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## ***DRAWN THROUGH TIME: MAJOR FREE EXHIBITION OPENS AT LAKESIDE ARTS***

Saturday 9 May – Sunday 26 July 2026

Launch event: Friday 8 May, 6-8pm

Lakeside Arts, Djanogly Gallery, University of Nottingham

Free Admission

**PRESS PREVIEW: Friday 8 May, 11am**

Images available [here](#).

A major new free exhibition is set to open in Nottingham this spring, offering visitors a rare chance to experience art as a journey across centuries. *Drawn Through Time: Penny McCarthy, Titian, and Other Time Travellers* opens at Lakeside Arts' Djanogly Gallery from 9 May to 26 July 2026. From Renaissance inspiration to contemporary imagination, the exhibition at the University of Nottingham's arts centre invites audiences to see drawing in a whole new way.

At the heart of the exhibition is British artist Penny McCarthy, whose meticulously detailed drawings explore how the past resonates through the present and into the future. Her delicate works consider how time becomes embedded in historic material, and how it shapes our engagement with past objects, artworks, and ideas. McCarthy is celebrated for her intricately researched drawing practice, recognised by the Henry Moore Foundation, Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England. She is Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University.

The project began at Sheffield's Graves Gallery, where McCarthy spent long periods engaging with a rarely seen 16th century woodcut by Renaissance master Titian. This epic work – on display in Nottingham for the first time – depicts the biblical submersion of the Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. Comprising 12 parts, the woodcut is remarkable for its attempt to function at the scale of a history painting, a medium traditionally regarded as superior to drawing. McCarthy brought together drawings created in response to the Titian with earlier works exploring how drawing directly from historic artworks affects both how we see the original and how we understand the passing of time. These works culminated in her exhibition *Penny McCarthy: How to Look Through Time* at Sheffield's Graves Gallery last year.

McCarthy said: "*I'm delighted to present Drawn Through Time in Nottingham. This exhibition traces the quiet threads that bind works across generations and histories, shaped through ongoing conversations between artists and audiences. As these interconnected pieces gather, they reveal a delicate interplay between past and present – where ideas are not fixed, but carried, transformed, and reimagined across time.*"

0115 846 7777 | [lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk)  
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

The Nottingham exhibition is a newly expanded version of the Sheffield show. For the first time, five additional artists, each highly skilled in using drawing to explore the past, are presented in dialogue with McCarthy and Titian.

James Pyman is known for his detailed, story-driven drawings that blur the lines between fine art, comics, and film. His recreations of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century comics and historic novels bring a contemporary edge, with works on display including his recent illustrations for Dracula.

The exhibition also reflects a broader conversation around memory and lived experience, particularly in works by Billy Hughes, whose photorealistic drawings reinterpret found photographs from instruction manuals and non-conformist religious rituals. Hughes also uses AI to project existing drawings into imagined futures.

George Shaw (Turner Prize nominee, 2011) has devoted his career to depicting the Coventry estate where he grew up, finding beauty in everyday life through deeply personal recollection. Best known for his depictions of working-class life, Shaw's work is grounded in memory and place. His works in this exhibition were created towards his major National Gallery show *My Back to Nature* (2016). In these drawings, Shaw reimagines the forests of classical Italian paintings from the National Gallery's collections through the wooded areas surrounding his housing estate – both sites of fear, excitement, surprise, and awakening.

Emma Kay challenges the boundaries and reliability of memory by redrawing maps of the world and rewriting texts from the Bible and on the future entirely from memory, revealing the inevitable inaccuracies involved. Artist Jonathan Owen pushes this idea further using erasure as a form of drawing: he removes figures from historic printed images and meticulously rubs out, leaving behind parts of the original image to create new images.

Visitors can expect a mindful experience that explores how artists “travel through time” through drawing, by revisiting old master techniques, reworking memories, or inventing new visual worlds. The exhibition offers an inviting space for both seasoned art lovers and first-time visitors to reconnect with drawing, the foundation of so much artistic practice.

Ashley Gallant, Head of Visual Arts at Lakeside Arts said “*We are thrilled to bring this work to Nottingham. Drawing has always been at the core of artistic practice – whether in fine art, architecture or fashion design – yet it is often overlooked compared to painting. After the success of our Warhol exhibition, which explored an artist who sought to remove the presence of the artist's hand, it feels especially exciting to spotlight artists who place drawing at the heart of their work. I hope visitors experience what I did when first seeing these pieces: total disbelief at their skill and beauty, and a desire to go and draw myself.*”

A programme of related events will run alongside the exhibition, including a creative writing session, a singing workshop, and a conversation between George Shaw and Penny McCarthy – making it an ideal experience for families, students, and community groups.

*Drawn Through Time* runs from Saturday 9 May to Sunday 26 July 2026, with a free launch event on Friday 8 May, 6-8pm. Entry is free, and visitors can book related events and learn more at [lakesidearts.org.uk/DrawnThroughTime](https://lakesidearts.org.uk/DrawnThroughTime)

-- ENDS --

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Managers Mária Konyeliccka-Visky [maria.konyeliccka-visky@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:maria.konyeliccka-visky@nottingham.ac.uk) and Amy Steels [amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:amy.steels@nottingham.ac.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham**

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts, manuscripts and museum exhibitions, as well as music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery, opened in 1992, that stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures and learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *Material Worlds* (2025), *Cosmic Titans* (2024-2025), *Saad Qureshi: Conversations Before the End of Time* (2024), *Reimag(in)ing the Victorians* (2023-2024), *Rhythm & Geometry: Constructivist Art in Britain Since 1951* (2023), *Michael Forbes: Blk this & Blk that... a state of urgency* (2022).

[lakesidearts.org.uk](http://lakesidearts.org.uk) | Facebook and Instagram: @LakesideArts

### **Sheffield Museums**

Sheffield Museums is the independent charity that operates six of the city's leading museums and heritage sites: Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Graves Gallery, Kelham Island Museum, Millennium Gallery, Shepherd Wheel Workshop and Weston Park Museum.

Established in 2021, the charity cares for the city's collections. We work with our communities to tell remarkable stories of Sheffield and its people, and celebrate its reputation for excellence in craft, making and innovation. Together with local, regional and national partners, we showcase home-grown creative talent and bring outstanding cultural experiences to the city.

### **Penny McCarthy**

After studying Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University, Penny began her career as a Henry Moore Fellow in Drawing. She has received recognition from the Henry Moore Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Arts Council England and Arts and Humanities Research Council. Her projects have been shown in *Ulysse(s): L'autre mer*, at the FRAC, Rennes, France, *Nothing is Forever*, South London Gallery, and *On The Image* at Venice International University, San Servolo, Venice (2017). Penny was awarded the Evelyn Williams Drawing Prize at the Trinity Wharf Drawing Prize in 2019 leading to her solo exhibition at Hastings Contemporary in 2022. She will exhibit a new body of work as a solo exhibition in with Sheffield Millennium Galleries in 2025. Penny lives and works in Sheffield (UK) where she is a Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University.

In her teaching role at SHU, she leads the MFA Fine Art course, alongside PhD supervision in Art and Design.

## LISTING INFORMATION

**Exhibition Dates:** Saturday 9 May – Sunday 26 July 2026

**Opening Hours:** Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm | Sunday 12noon-4pm (Closed Mondays)

**Address:** Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

**Admission:** Free

**Events:** For talks and events please book online or call the Box Office on 0115 846 7777

## IMAGES

### Image credits (left to right):

1. *Crouch (Methods of Display)*, 2017 by Billy Hughes
2. *The submersion of Pharaoh's Army in the Red Sea*, c. 1549 by Titian
3. *How I wanted to be that sky – to hold every flying and falling at once*, 2021 by Penny McCarthy



## **RELATED EVENTS**

### **LAUNCH EVENT**

Friday 8 May, 6-8pm

### **TALKS**

Thought Through Time

Friday 5 June, 1-2pm

Discussion Through Time

Wednesday 24 June, 1-2pm

### **WORKSHOPS**

Writing Through Time

Saturday 6 Jun 2026, 2-4pm

Sung Through Time

Wednesday 10 June, 6-9pm

### **GALLERY TOURS**

Led by Ashley Gallant

1-2pm

Saturday 16 May – BSL interpreted

Friday 29 May

Saturday 6 June