

THE 2025[®] BIG DRAW FESTIVAL



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Museums

The Courtauld



PRESS RELEASE

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The Big Draw Festival Turns 25: A Global Celebration of Drawing This October

2025 marks the **25th anniversary of The Big Draw Festival**, first launched in 2000 and now celebrated worldwide, having encouraged millions of people back to the drawing board. From **1-31 October**, The Big Draw Festival 2025 'Drawn Together' will take over venues **across the globe**.

This year's festival reaches from **Australia to Japan, Canada to Singapore, and across Europe**. In the UK, the festival spans **every region**, stretching from **Cornwall to Londonderry and the Shetland Islands**, along the coasts of **England and the Isle of Wight**, through the **cultural capitals of London, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham**, and across creative communities in every corner of the country.

The theme 'Drawn Together' celebrates the **social and collaborative spirit of drawing**, highlighting its ability to **unite people across borders, generations and backgrounds**.

Big Draw events this October include a **playful drop-in drawing workshop at Young V&A**, London, on Saturday 18th led by award-winning designer Marion Deuchars in partnership with Thames & Hudson; a **Sidewalk Chalk Competition** in St. Louis, USA, on Saturday 4th, transforming the streets into a vibrant canvas; a **month-long creative roadshow with Bath & North East Somerset Council**; and a **collaborative mural project at Hauser & Wirth Menorca**, celebrating imagination and diversity.

Matilda Barratt, Director of The Big Draw, said:

"We're thrilled to see such an exciting and diverse programme of events bringing the 25th anniversary of The Big Draw Festival to life this October! From playful chalk competitions to collaborative murals, roadshows, workshops, and more, we're always inspired by the imagination of our Big Draw Organisers worldwide."

The festival launched on 13th-14th September in partnership with **Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture**, with the main event hosted at **East Riddlesden Hall**, a historic National Trust property in Keighley. This kicked off a wider programme of Big Draw



activities at National Trust sites across the UK - from Bodnant Garden in North Wales to Trelissick Garden in Cornwall, Knole in Kent, and Greenway in Devon - giving visitors the chance to explore heritage, creativity and community together throughout October.

The Big Draw is proud to work with a number of **Festival Partners** who deliver ambitious Big Draw programmes across the UK and worldwide, showcasing the **diversity, creativity and collaborative spirit** at the heart of 'Drawn Together'.

A full overview of Big Draw Festival Partners' events programmes follows below.

- **The Box (Plymouth)** will host creative activities throughout October inspired by its exhibitions, including self-guided drawing, paper sculpture, and Life Drawing sessions. On 4th October, families can join drop-in charcoal workshops linked to the *Plymouth Community History Festival* and *Remember Respond Resist*.
- **The St. Louis Artists' Guild (USA)** brings The Big Draw Festival to Missouri with a packed two-day programme on the 4th-5th October, including a Sidewalk Chalk Competition, Big Draw Bingo, artist talks, and free demos from local creatives.
- **Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries (Nottinghamshire)** showcases a new VR film commission Leaf Number Three inspired by drawings done at community workshops earlier this year (which was then created by MyPockets and Neon8 as part of Digital Spaces, an Arts Council and BFI programme exploring digital creativity). Libraries across Nottinghamshire will host workshops to take part in a related activity and view the film.
- **Hauser & Wirth** will host Big Draw events across six global locations, including Somerset, New York, Los Angeles and Menorca, exploring 'Drawn Together' through workshops, collaborative installations, mural projects and more.
- **The Culture Trust Luton** hosts a lively programme across Stockwood Discovery Centre and the Hat Factory Arts Centre, with exhibitions, Doodleland workshops, South Asian and Ghanaian-inspired arts, Queer & Crafty sessions, and more.
- **Better Bankside (London)** joins The Big Draw for the first time with an exciting mix of activities for all ages. Highlights include Skyline Sketching tours, Drink & Draw socials, children's workshops, recycled art sessions, abstract design, fabric drawing, and more, showcasing the area's dynamic cultural scene.
- **Bath & North East Somerset Council** are taking The Big Draw on the road with 'Drawing Our Future Together', a month-long creative roadshow, bringing playful drawing and games stations to towns across the district, inviting families to imagine the future of their local communities.
- **The School of Arts at UWE Bristol** is holding a Drawing Week, welcoming all new Arts students with a programme of workshops and projects exploring drawing in all its forms. Building on over 60 years of teaching, the week celebrates drawing as a foundation for creative practice, research, and experimentation.
- **Compton Verney (Warwickshire)** will host a Drawing Weekender on the 25th-26th October, with nature-inspired workshops exploring roots, water and creativity, followed by a November visit from The Drawing Circus for theatrical life drawing.
- **The Wallace Collection (London)** will host a day-long Big Draw celebration on Saturday 25th October. Families can enjoy a relaxed SEND opening of *Grayson*

Perry: Delusions of Grandeur, alongside Look and Draw sessions and the opportunity to add to a large collaborative artwork in the Great Gallery.

- **Corstorphine & Wright** joins forces with **NLA** for a Sketchcrawl through London on Saturday 25th October. Participants will explore and draw the city's architecture, before heading to The London Centre for a show and tell session and the opportunity to add to a giant collaborative artwork.
- **Tees Valley Museums** are hosting a week of free creative workshops during October half-term across their sites. From Diwali lantern-making at Hopetown and monster mask-making at the Dorman Museum, to manga-inspired puppetry in Hartlepool, creepy drawing and printmaking at Preston Park, and Japanese/Sri Lankan printmaking at Kirkleatham, there's something for everyone.
- **The Maltings (Berwick) Trust** and are hosting an exciting series of workshops for all ages across Northumberland libraries. From storytelling and collage, to creative printmaking and text-based art workshops, the workshops invite children, teens and adults to think, play and create together through drawing.
- **Royal College of Art (London)** will host Spooky Skies on 31st October, a free, drop-in Halloween workshop at its Battersea campus. Led by pioneering British artist Sarah Staton and Sculpture MA students, it invites all ages to experiment with drawing in fun and unexpected ways.
- **The Courtauld Gallery (London)** will celebrate The Big Draw on Family Friday, 31st October, with a day of activities for all ages (free with gallery ticket), including hands-on drawing inspired by the gallery's exhibitions.
- **English National Ballet (London)** will host diploma students from **The King's Foundation** for a Dynamic Drawing workshop on 7th November, capturing dancers in motion as they rehearse. This unique collaboration is a vibrant celebration of two art forms coming together in motion and imagination.

These highlights represent just a snapshot of the hundreds of events taking place across the globe this October as part of The Big Draw Festival.

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CONTACT

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#DrawnTogether #BDF2025 #TheBigDraw

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Full event listings and information are available on: **www.thebigdraw.org**

Direct links to some of The Big Draw Festival event listings referenced in this press release are included below for reference:

- **Young V&A, London:** www.vam.ac.uk/event/YbA1YE01QR/live-family-drawing-event-with-marion-deuchars-2025

- **The Box, Plymouth:** www.theboxplymouth.com/events
- **St. Louis Artists' Guild (USA):** www.stlouisartistsguild.org/the-big-draw
- **Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries (Nottinghamshire):** www.inspireculture.org.uk/arts-culture/community/big-draw/the-big-draw-2025-drawn-together
- **Hauser & Wirth:** www.hauserwirth.com/news/hauser-and-wirth-celebrates-the-big-draw-2025-drawn-together
- **The Culture Trust Luton:** www.culturetrust.com/whats-on/big-draw-stockwood
- **Better Bankside (London):** www.banksidelondon.co.uk/thebigdraw2025
- **UWE Bristol (Drawing Week):** www.thebigdraw.org/events/drawing-week
- **Compton Verney (Drawing Weekender):** www.comptonverney.org.uk/whats-on/drawing-weekender
- **Compton Verney (The Drawing Circus):** www.comptonverney.org.uk/whats-on/the-drawing-circus/
- **Corstorphine & Wright (Sketchcrawl with NLA):** www.thebigdraw.org/events/architectural-sketchcrawl-exploring-the-past-present-and-future-of-londons-built-environment
- **Tees Valley Museums (half-term activities):** www.teesvalleymuseums.org
- **The Maltings (Berwick) Trust:** www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/northumberland-libraries-12676562101
- **Royal College of Art (Spooky Skies):** www.thebigdraw.org/events/spooky-skies-drawn-together

About The Big Draw:

Founded in 2000 by the Guild of St George, The Big Draw is a leading arts education charity that celebrates drawing and creativity in all its forms. By making drawing accessible and fun for everyone, The Big Draw encourages people of all ages and abilities to pick up a pencil, connect with their creativity, and have fun.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival - the world's biggest celebration of drawing. What began as a one-day celebration in October 2000 is now a global movement. While the Festival itself takes place throughout October, Big Draw events and creative activities run all year round.

www.thebigdraw.org | Charity no. 1114811

Full list of Big Draw Festival Partners and Key Collaborators 2025:

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| • Barts Heritage | • Royal College of Art |
| • Bath & North East Somerset Council | • St. Louis Artists' Guild |
| • Better Bankside | • Tees Valley Museums |
| • Compton Verney | • The Big Draw Netherlands |
| • Corstorphine and Wright | • The Box |
| • English National Ballet | • The Courtauld Gallery |
| • Firstsite | • The Culture Trust Luton |
| • Hauser & Wirth | • The Maltings Berwick |
| • Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries | • The Wallace Collection |
| • MAC Northwest Museum of Art & Culture | • The Walters Art Museum |
| • National Trust | • The Walt Disney Family Museum |
| • Open College of the Arts | • UWE Bristol |