

# ASHMOLEAN

# AFTER HOURS CARPE DIEM

5-8PM, FRI 25 OCT



## PROGRAMME

This event is organised in collaboration with TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) as part of the Humanities Cultural Programme.



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

## PERFORMANCES

### Atrium

Enjoy musical performances all evening in the atrium from Harpist Jane Coulcher, and the Ozymandias String Trio, an ensemble based at University College, who will be exploring music accompanying dining throughout history.

Look out for our Roman life re-enactors during the evening too: Marcus Alpius Peregrinus - Centurion in the 2nd Legion Augusta, and Martia Martina - Servant girl to Rufus Marcus Comitalis.

## BITE-SIZED TALKS

### Level -1, Lecture Theatre

#### 5.45pm: Last Supper in Pompeii

An introduction to the Pompeii Exhibition exploring the narrative of the show through a selection of highlighted objects.

*Ilaria Perzia, Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum*

#### 6.15pm: Gorgons, Gods and Gladiators: How to decorate a Pompeian wall

This interactive talk will explore the myths, legends and scenes of daily life that Romans painted and scratched onto the walls of their houses. Surviving examples from Pompeii and the wider Roman Empire allow us to glimpse into the minds of Roman homeowners and look at graffiti in a whole new way.

*Dr Alison Pollard, Assistant Curator, Ashmolean Museum and Lecturer at St John's College, Oxford*

#### 6.45pm: Supping and Sacrificing in Pompeii's Gardens

Learn about Roman feasting and the importance of the Roman garden through archaeological evidence from garden dining spaces in Pompeii's houses, restaurants and tombs.

*Janet Dunkelbarger, Doctoral candidate, University of Virginia*

#### 7.15pm: The Meaning of Carpe Diem

How "seize the day" doesn't get *close* to capturing the power of the poet Horace's words. And that's even before we realise that the words come from a love poem and are all about seduction... A quick introduction to the artistry of the greatest wordsmith in Roman poetry.

*Dr Llewelyn Morgan, Classics Fellow, Oxford University*

#### 7.45pm: Discovering the identity of plants in Art

We are surrounded by artistic images of plants, some symbolic and decorative, while others are more functional. But how can we connect these to 'real' plants? Learn how that can be done using sixteen-century wall paintings in Oxford.

*Professor Stephen Harris, Plant Sciences, Oxford University*

## ACTIVITIES

**CASTING PLASTER VOIDS:** Join Ashmolean conservators Alex Baldwin and Stephen Ward for a demonstration of casting plaster from moulds. Learn how excavators at Pompeii recreated human figures from the voids in the volcanic ash, see how conservators cast missing parts of objects, and watch them cast plaster fruits from moulds.

Level -1, Education Centre.

Demonstrations at 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 7.30pm

**SENSING THE PAST: THE LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII:**

Prepare yourself for a sensory exploration and join Dr Paula Lock to discover the whiffs and wonders of wining and dining at Pompeii. Take in the heady scent of spiced wine, get to grips with a crusty Roman loaf and brace yourself for the unforgettable aroma of fish sauce — the ancients' condiment of choice.

Level -1, Café

**BOOK CORNER:** *How We Fell in Love with Italian Food* by Diego Zancani: A book for the historian, as well as the cook. Beautifully illustrated and interspersed with some classic recipes, it explores the contribution the Romans have had on British cuisine. Come and meet the author, Professor of Medieval and Modern Languages, Diego Zancani, and pick up some new recipe tips and ideas. Books will be available to buy in the shop, priced at £25.

Level -1, Shop

**DISCOVER ROME – SKETCHING ACTIVITY:**

**Audience:** ideally 7 years above but all levels of sketchers welcome. Come and take part in a sketching activity with a difference! This activity invites the visitor to get hands on with history and sketch from the wonderful array of objects on display. Each session will start with a short introduction to the gallery alongside handling some key objects. Artist Amanda Beck will be there to share sketching techniques, encouraging you to pick up a sketchbook and draw from your favourite objects. Learn how to depict texture, materials shape and design.

Level G, Gallery 13.

Sessions at: 5.15pm, 5.45pm, 6.15pm, 6.45pm, 7.15pm

**DEATH AND DESTRUCTION:** Learn how different volcanic elements of the eruption of Vesuvius interacted with the doomed city of Pompeii. From the earthquakes acting as a warning prior to the event, through to the burial of the city, find out what happened to Pompeii during the eruption and how we know what happened on that day.

Level G, Gallery 20

**POMPEIAN STREET MARKET:** Join students from Cheney School and Rumble Museum to experience the sights and sounds of a Pompeian street, with activity stalls including jewellery-making and mosaic-making. There will also be performances of Roman street speakers and music, the chance to explore a large model of the House of the Tragic Poet, and artefact-handling with some of the Rumble Museum's Roman collection.

Level G, Gallery 21

**MEET THE RESEARCHERS:** Come and meet our researchers throughout the evening following the bite-sized talk sessions. They will be happy to answer any questions and tell you more about their exciting work.

Level 1, Gallery 31

**EXPLORE ANCIENT ROME:** Take a guided tour around ancient Rome with expert Dr Matthew Nicholls, using his detailed and award-winning 3D digital model of the city.

Projection in central Atrium area, meet the researcher on Level 1, Gallery 31

**MEMORY AND THE ANCIENT MIND:** You may have come across the idea of the 'memory palace' from programmes such as Sherlock and Hannibal, but the idea was born in ancient Greece. Dan Holloway is a competitive memory athlete, three times Creative Thinking World Champion, and researcher into medieval and ancient memory techniques who will teach you how to build your own memory palace. Children welcome.

Level 1, Gallery 30.

Sessions every 30 minutes from 5pm

## ALSO ON TONIGHT

**UNCOMFORTABLE OXFORD TOURS:** run by Oxford students will be starting at 18.00pm and 18.15pm from the entrance to the Randolph Sculpture Gallery.

Tours are currently fully booked but to join the waiting list please visit the After Hours event via the Ashmolean website or speak to a team member on the night.

**POP-UP EXHIBITION:** The Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics will have a pop-up exhibition displayed in the alcove by the café throughout the evening. Stop by to view the images and meet the researchers involved.

General entry is FREE, but booking is required.

Separate tickets required for exhibition entry.

[ashmolean.org/pompeiafterhours](http://ashmolean.org/pompeiafterhours)