

Piergroup Study Trip
London
15-19 August 2022



The British
Museum

The study trip is funded by the British Museum, as part of the touring exhibition *Pushing paper contemporary drawing from 1970 to now*, generously supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation, supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe. Ferry travel has been sponsored by NorthLink Ferries



Travel, Amazing, Highlands

Long, Books, Train

Monday 15th August

After months of discussion and planning, we were finally aboard the early morning (6.30am) sailing of the MV Hamnavoe across the Pentland Firth to Scrabster and the north east of Scotland, to start our journey to central London. An eventful bus journey through a foggy landscape took us to Inverness. We had arranged to visit WASPS new Creative Academy, where Kirsten Body, one of the artists based there, gave us a guided tour through the artists' studios and facilities. A surprise delight was Leaky's second-hand bookshop, where the realisation and awareness that our bags might already be too small began to emerge! After a fine dinner, we set off for the station ready to board the Caledonian Sleeper.

Travelling, Ice-cream, Bookshop

Where's William?

Over the course of the next five days we would be seeing some extraordinary art, from the ancient to the contemporary and visiting some of the world's leading art galleries and museums, in particular the British Museum.



Where did we go?

Leaky's Bookshop
WASPS Inverness Creative
Academy, Leaky's Bookshop
Caledonian Sleeper



What will we remember most?

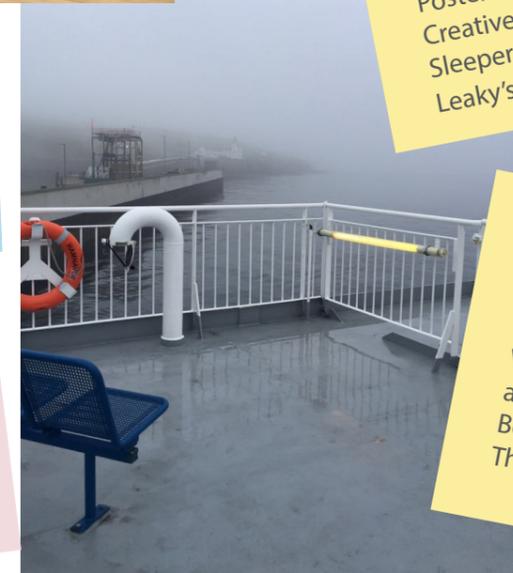
Poster hall of Inverness
Creative Academy
Sleeper train
Leaky's Bookshop

What did we see?

Thurso, Wick, towns and buildings
of Highland rich heritage
Inverness – an incredible city
Inverness Creative Academy
Great work by Clare Blois,
Fiona Matheson, Dot Walker,
Ian Whyte

What did we like least?

Noisy bus
Noisy women on bus – glad of my
headphones!
Getting a bit lost on the way to the
Creative Academy
Coach travel – tough to sleep



What was best about today?

Sitting drawing on the picnic
bench before our meal
Visiting the second-hand books
and prints shop
Bookstore
The Sleeper



Big, Awesome, Ramen

Tuesday 16th August

We arrived off the Caledonian Sleeper at Euston Station just after 8am, and revived with some breakfast we headed out into the bright sunshine and our first encounter with London heat! A short walk to King's Cross and we were on a number 61 London double decker taking us south and over the river on Blackfriars Bridge. We had splendid views of the city skyline, clocking well-known landmarks like the London Eye and the Shard.

Having deposited our bags at our accommodation, we set off for the Victoria and Albert Museum. We all had particular interests of what we wanted to see – and some of us managed to also take in the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum – all part of the museum complex at South Kensington.

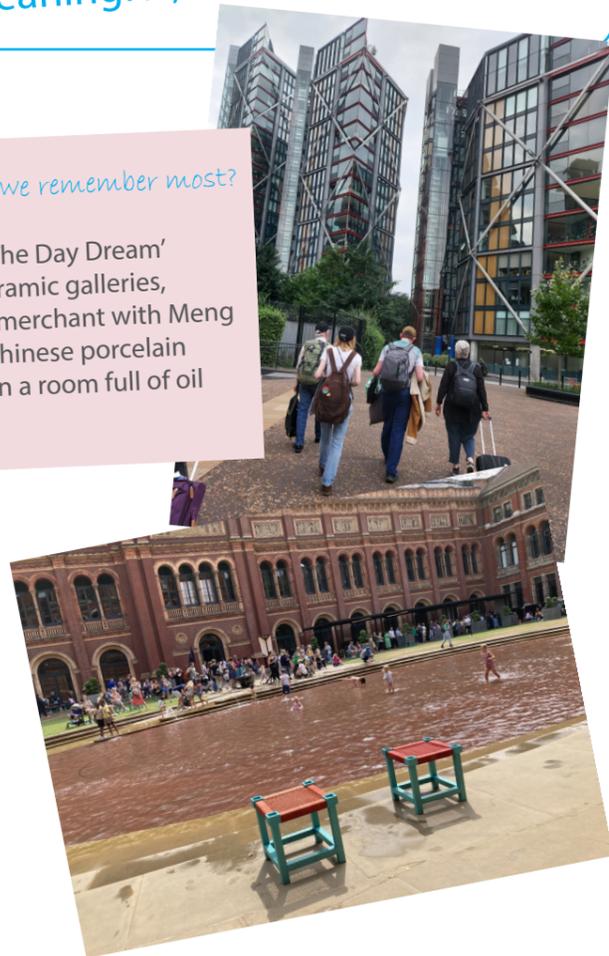
V&A, Busy, Saké

Oriental, Meaningful, 'Brave New World'



What will we remember most?

Rossetti's 'The Day Dream'
Chinese ceramic galleries,
Visit to art merchant with Meng
A case of Chinese porcelain
exhibited in a room full of oil
paintings



What did we like least?

Lack of air-con
The rain
Hot
Heat



What was best about today?

Beatrix Potter exhibition at the V&A;
Seeing Rossetti's 'The Day Dreamer'
I learned how to use chopsticks
Japanese noodle bar
Looking at the ceramics collection at the V&A
I enjoyed the photography exhibition
'Known and Strange'; it was interesting to
hear so many different inspirations
The imperial dragon robe and hall of
merchant Asian art
The rain, the V&A, sneaking out and getting
wine

What did we see?

V&A, the Cut, Africa Fashion,
Theatre bookshop
V&A stuff, space stuff, Hello Kitty fashion
Costumes from ballet and film

All the museums, Harrods

An imperial embroidered, yellow
ground, twelve symbol dragon robe
– jifu; jifu is the robe that nobles and
officers wear on more formal occasions.
Yellow is the colour of an imperial.
An imperial robe needs two years to
be embroidered, and cost 1000 ling,
costing 6000 GBP as of today, and
emperors only wore them once. We also
saw a chair cover with gold thread, very
eye-catching



Where did we go?

We went to the V&A, where we
were able to break up and wander
around - worked well for our first
day!

Merchant Asian Art
Calder bookshop and theatre



What was best about today?

The Prints and Drawing room at the British Museum

Van Gogh drawing, more wonderful and bigger than anticipated (I thought it would be good!)

Feminine Power exhibition, in particular seeing Waterhouse's 'Circe' (has been a favourite painting of mine for a while)

I loved our walk back through Trafalgar Square

Isabel's tour of the exhibition – emerging artists, her insight and thinking

The layout of the selected drawings in the study room

I enjoyed our walk around Covent Gardens and our lovely dinner together

Drawing, Amazing, Soho Privileged, Overwhelmed, Camaraderie

Wednesday 17th August

Today was the highlight of our trip – as special visitors to the Prints and Drawings Study Room at the British Museum. We were welcomed by Alice Christian, Isabel Seligman and Ashley Almedia and some of the young people on the BM youth programme.

We had been invited to request particular drawings and prints to view from the vast collections. We were all overwhelmed by the experience of seeing these so close up, and having expert insight on each of them provided by Isabel.

During the afternoon, we found our own particular favourite displays within the Museum and ended our afternoon in the Museum Tavern taking shelter from the torrential rain that had broken in the late afternoon.

An unexpected treat was a visit to Cornelissen and Son, which Andrew told us was Sylvia Wishart's favourite art shop! Fully inspired by our BM experience, we all bought new sketchbooks, drawing and other art materials.

Our day was rounded off with a very tasty meal in Chinatown, and a late night walk back to our accommodation through Trafalgar Square and Westminster, taking in a few more well-known landmarks!

British Museum, Cornelissen Leonardo Da Vinci, Tang Yin

What will we remember most?

Seeing Tracy Emin mono-print next to Michelangelo Study for Adam
The drawing by Leonardo da Vinci
Taking a picture with 'Portrait of an Official in Front of Beijing Forbidden City'
Wonderful meal together and walk back through London
The drawings
So many things but especially Jacopo de Barbari's woodcut, 'Bird's Eye View of Venice'
Walking back after dinner along the river
Meng treating us to Bubble tea!



What did we see?

Emerging artists exhibition
Prints and Drawings Study room
Barbara Hepworth, Michelangelo, Henry Moore drawings;
All of the drawing room experience was amazing
Drawing by Leonardo Da Vinci out of his era; drawing by Michelangelo out of this world;
Thatched cottage in the Western mountains;
Dynasty imperial collection for more than 200 years;
Portrait of an official in front of Beijing Forbidden City

Where did we go?

British Museum, Camera Museum, Museum Tavern, L. Cornelissen & Son, Covent Garden, Muji

British Museum Prints & Drawings Study Room
Asian Study Room
Chinese Ceramics Room

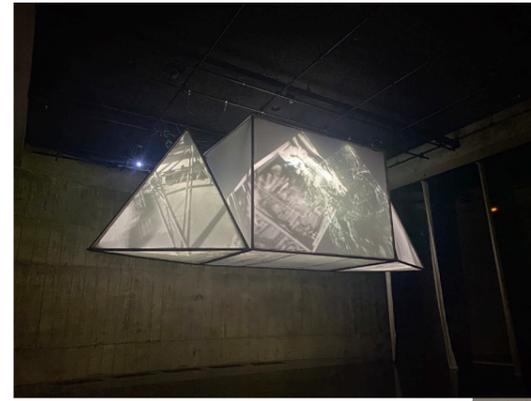
Soho, Big Ben, Chinatown

What did we like least?

Rain
Needing a pee
That I didn't buy more stuff in Cornelissen and Son

What did we see?

Obliteration Room (Tate Modern)
Amazing JWM Turner painting collection
London from Greenwich Park; 'painting has the power to let us think about us as a time traveller' Emily Kame Kngwarreye
A Ben Nicholson work in Tate Britain
Ted Joans – surrealist artist



Where did we go?

Tate Modern
The Obliteration Room
River taxi down the River Thames
Tate Britain
Taxi
Gatwick Airport,
Inverness Airport
Courtyard Hotel

Tate Modern, Dots,

JWM Turner, Surrealism, London

Thursday 18th August

Our last day in London, curtailed by the rail strike, but we managed to cram an awful lot into it! Tate Modern and the Yayoi Kusama Obliteration Room; and a meet up with Tate Young People's programmers, followed by boat bus to Tate Britain. Thanks to the Pier partnership with Plus Tate, we had complimentary tickets to several of the temporary displays and time to do some personal research at both galleries.

A long taxi ride took us to Gatwick and a flight to Inverness where we were to stay overnight.

River Boat, Flight, Flying

What will we remember most?

Dots (Kusama installation)
Hugh Locke installation – incredible!
Seeing Ben Nicholson work in Tate Britain, making parallels with the Pier Arts Centre collection
Cornelia Parker photogravures

What was best about today?

JWM Turner collection at Tate Britain
The Obliteration Room
Dots, dots and more dots!
Cornelia Parker – back of button cards;
Comfy hotel at end of the day's travel

What did we like least?

Queuing
Not having a big enough bag!
Not enough time to watch films in
Cornelia Parker's exhibition
Almost lost my flight ticket





What did we see?
 Handmade prints
 Artwork by artists of the Highlands
 Old Man of Hoy



What was best about today?
 Seeing the print making process
 I enjoyed getting up early and exploring Inverness
 Highland Printmakers – John's dodgy stories!



Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone who has made this trip possible: The Bridget Riley Art Foundation, supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe for their generous funding that enabled the trip to take place; Isabel, Alice, Ashley and Maria at the British Museum. Ese and Kneau at Tate Modern; Ceri at Plus Tate for organising complimentary tickets; Kirsten at Inverness Creative Academy; John and Alison at Highland Print Studio and NorthLink Ferries for their sponsorship of our ferry travel. We especially thank staff at the Pier Arts Centre for their careful and considerate organisation of the trip and giving us such a fantastic opportunity.

Duncan, Meng, Louise, Molly and Beccy
 as a memento, we all decorated this fan with highlights of the trip

Hotel, Breakfast, M&S

Friday 19th August

We headed into Inverness from the airport hotel to Highland Print Studio. We were able to see a photoetching being proofed by senior technician John McNaught working with photographer Craig Easton. We managed to squeeze a visit into Inverness Art Gallery and Museum, before heading to the bus station and boarding a very busy bus back north to Scrabster, and the final leg of our journey – back on the Hamnavoe to Stromness!

Prints & Printmaking

Old Man of Hoy, Ferry & Home

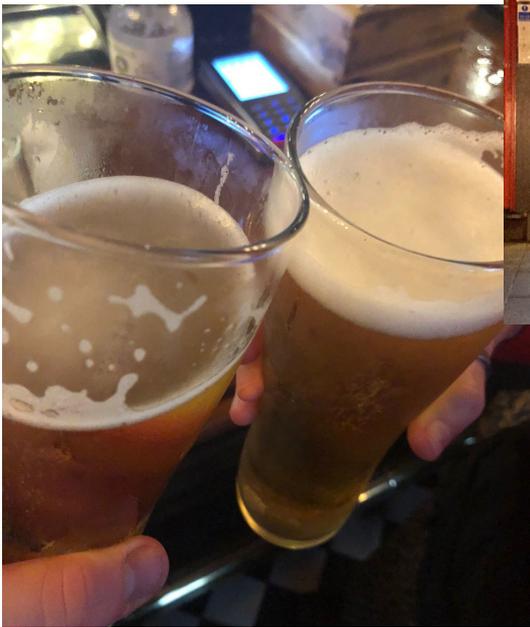


What will we remember most?
 John's printing – definitely giving it a go in the future!
 Old Man of Hoy

Where did we go?
 Highland Print Studios,
 M&S
 Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
 MV Hamnavoe

What did we like least?
 Bus home
 Going home
 Piling onto bus at station
 Feeling Seasick





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