveals stories of women's involvement with the Navy from the age of sail.



EVENTS FOR FAMILIES

Cinemagic Film and Television Festival

for Young People History on Film – First World War

Saturday 14 October

War Game plus WWI History Live workshop

10.15am

£5.00*

From the award-winning book by Michael Forman, *War Game* is a beautifully animated story showing the ability of human spirit to exist even in the harshest conditions. It follows a group of young Englishmen to the trenches of the First World War and the realisation of their dream to play football for England, be it only during a Christmas day ceasefire in 1914.

War Horse plus Introduction & Discussion by the USPCA 'The Animals That Went to War'

12noon

£3.00*

A tale of incredible loyalty, hope and tenacity set against the sweeping canvas of the First World War. When Albert and his young horse Joey are forced apart by war, we follow Joey's extraordinary journey as he changes and inspires the lives of everyone he meets.

The Railway Children

3.00pm

£3.00*

Set in the years leading up to the start of the First World War *The Railway Children* illustrates a time of political uncertainty, paranoia and social anxiety. After the enforced absence of their father, three children move with their mother to Yorkshire, where during their adventures they attempt to discover the reason for his disappearance.

Advance booking is essential and tickets are available at www.cinemagic.org.uk

Discover Art

Discover more about the colour red, with red paintings, red clothes and red in nature.

Discover History

Discover more about the hidden language of flowers, pick up the flower trail and find flowers in unexpected places throughout the museum.

Discover Nature

Discover the ways in which plants spread through seeds and seed-heads.