

Mr Doodle! Museum Mayhem

Exhibition dates 3 May–1 September, 2024

Venue The Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, Bath, BA2 4DB

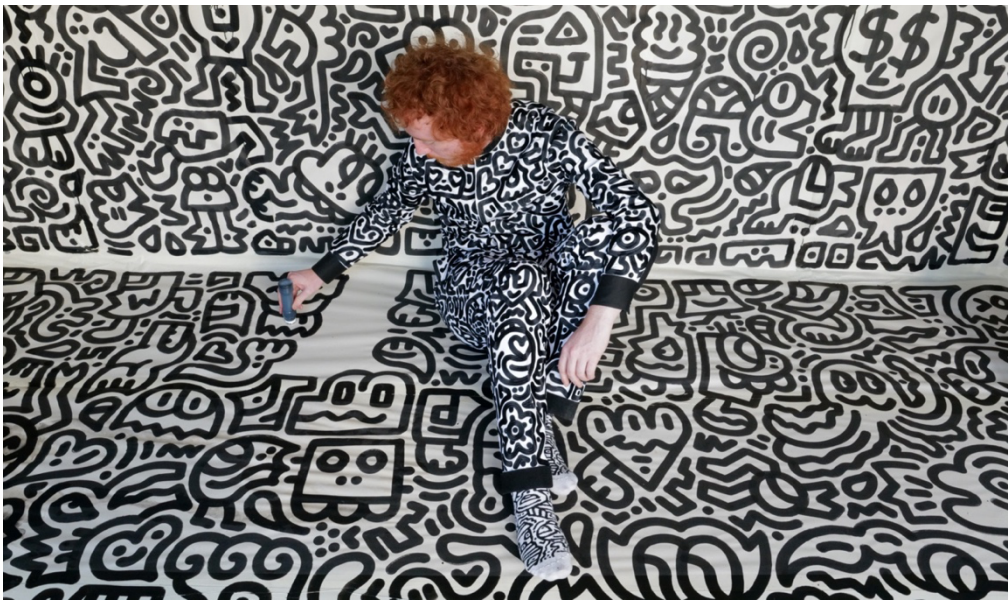


Image credit: Photography by Morgan Davies © Mr Doodle

Bath—The Holburne Museum in Bath is proud to present the first ever UK museum exhibition of internationally renowned artist and internet sensation, Mr Doodle.

While his 2.9 million Instagram followers are familiar with Mr Doodle's graffiti art of his clothes, car and home, inside and out, few have seen his personal sketchbooks which are overflowing with his extraordinary doodles.

The selection of Mr Doodle's sketchbooks, going back to his teenage years, will provide the starting point for a show that will fill the gallery and spread across the walls, floor and ceiling of the Holburne Museum and beyond.

Primarily characterised by black ink on a white background, Mr Doodle's graphic style conjures up a mesmerising world of quirky creatures and anthropomorphic forms, using ink pens and spray paint to intricately weave together what he describes as "graffiti spaghetti". These free-hand doodles emerge from Mr Doodle's pen with a fluid, hypnotic rhythm, filling sketchbooks and canvases with his imagined land, and when these surfaces become too restrictive, the doodles spill out to cover the surfaces of the world.

His work builds on the narrative of DoodleLand, telling the story of Mr Doodle's life and his doodle family, including his evil twin Mas (aka Dr Scribble) and the Anti-Doodle Squad who intervene in his attempts to achieve his ultimate mission to doodle over the entire planet.

Part of this mission includes doodle interventions that will appear throughout the museum's permanent collection, temporarily replacing a number of paintings and decorative objects with doodled canvases and 3-D sculptures inspired by their surroundings. These new works will open a dialogue between the museum's historic collection and Mr Doodle's distinctive drawing style, enabling visitors to see these artworks in an entirely new context. Doodles will also pop up throughout the rest of the building in unexpected places including in the lift and along the café windows.

The exhibition will also spill into the wider city. Mr Doodle will be creating new site-specific work to occupy some of the main thoroughfares, including Milsom Street and Union Street. Visitors to Bath may spot the characteristic doodles on a phone box, bench seating and banners overhead. These doodles, scattered throughout the city and the museum, will help Mr Doodle get a step closer to achieving his goal to cover the planet in doodles, spreading the wonder and playfulness of his world around Bath while encouraging adults and children alike to follow in his footsteps and join him in DoodleLand.

Sam Cox, aka Mr Doodle says, "My intention has always been to create a universal doodle language that can relate to and attract people from all over the world."

Dr Chris Stephens, Director, Holburne Museum says, "At the Holburne we are working hard to present a wide and diverse range of artistic practice, and I am delighted to be the first museum in the country to present the extraordinary world of Mr Doodle."

About Mr Doodle

Mr Doodle began consuming the Earth's surface with doodles when he was born in 1994. He started out by covering his parents' furniture with doodles and eventually his whole bedroom until he realised his home wasn't a big enough canvas and he began doodling on the walls of local fast-food restaurants and schools. During his career, Mr Doodle has constructed a whole new visual phenomenon: his DoodleLand, where he manifests his vision of the world, producing dense clusters of characters, objects and patterns that grow and multiply relentlessly.

Mr Doodle began to garner recognition in the art world in 2015 and has since seen a meteoric rise in interest in his work. He stands at the forefront of a new art wave, taking the online art community by storm with a mass social media following. Truly a millennial artist, his works provoke discourse on what we consider fine art today.

Mr Doodle's works transcend beyond the canvas, invading furniture, rooms, clothing, cars, buildings and more. Like other artists of his generation, he also explored a number of collaborations with iconic brands, including Fendi, Puma, Samsung, Disney, Pac-Man, Redbull and MTV. But where Mr Doodle separates himself is in his sense of purpose: a deep and obsessive compulsion to expand and share his vision of DoodleLand. As a form of release or meditation, his process is fluid, therapeutic, uncalculated, and without hesitation, as if channelling directly from his world into ours with great stamina. He ultimately seeks to spread a sense of wonder, mayhem, and hope whilst seeking a greater understanding of his place in the universe.

About The Holburne Museum

The Holburne Museum, Great Pulteney Street, Bath, BA2 4DB
Daily 10am to 5pm (Sunday and Bank Holiday 11am to 5pm).
01225 388569
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The Holburne Museum's mission statement is 'Changing Lives Through Art', signalling its commitment to opening up the enjoyment of art to people of all ages and from every walk of life. The Holburne was founded in 1882 with the gift of Sir William Holburne's collection of 16th and 17th-century Italian and Dutch paintings, silver, sculpture, furniture, porcelain and diverse objects d'art of national and international significance. That founding gift has been augmented with a collection of 18th-century paintings by such artists as Gainsborough, Lawrence, Ramsay, Stubbs and Zoffany. Set within the historic Sydney Pleasure Gardens, the Museum reopened in May 2011 after ambitious renovations and with a new, award-winning extension by Eric Parry Architects. The Holburne has since secured a national reputation as an outstanding museum which holds critically acclaimed exhibitions. Its programme of exhibitions, commissions and events sets out to bring to Bath great art of all periods and from around the world, seeking to set the art of the past in dialogue with contemporary practice in exciting and dynamic new ways. More at <https://www.holburne.org/>

About Pearl Lam

Pearl Lam is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. Founded in 2005, the gallery plays a vital role in stimulating international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between the East and West.

Following a rigorous programme, Pearl Lam presents museum-quality exhibitions that re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice in Asia. With a thoughtfully balanced roster of Chinese and international artists, the gallery is strategic in its curation, positioning itself as an educator.

The gallery maintains a space in Hong Kong and Shanghai. With a team of international staff, Pearl Lam's reach is global, having presentations at major international art fairs including Art Cologne, Art Basel, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

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