

# Leighton House Museum



17 May 2021

Dear all,

On Monday 17 May we celebrate the reopening of many museums in the UK, following Government plans to gradually lift Covid-19 safety measures. Art lovers and museums-goers will be reunited with extraordinary collections and new exhibitions across the country – a long-awaited moment since cultural institutions were forced to shut their doors last December.

At Leighton House and Sambourne House we continue working 'behind the scenes' and whilst we will remain closed for the next few months, exciting plans and developments are keeping us all very busy!

## Hidden Gem to National Treasure

The [major redevelopment](#) at Leighton House is making great progress. You can glimpse in the image below one of the key features of the modern wing - the brickwork rotunda containing the new lift and helical staircase which will feature [Shahrazad Ghaffari's Oneness mural](#), the first contemporary artwork on permanent display in the Museum.



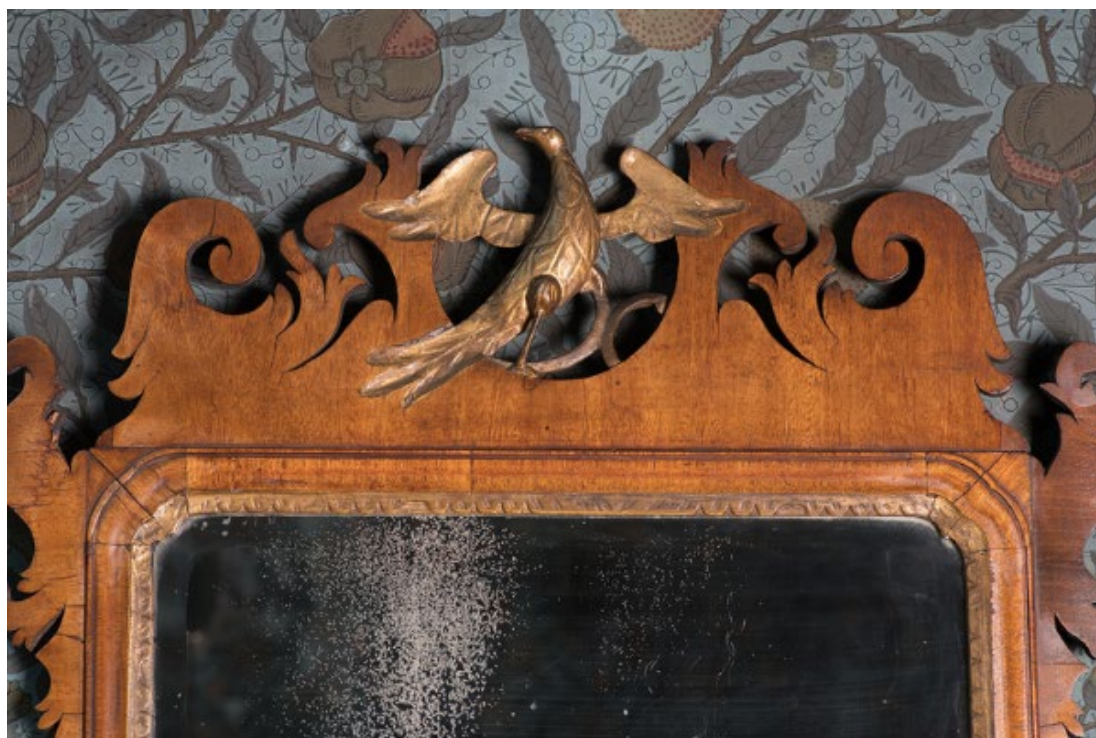
Expert conservators are working on-site, completing two delicate projects which will give new life to a pair of G.F. Watts's wall paintings originally from Little Holland House and a large altarpiece attributed to Domenico Tintoretto that was part of Leighton's original collection.

The permanent collection is being enhanced with new acquisitions, not only paintings but also iconic decorative objects that will bring the interiors of the house even closer to how they were in Leighton's time.



### Digitalisation of Sambourne House collections

Meanwhile, at Sambourne House, we are immersed in an ambitious project to photograph and digitalise hundreds of objects from the collection, capturing everything in the wonderful interiors of the home of the Sambournes - from pieces of furniture, ceramics and stained glass to everyday objects such as prayer books, fans or perfume & toiletry bottles.



We are looking forward to opening our doors in the Autumn and welcoming you all to these two unique artists' houses, presented like never before. Until then, please do explore and join our [online programme](#), with online talks, workshops and [video content](#).

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe!

Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator