

VAG Victoria
Art Gallery

Jun - Dec
2025

the lost spells

listening to a
landscape of voices



Featuring artwork
and words by
Jackie Morris and
Robert Macfarlane

18 July - 5 October

victoriagal.org.uk

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

The Lost Spells: Listening to a Landscape of Voices, Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris. In association with Hamish Hamilton & Penguin Books. Exhibition commissioned & produced by Northumberland National Park.

Welcome to Victoria Art Gallery as we celebrate 125 years of bringing great art to the city of Bath.

Home to Bath & North East Somerset Council's collection of public artworks, Victoria Art Gallery has been a cultural landmark in the city since 1900 and hosts both a free to enter permanent collection in the Upper Gallery, and a programme of temporary exhibitions in the Lower Gallery.

The newly reopened Upper Gallery is home to more than 100 stunning artworks including works by renowned artists such as Thomas Gainsborough, Gillian Ayres, Grayson Perry and a portrait of Henry VIII after Holbein.

We've also unveiled our brand new learning studio, The Modelling Room, where children, families, school visitors and community groups can enjoy a range of fun-filled activities and events. See the website for details of upcoming events.

For 2025, we have an exciting programme of ticketed exhibitions. Until 6 July *First Impressions: Printers' Proofs of Works*

by Great 20th Century Artists, features works by Lucian Freud, Frank Auerbach, and Bridget Riley. From 18 July until 5 October the Lower Gallery will be immersed in nature with *The Lost Spells: Listening to a Landscape of Voices*, a new exhibition of artwork and words by Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane.

The year ends with the much-loved Bath Society of Artists and its *120th Open Exhibition*, a highlight of Bath's cultural calendar.



Download the free Bloomberg Connects App to learn more about the Gallery and our changing exhibitions.



First Impressions: Printers' Proofs of Works by Great 20th Century Artists

Until 6 July

Paid

In this fascinating exhibition we lift the lid on the mysteries of printmaking and look at the varied and highly technical processes that lead to their creation.

This new exhibition includes unseen artist proofs by Lucian Freud, Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossoff alongside pieces by Grayson Perry, Bridget Riley, Peter Blake, Michael Craig-Martin and other modern and contemporary greats. It sheds light on the contribution made by the expert printers who collaborate closely with artists and undertake the immensely skilled work involved in producing etchings, screenprints, mezzotints, engravings and more.

Free exhibition tour, Thursdays 1.30-2.00pm

Image: Michael Craig-Martin; *Domesticated Nature: Vegetables*, 2022
Courtesy artist and Cristea Roberts Gallery, London © Michael Craig-Martin



Geri Waddington – Against the Grain

Until 13 July

Free

Wood engraving is one of the simplest and yet most intense forms of printmaking, producing images with clarity and sparkle unmatched in other media, the equivalent of "drawing with light".

Geri's subjects are drawn from natural forms, gardens and buildings, all of which provide endless challenges in rendering tone and texture through the tiny marks of the engraver's tools.

Image: Geri Waddington, *Sunflowers*



The Lost Spells: Listening to a Landscape of Voices - Featuring artwork and words by Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane

18 July – 5 October

Paid

A celebration of language and nature, this enchanting family-friendly exhibition showcases almost 100 original artworks by Jackie Morris alongside poems written by Robert Macfarlane.

Inspired by their exquisite book, *The Lost Spells* delves into the magical world of words and wildlife in an immersive journey through our landscape. The sights, sounds and stories of flora and fauna are beautifully interpreted in a series of 'spell-poems' written to be read aloud and each conjuring an animal, bird, tree or flower.

Come join the curlew, red fox, barn owl and many more and rediscover your love of the natural world.

Jackie Morris was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2016 and won it in 2019 for her illustration of *The Lost Words*, voted the most beautiful book of 2016 by UK booksellers.

Free exhibition tour, Thursdays 1.30-2.00pm.

The Lost Spells: Listening to a Landscape of Voices. Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris. In association with Hamish Hamilton & Penguin Books. Exhibition commissioned & produced by Northumberland National Park.

Image below: Red Fox © Jackie Morris
Image on right: Barn Owl © Jackie Morris



Feeling inspired by The Lost Spells?

We will be running nature-themed family workshops and events during the holidays. See our Events pages and website.

Jackie Morris Live Painting

Saturday 4th Oct
10.30am-12.30pm

Sue Wales - Capturing the Light

15 July - 12 October

Free

Bath-based Sue Wales works in oils, painting landscapes, interiors, still lives and portraits. In her beautifully painted works, she focuses on the impact of colour and light, always seeking to capture the transformative effects of light, be it lamplight in the winter, or the different ways sunlight creeps into a house.

Image: Sue Wales, *Sunlit Courtyard Ahilya Fort*





Bath Society of Artists 120th Open Exhibition

18 October - 10 January 2026

Paid

Well over a century old, yet excitingly contemporary, the Bath Society of Artists has an enviable record. Well-known members and associates include Walter Sickert, John Singer Sargent, Mary Fedden, Howard Hodgkin and David Inshaw. Join us this year for the fantastic 120th open exhibition.

Attracting almost 1,500 entries, the Society's exhibition is a highlight of Bath's cultural calendar. The show is a fantastic mix of paintings, prints and sculptures in the widest variety of styles. A selling exhibition with prices to suit all buyers, it showcases works by emerging artists alongside established talent. Packed with colour, innovation and delight, this exhibition has something for everyone.

Free exhibition tour, Thursdays 1.30-2.00pm.

Upper Gallery

Our free to visit exhibition spans 700 years of art.

Our wonderfully diverse art collection, with works by Thomas Gainsborough, Paul Klee, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and a host of others, includes paintings, decorative art and sculpture.

Throughout the year we also have a changing display of artworks:

Turner 250

Until 3 August

Jane Austen's Bath

5 August - 2 November

Volunteers' Choice

4 November - 1 February 2026



Art Explorers Area

Visiting with little ones? Explore the collection in your own way and at your own pace. Head to the new Art Explorers area, where you'll find dressing up, toys, colouring sheets and art explorer baskets - everything you need for the perfect family trip to the Gallery.

This grant was awarded by Museum Development South West, with thanks to support from Arts Council England and the Art Fund.

School and Learning Trips

Bring learning to life on your next school trip. Our expanded learning programme has engaging and creative sessions on portraits, landscapes, sculpture and more! Our team will work with you to create a session around your chosen topic, exploring paintings by famous artists from our wonderful collection.

victoriagal.org.uk/schools



Free Events for Adults

Art Store Tours - 12pm - 12:45pm

Come and find out what goes on behind the scenes of the Gallery. Booking essential.

Thursdays 24 July / 21 August / 18 September /
23 October / 20 November / 18 December

Art on Mondays - 12pm - 12:45pm

Join us for free talks for blind and partially sighted visitors.
No need to book – just turn up.

23 June - Geri Waddington, *Against the Grain*
21 July - Sue Wales, *Capturing the Light*
18 August - New Upper Gallery Collection Displays
15 September - *The Lost Spells*
27 October - Jane Austen's Bath
24 November - Bath Society of Artists
15 December - Volunteers' Choice

British Sign Language Tours - 10:30am - 12pm

Exhibition tour led by a curator with interpretation by a BSL guide. Booking essential.

8 September - *The Lost Spells*
10 November - Bath Society of Artists

Create and Colour: Family Activity

Drop into our free family events. These crafty sessions run on Fridays during the school holidays, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Booking recommended as limited spaces available, children must be accompanied by an adult.

25 July - **Pen painting**
1 August - **Butterfly bracelets**
8 August - **Tweet of the day**
15 August - **Home from home**
22 August - **Collage it!**

Discover
more at
victoriagal.org.uk/
events



Toddler Thursdays

Our term-time free sessions take place every Thursday 10.30am-11am. Drop in, no need to book. Messy play and story time in the Modelling Room.

Mini Makers: Art sessions for ages up to 11

Join us for expert-led workshops in the new Modelling Room. Making use of a wide range of facilities these crafty sessions are enhanced with printing, painting and other art techniques. Ticketed, booking recommended. £5 per making participant, children must be accompanied by an adult.

All sessions run 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm.

Natural impressions - 23 - 24 July

Make a special work of art using printing and natural materials.

Butterfly ink blot books - 29 - 31 July

Use coloured inks to make butterflies for your own book.

Bird on a wire - 5 - 7 August

Make a funky origami bird to hang from your natural twig mobile.

Picture poetry - 12 - 14 August

Using an animal shape make poetry with words from nature.

Leafy designers - 19 - 21 August

Use leaves and natural materials to make a unique animal design.

The Big Draw - 25 October, 11am - 3pm

The Big Draw Family Activity - 28 - 31 October

Snow on Snow - 21 December, 11am - 3pm

Make a snowflake for your Christmas tree.

Venue Hire

Hold your event surrounded by masterpieces. The Victoria Art Gallery is the perfect creative choice for your wedding, drinks reception or private view.

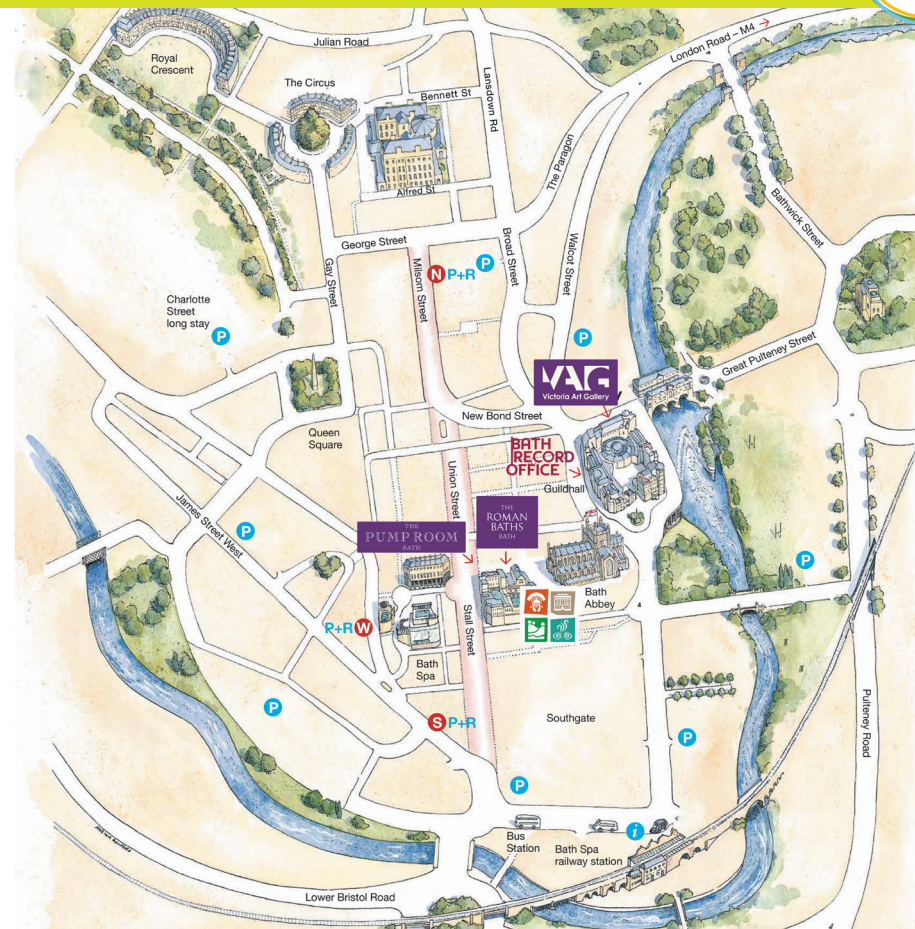
The Upper Gallery is ideal for a drinks reception or intimate wedding ceremony. The space has natural light pooling in from the ceiling, illustrating works by artists including Gainsborough, Klee and Nash. The newly opened Modelling Room, located in the gallery, is a perfect space for a daytime meeting or an arts and crafts workshop.

The Lower Gallery, with its changing exhibition programme, provides a varied backdrop for entertaining.

bathvenues.co.uk
bath_venues@bathnes.gov.uk
 01225 477786



2024/2025 BRISTOL, BATH & SOMERSET TOURISM AWARD
 TOURISM EVENT / FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR: **BRONZE**



Shop

Don't miss the Victoria Art Gallery shop on the ground floor. With jewellery, books, craft sets, and toys inspired by art, there's something for art lovers of all ages.

Opening times

Open Tuesdays - Sundays (and Bank Holiday Mondays) 10.30am-5pm.

Last entry 4.30pm. Closed 25, 26 December and 1 January.

Find us

Victoria Art Gallery,
 by Pulteney Bridge,
 Bath BA2 4AT
 01225 477233

We are fully wheelchair accessible.
 Please see victoriagal.org.uk for
 our accessibility guide.



VAG Victoria
Art Gallery

Celebrating 125 Years of Art



Explore art's
greatest
names
for free

victoriagal.org.uk

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Henry VIII after Holbein