

VAG Victoria
Art Gallery

Norman Ackroyd The Transience of Light

22 May – 6 September

2026
Exhibitions
& Events



Art for all in the heart of Bath city centre

victoriagal.org.uk

Norman Ackroyd, St Kilda from Flannan, 2012, etching, 10.5cm x 21cm (detail)

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Welcome

The Victoria Art Gallery is Bath's public art museum and home to a richly diverse collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts.

The permanent collection in the Upper Gallery is free to visit. Downstairs, our paid-for temporary exhibition programme for 2026 includes a peek into the archives with *Poster Power!*, followed by an exclusive exhibition celebrating the life and work of acclaimed artist and printmaker *Norman Ackroyd: The Transience of Light*.

This autumn we showcase the best of the region in *Bath Society of Artists 121st Open Exhibition*, and we close the year with some festive magic as *The World of The Snowman™* invites visitors to relive childhood memories through film stills, original illustrations, sketches and more.

Upper Gallery

Free

Our diverse collection includes paintings, decorative art and sculpture spanning 700 years.

NEW! Upper Gallery Tours:
Tuesdays 1.30-2pm Free,
no booking required

Don't miss our changing displays in the Upper Gallery:
Recent Acquisitions: 3 February - 26 April
Constable and his Contemporaries: 28 April - 19 July
Japanese Prints: 21 July - 18 October



Thea Dupays: A Life of Painting

Small Gallery

13 January - 29 March

Free

This exhibition celebrates a lifetime of work in the artist's 92nd year with still lifes, landscapes and portraits. Her painting is characterised by rich colours and bold compositions. All works for sale.

Thea Dupays, Autumn Still Life, oil on canvas, 59x43cm (detail)



Poster Power!

Paid 23 January - 10 May

A colourful, family-friendly exhibition showcasing an exceptional range of 19th and 20th century British posters from the Victoria Art Gallery and Bath Record Office collections. Reflecting the spirit of the times the wide-ranging display encompasses theatre, events and entertainment, travel and transport, political campaigns and World War One recruiting.

Visitors will discover how poster design has developed over time, and take a nostalgic journey through events and products advertised over two centuries.

Free tour (with exhibition ticket), Thursdays 1.30-2pm.

Clifford & Rosemary Ellis, Whipsnade Zoo, colour lithograph, 1932 (detail)



Howard Jeffs: Everything in my Garden

Small Gallery

31 March - 17 May

Free

An exhibition of unique monotype prints with a painterly quality. Created by local artist Jeffs, they are inspired by garden plants that he has recreated in unusual colour combinations. All works for sale.

Howard Jeffs, Wild Garden, monotype print, 2024 (detail)

Norman Ackroyd: The Transience of Light

22 May - 6 September

Paid

"The light really is everything in landscape: the surface of the oceans, the way it hits the waves."

An exhibition celebrating the artist and master printmaker Norman Ackroyd CBE RA (1938-2024). Spanning five decades of practice, this exhibition brings together Ackroyd's spectacular etchings from the 1980s onwards, with a focus on how he portrayed natural light with exceptional finesse. From subtle refracted rainbows in early works, to dramatic contrasts, hazy skies and glimmering vistas, his ability to capture the atmosphere of a place in print was unparalleled.

Curated with his studio manager and family, who have contributed their unique insight to Ackroyd's remarkable life and work.

An exclusive number of Norman Ackroyd's editioned prints will be available for sale in the Small Gallery.

Free tour (with exhibition ticket), Thursdays 1.30-2pm.

Norman Ackroyd, The Rumbings, Muckle Flugga, Shetland, 2013, etching, 49.5 x 78cm (detail)



Bath Society of Artists 121st Open Exhibition

19 September - 7 November

Paid

A highlight of Bath's cultural calendar. See hundreds of works on display with a fantastic mix of paintings, prints and sculptures in the widest variety of styles. Bursting with creativity, imagination and originality, this exhibition has something for everyone.

Would you like to display your art amongst high profile names? Submissions are open to amateur and professional artists across the country, with over £6,000 in prizes to be won. Past Society members include Walter Sickert, John Singer Sargent, Mary Fedden and Howard Hodgkin.

And, if you enjoy the show you can take part of it home! Nearly everything on display is for sale with prices to suit all budgets.

Free tour (with exhibition ticket), Thursdays 1.30-2pm.

bsaorg.uk



The World of The Snowman™

Paid 20 November 2026 - 28 February 2027

A delightfully festive family-friendly exhibition brings The Snowman and his friends to life! Featuring stills from the much-loved film, original book illustrations and sketches, manuscripts, interactive family activity area, a recreation of the famous red plane and more. Step into a timeless classic and explore the wonderful world of The Snowman, The Snowdog and friends. A unique experience of Raymond Briggs' magical work for the whole family.

First published in 1978, Raymond Briggs originally drew The Snowman simply in pencil crayon and comic strip format. Four years later it was adapted into the short film we all know and love. The Snowman's charming, heartrending story has since enchanted generations of children and adults alike with its touching tale of love and loss alongside frolics and friendship. Experience the wonder of childhood all over again and get to know the characters and the creator behind this iconic seasonal favourite.

Free tour (with exhibition ticket), Thursdays 1.30-2pm.

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thesnowman.com

Activities and Events

See our website for all activities, events, times, dates and how to book victoriagal.org.uk

Free for Adults

Monthly Tours and Talks

Art Store Tours

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

Art on Mondays

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

British Sign Language Tours

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



Free for Families

Use our Art Explorers Area in your own way and at your own pace. Dressing up, toys, colouring pages 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.



Create and Colour

Drop into these crafty sessions during school holidays. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Toddler Thursdays Story Time

Bring your little ones for our special story time sessions every Thursday during term-time. No need to book.

Fun for a Fiver!

Mini Makers: Art Sessions for Kids

Children will use a wide range of art materials and try different techniques in these crafty and arty sessions.

Toddler Explorers Arty Messy Play

Book your place at our friendly sessions of arty exploration. Join your toddler in play and learning together.



Schools

Bring learning to life on your next school trip.

Our 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

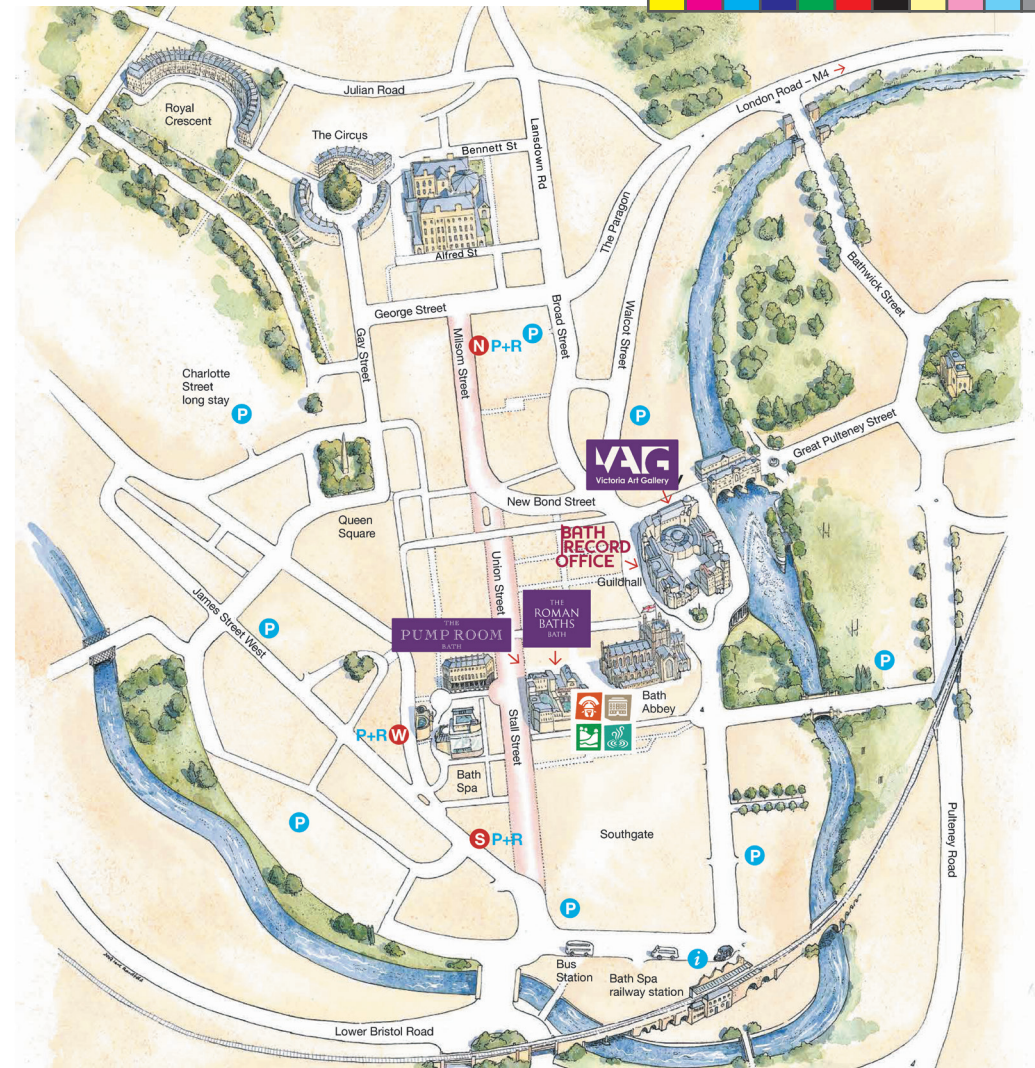
Venue Hire

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 off the Upper 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



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

Tuesdays - Sundays (and Bank Holiday Mondays) 10.30am-5pm
Last entry 4.30pm
Closed 25 and 26 December

Find us

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

We are fully wheelchair accessible

Visit victoriagal.org.uk for our accessibility guide



Accessible entrance via Bridge Street

VAG Victoria Art Gallery



The World of The Snowman™

20 November 2026 -
28 February 2027

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

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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