

News Release

New exhibition at Leighton House Museum:

The Craft of Drawing and Painting: celebrating tradition today

In September, Leighton House Museum, the former home and studio of Victorian artist and P.R.A., Frederic, Lord Leighton, presents a temporary exhibition to celebrate the craft of drawing and painting. It features the work of a community of artists who trained at the first atelier founded in the UK, Lavender Hill Studios.

The exhibition, on display in the Upper Perrin Gallery of Leighton's 'private palace of art', brings together a broad body of work from delicate sketches and studies to life-size oil portraits; full colour landscapes and exquisite nudes. The collection showcases the work of established and aspiring artists all of whom have worked within the age-old atelier tradition, including Phoebe Dickinson, Rosalie Watkins and Henry Yan.

This new generation of figurative artists, whilst preserving 19th century techniques, manage to bring individuality to their work and adapt the traditional methods to a variety of styles, mediums and themes. For the first time the public will gain a thorough understanding of the artist's process, thanks to the detailed, step-by step explanations and accompanying paintings.

Ann Witheridge, artist and co-founder of Lavender Hill Studios says: *'We are really excited to be able to bring a strong didactic exhibition to the public. It re-establishes the importance of the classical techniques in producing figurative art of high quality, which is as relevant today as it always has been. I believe that visitors to the exhibition will leave with a deep appreciation for the commitment, determination and discipline of the artist and their methodologies'.*

The exhibition is complemented by an extensive programme of events, ranging from workshops, life-drawing sessions and lectures providing the visitors with an opportunity to learn about the methods used by a long line of Masters including Lord Leighton and his contemporaries.

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For further information and images please contact:
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Listings:**Exhibition: The Craft of Drawing and Painting: Celebrating Tradition Today****Dates:** From 1 September to 4 October 2015**Venue:** Leighton House Museum. Upper Perrin Gallery**Entry:** Adults £7, Concessions £5; 50% National Trust; Free with National Art Pass (Art Fund)

Ticket price includes visit to Leighton House Museum

Ticket booking: booking is not required; buy tickets at the door**More information:** www.leightonhouse.co.uk**Event: Landscape Workshop****Dates:** Wednesday 12th September 10am-1pm**Venue:** Leighton House Museum**Tickets:** Eventbrite.co.uk**Details:** Ann Witheridge co-founded Lavender Hill Studios and has been teaching Landscape Painting for 10 years. She will guide participants through the history of the genre, with an introduction to the materials and their application. There will be a demonstration and the opportunity to paint, with guidance from Ann, in the beautiful gardens of Leighton House Museum.**Event: Materials Workshop****Dates:** Saturday 16th September 11am – 3pm**Venue:** Leighton House Museum**Tickets:** Eventbrite.co.uk**Details:** Scott Pohlschmidt, co- founder of Lavender Hill Studios and Director of Lavender Hill Colours art store, shares his knowledge on the artist's materials - their composition and application and how they have evolved over time. Participants will learn how to stretch, size and prime a canvas; how to grind pigments and how to get the best out of the products available today. Be prepared for a hands-on experience!**Event: Life-Drawing****Dates:** Tuesday 22nd September 1 – 4pm**Venue:** Leighton House Museum. Leighton's studio**Tickets:** Eventbrite.co.uk**Details:** Ann Witheridge, co-founder of Lavender Hill Studios, resumes her popular life-drawing workshops at Leighton House. A unique opportunity to learn the craft of drawing and painting in the studio of the former president of the Royal Academy, with reference to the temporary exhibition.**Event: Lecture: From Pest to Palaces: The extraordinary career of Philip de Laszlo****Dates:** Tuesday 22nd September 6:30 – 8.30 pm**Venue:** Leighton House Museum. Leighton's studio**Tickets:** Eventbrite.co.uk**Details:** Sandra de Laszlo, Founding Editor of the de László Catalogue Raisonné and art historian, guides us through the life of Philip de László, from his humble beginnings in Pest to his success as an artist and his life among British aristocracy. The de Laszlo Foundation has generously supported the training of young artists within the figurative tradition, many of whom are exhibiting in the temporary exhibition.**Event: Museum Late & Live Portrait Painting Demonstration****Dates:** Thursday 24th September 6:30 – 9pm**Venue:** Leighton House Museum. Leighton's studio**Tickets:** Eventbrite.co.uk**Details:** The Lates at Leighton House provide with the chance to visit the Museum 'after hours' while enjoying a complimentary glass of wine. In September visitors will also have the opportunity to see a portrait taking shape on the canvas and witness the interaction between sitter and painter. This is a rare and delightful opportunity to catch a glimpse of the unique chemistry that brings the subject to life within the 2D realm. Visitors are welcome to ask questions and free either to stay from beginning to end or to return at intervals to chart the artist's progress. Take a peak at this [video](#) for a sense of what is to come.

NOTES TO EDITOR**About Leighton House Museum**

Located on the edge of Holland Park in Kensington, Leighton House Museum is one of the most remarkable buildings of the 19th century. Owned and operated by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the house was the former home and studio of the leading Victorian artist, Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896). The house was built to his precise requirements combining studio space with domestic accommodation and entertaining space. Originally constructed on a modest basis, it grew to become a 'private palace of art' visited by many of the great artists of the day and regarded as one of the architectural sights of London.

The Arab Hall, designed to display Leighton's priceless collection of over a thousand Islamic tiles, is the centrepiece of the house. A compelling vision of the Orient is created through the Islamic tiles, mostly brought back from Damascus in Syria, combined with the gold mosaicked interior, marble columns and golden dome. The opulence continues through the richly decorated interiors, adorned with elaborate mosaic floors and walls lined with peacock blue tiles by the ceramic artist William De Morgan. On the first floor, the grand painting studio with its great north window, dome and apse is the room in which all Leighton's important later works were produced, including the celebrated *Flaming June*. Also on the first floor, the Silk Room displays paintings by Leighton's friends and contemporaries. The house was restored to great acclaim between 2008-10, winning an RIBA award and a Europa Nostra award.

Leighton rose to become the President of the Royal Academy in 1878 and the pre-eminent classical painter of his age. He remains the only British artist to have been raised to the peerage, becoming Baron Leighton of Stretton just before he died. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral amidst great ceremony. For more information visit www.leightonhouse.co.uk

About Lavender Hill Studios

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