Welcome!

Travestissement d’après Longhi
George Barbier (1882–1932)
Journal des Dames et des Modes
1913, Paris
CBL Wep 0847
Current Exhibition

Siam through the lens of John Thomson, 1865–66
Until 3 January 2021

Find out more

Right
Siamese dancers
Wellcome Collection
CC BY

Coming Soon

Edo in Colour: Prints from Japan’s Metropolis
5 February – 29 August 2021
(closed 17 – 21 May for changeover of exhibits)

Find out more

Kaminarimon gate at Kannon temple, Asakusa
Tamagawa Shūchō
c. 1795, Japan
CBL J 2666
Irish Storytelling for Families, Part II: The Story of Bran and Sceolan
Saturday 5 September, 11am
Róisín Murphy returns to share the story of Fionn Mac Cumhaill and his hounds, Bran and Sceolan. Learn about their special connection and how they introduced the Fianna leader to the love of his life, Sadhbh. In English and Irish.

Seated Yoga
Saturday 12 September, 11am
Follow trained yoga instructor Mary Dowling, and learn all about the breathing and stretching exercises of seated yoga, a group of physical and spiritual practices originally from India and celebrated all over the world.

Culture Night – Friday 18 September
Given the obvious challenges facing us all this year, we are celebrating Culture Night both onsite and online. Our galleries, gift shop, and the Silk Road Café will remain open for you to visit until 10pm. But you can also ‘Connect through Culture’ with the Chester Beatty with the following online events:

Culture Night Online with the Chester Beatty

Contemporary Ikebana Tutorial for Families
Friday 18 September, 5.30pm
Jen O’Brien will introduce you to the principles of Japanese flower arrangements. This multi-sensory activity allows you to consider colours, smells and textures. Embrace the shapes of the wild and create an art piece—stylish, simple and sophisticated.

Shamsa Medallion Online Tutorial
Friday 18 September, 6.30pm
A shamsa medallion is a radiating sunburst design, drawn from a single central point. Whether complex or simple, the shamsa is a frequent motif in Islamic art, appearing across all media including illuminated manuscripts, architecture, and carpets. Watch this video prepared by Iranian-Irish artist Roxana Manouchehri and learn how to create your own medallion inspired by many examples found in the Chester Beatty Collection.
Chinese Dragon Online Art Demonstration
Friday 18 September, 7.30pm
Join artist, Heather Gray, for a painting demonstration of a dragon inspired by a snuff bottle from Chester Beatty’s Chinese Collection. The bottle in question depicts a five-clawed dragon chasing a pearl and painted in shades of iron red. We will transfer the image to paper using a traditional bamboo brush, black ink and xuan paper but if you don’t have these at home any other art materials will work just as well.

Gulistan as Gaeilge
Dr Moya Carey, Sabhbh Ní Mhaolagáin, and/agus Dara O. Shayda
‘With nightingales singing from the trees, we spent the night in a friend’s garden…’ Listen to the Rose Garden (Gulistan) by the poet Sa’di, in Persian and now for the first time, in Irish.

‘Lena filiméala ag canadh ó na crainn, chaitheamar an oíche i ngairdín cara…’ Éist leis an Gairdín Rós (Gulistan) leis an bhfile Sa’ di, sa Pheirsis agus anois den chéad uair, i nGaeilge.

Online In-Focus Tours for Culture Night
In a special, online audio-tour programme, the Chester Beatty’s curators will introduce selected artworks from this incredible Collection with the theme of the night in mind:

Fireworks over Ryōgoku Bridge
Dr Mary Redfern
An explosion of colour floods the night sky. Join the crowds in Edo (modern Tokyo) for a summertime spectacle of light and sound.

Goya in the Dark
Dr Jill Unkel
Is it a fantasy or a nightmare? Who are these athletic figures with strange, bird-like helmets and large artificial wings from Goya’s Disparates (Follies) print series?

Crayon Etching Online Tutorial for Teens
Thursday, 24 September, 1.10pm
Watch artist Megan Scott in her creative and experimental approach to line drawing. Inspired by carvings found in the Chester Beatty’s jade books, this online tutorial explores how to create an etching-style artwork using simple art material.
Irish Storytelling for Families, Part III: The Story of the Sea Woman  
Saturday, 3 October, 11am  
Róisín Murphy concludes her storytelling with this Irish tale about a family from the west coast of Ireland. Discover why the fisherman’s wife is so different from everyone in the village and so passionate about the sea.

Open House Junior for Teens: The Extraordinary Ordinary  
Saturday 10 October, 12 noon  
Are you passionate about architecture, design, and making? Then this STEAM workshop is for you. Join artist Roxana Manouchehri and discover how extraordinarily beautiful structures are made out of ordinary geometric elements. Follow Roxana’s instructions and build your own unique architectural composition.

Live Online Talk
Siam Maritime Trade in ‘The Golden Age’, 1350-1767  
Thursday 8 October, 1.10 pm  
Dr Lesley S. Pullen, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, History of Art and Archaeology, School of Arts, SOAS University of London

The Scottish photographer John Thompson first travelled to Asia in 1862 and reached Siam (present-day Thailand) in 1865. This was just over a hundred years after the fall of the Kingdom of Ayutthaya in Siam, which rose to power in 1350 bringing with it ‘the age of commerce’, otherwise known as ‘The Golden Age’. From the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, the Ayutthaya kings maintained diplomatic and commercial relations with most polities throughout East and South Asia, and the resulting two-way trade spanned a maritime region from the islands of Japan to the Arabian Peninsula. This lunchtime talk will be richly illustrated with period maps, ports and ships, and the luxury goods which were the objects of exchange in this ‘Golden Age’.

Meditation with Mary Dowling  
Sunday 18 October, 11am  
Meditation is an ancient practice of focusing one’s attention and awareness to achieve a calm, stable state. Close your eyes and let Mary Dowling guide you in meditative practice. Immerse yourself within the space created there and then, focus your thoughts, and achieve emotional balance.

Live Online Workshop for Families: Mask Madness  
Thursday 29 October, 12 noon  
Are you a scary monster, a kind princess, or a clever monkey? Through the craft of mask-making, we can become something completely different. Why not join us this Halloween season and create your own holiday disguise for trick-or-treating?

Register
Become a Friend of the Chester Beatty

Discover manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, rare books, and decorative arts in this amazing Collection. The Chester Beatty captures much of the richness of human creative expression from about 2700 BC to the present day. Those who share a love of this splendid Collection and an appreciation of world cultures can follow in Chester Beatty’s footsteps by joining our Friends Membership Programme.

Exclusive Range of Benefits

- Exclusive Friends Events: enjoy special evenings, lectures and trips abroad
- Special Friends discount in the Silk Road Café and Shop
- Friends Newsletter
- Invitation to the Annual Lecture

Membership starts from €65.
Learn more about our Friends programme; please visit our website at: https://chesterbeatty.ie/support/friends-membership/
Email us at friends@cbl.ie or call 01 407 0759
Visitor Information

The safety of our staff and visitors is paramount to us and we have implemented a number of measures for you to enjoy your visit in a safe and friendly environment. Please check our [website](#) for more information on this, our opening hours, and to explore our current exhibitions. Admission is FREE, no pre-booking is required and we are open until 8pm on Wednesday evenings. To enhance your visit, download the Chester Beatty Museum Guide app, with audio tours available in English, Irish, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

Facilities
Audio tour in 6 languages
Silk Road Café
Gift & Book Shop
Audio-visual presentations
Roof Garden
Wheelchair access
Baby-changing facilities