ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE THE GREEK UNDERWORLD
Level G, Gallery 21. Join students from Cheney School and the Rumble Museum as they journey to the Ancient Greek Kingdom of the Dead as described in Dante's *Divine Comedy*, with activities and artefact-handling with some of the Rumble Museum's collection.

POETRY WORKSHOP
GUIDES, JOURNEYS, DESTINATIONS
Level 2, Gallery 41: 5.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm. Who is your guide and where are they leading you? Reimagine the structures of Dante's epic to write your own poem about a journey, whether it's deep into the underworld or just down to the corner shop. Delivered by Maya Little from TORCH.

INTERACTIVE TALK
DANTE'S WOMEN, WHO WOULD YOU SAVE?
Level G, Gallery 11. What makes a character worthy of Paradise or fit for the fires of Hell? Dante specialists Drs Rebecca Bowen and Nicolò Crisafi present an interactive engagement with the biggest ethical question of the *Divine Comedy* by asking participants: who would you save? Presented by Dr Rebecca Bowen, Retained Lecturer in Italian (Pembroke College, Oxford) and Dr Nicolò Crisafi, Teaching and Research Fellow in Italian (Pembroke College, Cambridge). Talks at 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm. Please note this is limited to 20 people per session on a first come first served basis.

STREET ART WORKSHOP
Level -1, Education Centre. Come along and create Dante inspired street art with Dr Macs Smith. This activity will run throughout the evening from 5pm. Slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

BOOK STAND
Level G, Galley 22. Professor Peter Hainsworth and Samuel Fanous present several recent publications on Dante.

DIGITAL DISPLAY
TORCH intern Shae Moors, an Activate College student, responds to Dante. Welcome Area display screens.

ART DISPLAY
Level 1, Gallery 31. From The Cherwell School in Oxford. Students from Year 7 – Year 13 have taken part in the Dante Festival Challenge to reimagine Dante's *Inferno* in the modern age.

General entry is FREE, but booking is required. Dressing up encouraged! Separate tickets required for the TOKYO exhibition

ashmolean.org/lates
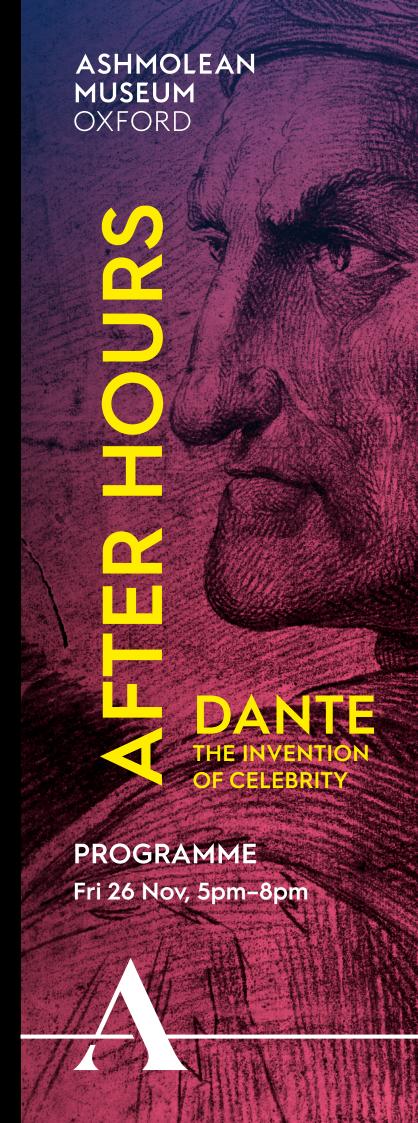
Scan the code to tell us what you think about tonight's event

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM OXFORD

AFTER HOURS

DANTE
THE INVENTION OF CELEBRITY

PROGRAMME
Fri 26 Nov, 5pm–8pm

BITE-SIZE TALKS
LEVEL -1, LECTURE THEATRE

5.30PM: 'ENTHOUSANDING' WORDS. DANTE INVENTOR OF LANGUAGE AT THE END OF THE *PARADISO*

Dante's 'travel report' of the afterlife is a unique poetic enterprise. The third part of this journey – *Paradiso* – poses an extreme challenge: finding the words to represent a dimension which is beyond humanity, space, and time. Amongst the many strategies that Dante adopts to try and give an idea of the inexpressible, the most fascinating one is undoubtedly the invention of special new words. By looking at some of these heavenly verbs, we will see how Dante, in attempting to bridge the infinite gap between human and divine, at the same time declares his failure and reaches one of the highest points ever attained by poetry.
Dr Serena Vandi, Powys Roberts Research Fellow in European Literature, St Hugh's College

6PM: DANTE AND THE INVENTION OF CELEBRITY

An introduction to the **Dante and the Invention of Celebrity** exhibition exploring the narrative of the show through a selection of objects.
Professor Gervase Rosser, Professor of the History of Art, Ertegun Director and Fellow of St Catherine's College

6.30PM: TRANSLATING THE LANGUAGE OF EDEN

In the heights of *Paradiso*, Dante encounters the soul of Adam, the first human. He asks him a question that he had been pondering for a long time: what language was spoken in the Garden of Eden? Amazingly, Adam replies that that language had been entirely lost even before the Tower of Babel. All he tells Dante is that the word for God is signalled in manuscripts of the *Commedia* by a vertical or slightly slanting line. But what would it have sounded like? Is it a translation into Italian? And how might it be translated into English? Join me to try to recover this fragment of the language of Eden.
Professor Matthew Reynolds, Professor of English and Comparative Criticism; Tutorial Fellow, St Anne's College

7PM: "THESE DIRTY AVENUES TO FAME": CELEBRITY AND SCANDAL IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY NEWSPAPERS

In the second half of the eighteenth century Britain was flooded with new print media trading in scurrilous stories about the rich and famous. This talk will introduce some of the most notorious scandal sheets of this period, explain why regulating gossip was so politically contentious, and give a guide to reading the codes and puzzles of one 1780s newspaper page.
Dr Ruth Scobie, Stipendary Lecturer in English, Mansfield College

7.30PM: THE ICON, THE EXILE: DANTE AND ITALIAN STREET ART

Why are Italian street artists interested in Dante Alighieri? In recent years, his face and scenes from the Divine Comedy have appeared in paste-ups and murals across Italy, and he has even had a major street art exhibition dedicated to him. In these works of art, we find two visions of Dante: the national icon and the exile. Touching on 19th-century nationalism, Italian fascism, and the contemporary refugee crisis, this talk will show how street art fits into the long history of art inspired by Dante, and it will examine what new perspectives on Dante are emerging from this encounter between a medieval poet of the eternal and contemporary artists of the ephemeral.
Dr Macs Smith, Career Development Fellow in French at the Queen's College

PERFORMANCES

AI-DA, THE WORLD'S FIRST HUMANOID ROBOT, PRESENTED BY THE HUMANITIES CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Ai-Da has contributed works to the Ashmolean Exhibition **Dante - The Invention of Celebrity** (Level – 1, Gallery 8). This includes palimpsest works, featuring portraits of Beatrice and Dante in the *Paradiso*, and a lenticular artwork reflecting on the blindness of human progress when pursued at any cost in our technological age.

5.10PM: IN CONVERSATION WITH AI-DA

Ai-Da, the world's first humanoid artist-robot, fields questions from children at Cheney School and the Rumble Museum. Level 2, Gallery 44. Gallery space is limited for this event and available on a first come first served basis.

6.15PM & 7.15PM: AI-DA ON DANTE

Ai-Da performs poetry in response to Dante's *Divine Comedy* and her creators, Aidan Meller and Lucy Seal, tell us more about the world's first humanoid artist-robot. Level 2, Gallery 44. Gallery space is limited for this event and available on a first come first served basis. Ai-Da's performance at 6.15pm will be livestreamed to the Atrium window.

DANTE'S TROUBADOURS: A LECTURE-RECITAL

This lecture-recital will take you back to the sound world that fired Dante's poetic imagination. We will encounter some of the most famous poetic figures of his day: the troubadours. First, Bertran de Born, whom Dante meets in Hell on account of his divisive poetry; then Arnaut Daniel, who is purging his lust in the fires of Purgatory; and finally Folquet de Marselha, who appears in the Heaven of Venus, 'the lovely planet that strengthens us to love'.
Lachlan Hughes, Stipendiary Lecturer in Italian, St Hilda's College; and Joseph W. Mason, Junior Research Fellow, New College. Performances at 5.30pm, 6.20pm and 7pm. Level 1, Gallery 33.

SPESSE FIATE

Students Piers Kennedy (DPhil, Music Faculty) and Rowan Ireland (UG, Ruskin Schools of Art) present a light-hearted audio visual reimaging of Dante's sonnet *Spesse fiate*. 5.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm. Level -1, Gallery 5.

ATRIUM
Enjoy performances all evening in the Atrium

5PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs a programme inspired by Dante.
Telemann - Suite in A minor for Strings and Recorder

5.25PM: Oxford Festival of the Arts presents *La Divina Commedia* performed by renowned Italian dance company NoGravity. NoGravity's style embraces illusion, sculpture and aerial dance. (Atrium window).

5.45PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs.
Elliott Park – Song of the Olive Garden (orch. E. Park)

6.15PM: Ai-Da on Dante (Atrium window - livestreamed).

7PM: Inner Peace Records perform original music plus improv rap inspired by Dante.

7.20PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs.

Lobo	Versa est in luctum
McDowell	The lord is good
Gesualdo	Tenebrae responsories for Maundy Thursday, first nocturn
Tallis	Te lucis