

2013/14

Winter at the Bluecoat.

A busy programme of exhibitions, literature, performance, events, talks, workshops and other opportunities to join in.

Highlights include:

Fri 6 Dec 2013 - Sun 23 Feb 2014

Soft Estate: Edward Chell

with invited artists **Tim Bowditch & Nick Rochowski, Day Bowman, Jan Williams & Chris Teasdale (The Caravan Gallery), John Darwell, Laura Oldfield Ford, George Shaw, Robert Soden, Simon Woolham**

Soft Estate explores motorway landscapes and other overlooked 'in between' spaces through painting, drawing, photography and installation.

Thu 6 Feb

Paul Farley & Michael

Symmons Roberts: *Edgelands*

Presentation by two 'emissaries to the wilderness' about their critically acclaimed book exploring Britain's wastelands and non-places.

Dec
Jan
Feb



Edward Chell, 'Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*' (2013), from the exhibition *Soft Estate*. Photography by Peter Abrahams

Soft Estate: Edward Chell

M2 Junction 3 by Edward Chell



Fri 6 Dec - Sun 23 Feb Open daily 10am - 6pm. Free

With invited artists: **Tim Bowditch & Nick Rochowski, Day Bowman, Jan Williams & Chris Teasdale (The Caravan Gallery), John Darwell, Laura Oldfield Ford, George Shaw, Robert Soden, Simon Woolham**

Soft Estate features new works by Edward Chell that explore the interface between history, ecology, roads and travel. In paintings, prints, and objects, made using a variety of materials including road dust and etched car parts, he investigates motorway landscapes, linking these contemporary environments with 18th century ideas of the Picturesque.

The exhibition's title derives from the Highways Agency description of our motorway's and trunk road's natural habitats. These soft estate verges offer refuge for wildlife, a modern wilderness in the midst of intense urbanisation and agro-chemical farming.

Other artists interrogating similar 'edgelands' – familiar yet ignored spaces, neither city nor countryside – exhibit alongside and in conversation with Chell. They present juxtapositions commonly experienced in edgelands,

like beauty and pollution, wilderness and human agency.

Tim Bowditch and **Nick Rochowski** survey largely unseen pedestrian walkways beneath London's Orbital M25 using photography and sound. **Jan Williams & Chris Teasdale** travel the country with their Caravan Gallery, photographing ordinary and extraordinary details of everyday life, capturing a sense of place (or non-place).

Concrete municipal architecture and weedy waste ground are the focus for several artists. **Day Bowman's** abstract paintings become heroic gestures giving a sense of grandeur to urban wastelands, her small collages resembling 'wish you were here' mementoes or edgeland postcards. Drawings by **Laura Oldfield Ford** and **Simon Woolham** and prints by **George Shaw** engage with overlooked spaces where narratives unfold to evoke personal and collective memories.

John Darwell's photographs focus on in-between spaces used for leisure, such as allotments or spots popular with dog walkers. **Robert Soden's** paintings, created on the spot,

energetically engage with his home environment of Sunderland, recording changes wrought by redevelopment.

A publication, *Soft Estate*, focusing on Edward Chell's work in the exhibition and the research that informs it, will be launched with the exhibition. Fully illustrated, it includes a new essay by nature writer **Richard Mabey**.

Soft Estate tours to Spacex Exeter, 8 March - 3 May.

Exhibition Tours & Talks

Sat 7 Dec 2pm

Soft Estate exhibition tour

The Bluecoat's exhibitions curator **Sara-Jayne Parsons, Edward Chell** and other artists, lead a tour of *Soft Estate*.

Free, just turn up

Wed 12 Feb 6 - 7.30pm

Soft Estate Artists' Talk

Jan Williams and **Chris Teasdale** (The Caravan Gallery) and **John Darwell** talk about their work in the exhibition.

Free, booking required



Robert Soden, *Picnic River Wear*, 1983, watercolour, gouache and acrylic on Fabriano 5 paper.



Laura Oldfield Ford *M6 Junction 9, Bescot*, 2011, chalk, acrylic & ink on watercolour paper. Collection of Moses Luski.



John Darwell, *Collapsed Brussels Sprout* from the series *An Allotted Space*, chromogenic colour print.

Other Displays

Open daily 10am - 6pm.
Free

Mon 2 Dec - Sun 5 Jan

Print sale

Affordable prints created by artists working at the Bluecoat Print Studios and beyond. The perfect Christmas gift for art lovers. A contribution from sales will go to supporting our Print Studios.

Mon 6 - Wed 15 Jan

Carmel College exhibition

Carmel College Art Foundation students respond to the current exhibition, *Soft Estate* and explore the theme of 'edgelands', considering non definable physical or metaphorical spaces.

Sat 18 Jan - Sun 2 Feb

ART Valley exhibition

Over the last five years the Bluecoat, with Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatres, has worked with people of all ages in the Liverpool area formerly known as Alt Valley. This exhibition celebrates the project's achievements through documentation and artwork.

Supported by Cobalt Housing, Liverpool City Council and Arts Council England.



Tue 4 Feb - Sun 2 Mar

Blue Room exhibition

An exhibition in a variety of media created by learning disabled artists, members of our Blue Room programme. Meeting here weekly, they create their own art, inspired by our gallery exhibitions.



Winter at the Bluecoat.

This season we are delighted to introduce the first Philosopher in Residence at the Bluecoat, **Dr Panayiota Vassilopoulou** of the University of Liverpool. Over the course of a two-year programme, we will present debates, workshops and lectures that explore the meaning and value of art and how it relates to our lives.

Winter also sees a new exhibition, *Soft Estate*, which continues into the New Year. At the same time, our recent, critically acclaimed exhibition, *3am: wonder, paranoia and the restless night*, is on tour to Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff (13 December - 2 March), then to Penzance and Hull - bringing the show to new audiences across the country, and realising our ambition to extend the reach of the Bluecoat beyond our home in School Lane.

Plans to bring the Bluecoat's work out to people and communities have been given real encouragement in the form of new funding from the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** which will allow our participation team to work with children in six areas across Liverpool for a three-year period.

This programme arises from the success of two well-established projects. Community arts programme **ART Valley** was set up in partnership with Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatres in 2009, working with Liverpool City Council, Cobalt Housing and the NHS to support regeneration through the arts. To mark its fifth anniversary, we host an exhibition which runs from 18 Jan - 2 Feb. **Blue Room** is our longstanding, weekly programme for learning disabled adults who create artwork in response to our exhibitions, and help design and deliver activities for children and families. A selection of works is exhibited 2 Feb - 2 Mar.

We hope to see you at the Bluecoat over Christmas and in the New Year!

Mary Cloake
Chief Executive

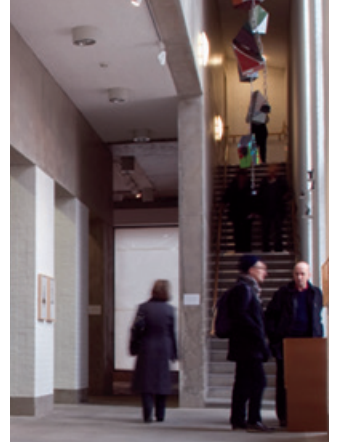


Wed 27 Nov 6.30pm

Leaving Traces: Reflecting on the Value of Art

In her inaugural lecture, the Bluecoat's Philosopher in Residence, **Dr Panayiota Vassilopoulou** (University of Liverpool), will explore the meaning and value of art works and how they relate to our lives. See also *Aesthetics* course from 27 Jan on page 6.

Free, booking required.

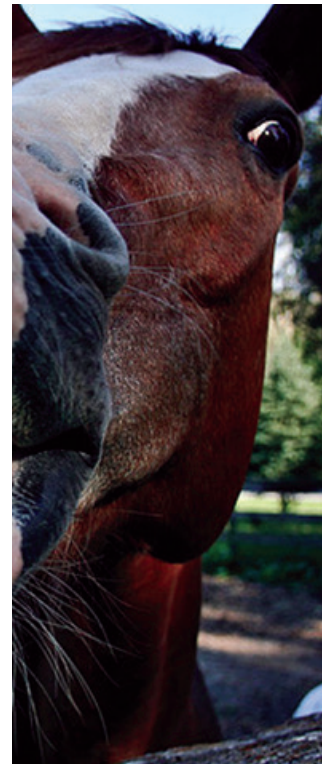


Tue 17 Dec 7pm

The Bluecoat Art Raffle

Over 100 artists have donated unique postcard-sized art works to be raffled off anonymously to raise funds towards our 2014 programme. Every ticket purchased will guarantee a work by an established artist, rising star or a member of the Bluecoat's creative family. Who knows what you might win? Further details on our website.

Free entry, Raffle tickets: £20, on sale up to 17 Dec



Sat 7 Dec 7.30pm

Giving into Gift

Tim Jeeves' live art project *Giving into Gift* returns for its third year. In it he reflects, with reference to *A Streetcar Named Desire*, on his experience receiving a bone marrow transplant. This is accompanied by a series of audio commissions, *If You're Not Paying*, free to download, to be listened to in specific situations.

Tickets: Booking in advance required. Payment by cash on the night, between -£5 and £5, 'give or take', *If You're Not Paying*, 8 Dec onwards. Free to download from www.givingintogift.org

Fri 10 Jan 7pm

Liverpool String Quartet

The Quartet plays and accompanies a mix of vocalists in what promises to be a glorious evening of music and merriment for Linda McDermott's BBC Radio Merseyside Gala Concert, *Under the Duvet Club*.

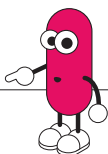
Tickets: £12/£10

Wed 22 Jan 7pm

Edgelands film night

Echoing some of the themes of the *Soft Estate* exhibition, this programme comprises several recent films that explore aspects of our overlooked urban and rural spaces. For details see our website.

Tickets £5/£3



Thu 23 Jan 7.30 - 9.30pm

Liverpool Poetry Café presents Paul Muldoon

An opportunity to hear one of Ireland's leading contemporary poets. Former Professor of Poetry at Oxford, he has lived in the US since 1987, working at Princeton University, and is poetry editor of *The New Yorker*. With over thirty collections published, most recently *The Word on the Street*, he has won a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and the T. S. Eliot Prize.

Tickets: £5/£3



Thu 30 Jan 6 - 9pm Filippos Tsitsopoulos in collaboration with The Palm House Liverpool and Ruth Dillon presents: Cabinet of Curiosities of Mr. Bonsai

Later this year, Filippos Tsitsopoulos presents a night video installation and performance in Sefton Park Palm House and Berlin's Botanischer Garten, turning them into a chamber of marvels, a zoological garden of video portraits. Here he talks about and presents a live performance of his project.

Free, ticket required

Sat 1 Feb 12 - 4pm

Stig of the Dump - a collective read

For National Storytelling Week and responding to the *Soft Estate* exhibition, join us for this reading of Clive King's classic children's book about a boy who finds friendship with Stig, a caveman living in the local dump. To read a short section, contact Cy Powell cy.p@thebluecoat.org.uk or 0151 702 5324.

Free



Paul Farley: photograph by Jemimah Kuhfield

Thu 6 Feb 7.30pm

Paul Farley & Michael Symmons Roberts: Edgelands

The book *Edgelands* explores marginal, in between spaces - themes echoed through visual art in the *Soft Estate* exhibition, with its focus on 'non-places'. Described as 'a masterpiece of its kind ... A beautifully conceived work of exploration by two emissaries to the wilderness who do the wasteland proud' (John Burnside, *The Times*), the book by these two award-winning North West poets is in a 'nature writing' tradition but also critiques it. Here, the authors read from *Edgelands*, talk about how it took shape through collaboration, and discuss art in the margins.

Tickets: £5/£3

Sat 8 Feb 12pm

Edgelands Walk

Colin Dilnot leads this walk through Wirral's hidden wilderness, connecting to the themes of neglected places between town and country, explored in the *Soft Estate* exhibition. Meeting place and further details confirmed when you book.

Free, ticket required



Thu 13 Feb 8 - 9pm

Helen Tookey: Missel-Child

Liverpool based poet, writer and editor Helen Tookey reads from her first full-length poetry collection *Missel-Child* (pub. Carcanet), which explores identity, place and language. 'Her quiet, precise poems have a genuine eeriness' (Grevel Lindop), 'unexpected, apt, and deeply satisfying' (Carola Luther).

Free, ticket required

Fri 14 Feb 7pm

Liverpool String Quartet

An evening of romantic music and poetry.

Tickets £30 per person includes 3 course meal, or £10 for the concert.

Thu 27 Feb 7.30 - 9.30pm

Liverpool Poetry Café presents Ann and Peter Sansom

Co-directors of the Poetry Business in Sheffield, where they edit *The North* magazine, two poets for whom Liverpool was 'where poetry began', return to read from collections that are both moving and funny. Ann's books include *Romance*, *In Praise of Men & Other People* (Bloodaxe), and Peter's *Writing Poems* (Bloodaxe) and *Selected Poems* (Carcanet).

Tickets: £3/£2

join in

join in

shopping

food & drink

heritage

music

conversation

literature

performance

visual art

Mad Panda Photography



Mondays 27 Jan, 3, 10, 17, 24 Feb 10.30 - 11.30am

Dr Panayiota Vassilopoulou: Aesthetics

This 11 week University of Liverpool course (until 5 May), led by the Bluecoat's Philosopher in Residence, is also open to the public. It offers an overview of the key concepts and debates in the theory of art and aesthetics.

Free, but you must sign up for the whole course

Tuesdays 10 Dec / 14 & 28 Jan / 11 & 25 Feb 1 - 2.30pm
Philosophy in Pubs

Our resident philosophers debate the important questions. All welcome to join in some deep thinking.
Free, drop in

Wednesdays 11 Dec / 8 Jan / 12 Feb 7.30 - 9.30pm

The Gathering

A monthly space for musicians to meet and improvise together.
Free, drop in

Saturdays 7 & 21 Dec / 11 & 25 Jan / 8 & 22 Feb
10am - 1pm

Storytellers

Tutor-led workshop sessions offering the chance to share stories and develop your story-telling technique. For more information visit www.liverpoolstorytelling.co.uk.

Tickets: Donations from £2.50 during session

Thursdays 12 Dec / 9 Jan / 13 Feb 6 - 8pm

Talking Poetry

Monthly series exploring spoken poetry, through recordings on vinyl, audiotape, CD and DVD. Listen to and discuss great poetic voices, from Seamus Heaney to Marilyn Hacker, Gertrude Lawrence to Adrian Mitchell, and bring along your own favourites.

Free, ticket required

Thursdays 19 Dec / 16 Jan / 20 Feb 1 - 2.30pm

Scripts

Informal meetings for those interested in creative writing, from poetry to short story writing.

Free, drop in

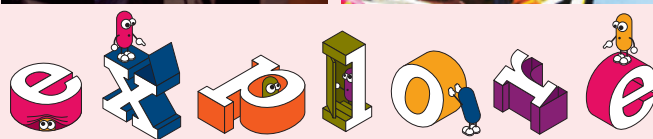


Sat 22 Feb 10am - 4pm
Singing in Harmony with Sense of Sound

Through a capella group singing, explore musical styles from African to contemporary, pop, soul and R'n'B, whilst developing your confidence, understanding and enjoyment of singing.

Tickets: £25/£20

For Families



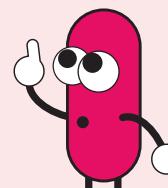
Every Saturday and Thu 20 & Fri 21 Feb 1 - 4pm

Creative sessions for all the family as we explore the exhibitions *Soft Estate* (Dec/Jan) and *Blue Room* (February). Drop in for half an hour or stay as long as you like.

Free

Also for families

- Gallery Trail
- Activity sheets
- Children's menus
- Ground floor baby changing
- Play area
- Breastfeeding friendly
- Comfy sofas
- Garden



Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb 10.30am - 4.30pm
Tmesis Theatre Weekend Workshop

Tmesis Theatre's Artistic Director, **Elinor Randle** leads this two-day workshop in their unique style of physical theatre. Information and booking: education@tmesistheatre.com.
Tickets: Earlybird: £60/£50. Full: £70/£60



Sundays 1 Dec / 12 Jan / 9 Feb Class: 11am - 12.30pm & Jam: 1.30 - 3.30pm

LIC presents Contact Improvisation Sundays

For people interested in movement and improvisation, either as beginners or those with more experience.

Tickets on the door:
Class £6/£4, Jam £4/£2, Combined £8/£5

Workshops

Print Studio

print@thebluecoat.org.uk
0151 702 5324

Sat 14 & Sun 15 Dec
10am - 4pm

Introduction to T-Shirt Printing

Tickets: £145/£135

Thursdays 9 - 23 Jan
6pm - 9pm

Introduction to Screenprinting

Tickets: £145/£135

Sat 18 Jan 10am - 4pm

Monoprint Workshop

Tickets: £75/£65

Sat 1 Feb 10am - 4pm

Introduction to Reduction Linocut

Tickets: £145/£135

Sat 8 Feb 10am - 4pm

Acrylic Soft Ground Etching Workshop

Tickets: £75/£65

Thursdays 13 Feb - 6 Mar
6pm - 9pm

Introduction to Textile Screenprinting

Tickets: £145/£135



dot-art Workshops

info@dot-art.com
0845 017 6660

Sun 19 Jan
10.30am - 2.30pm

Liverpool Photowalk

Tickets £25 per session

Tuesdays from 4 Feb
6.45 - 9.30pm

Life Drawing

Tickets £160 for 10 classes

Tuesdays from 4 Feb
6.45 - 9.30pm

Painting

Tickets £160 for 10 classes

Tuesdays from 4 Feb
6.45 - 9.30pm

Clay Sculpture

Tickets £180 for 10 classes

Sun 9 Feb 10.30am - 4.30pm

Black & White Photography (Lvl 1)

Tickets: £40

Sun 23 Feb 10.30am - 4.30pm

Black & White Photography (Lvl 2)

Tickets: £40

Landbaby at the Bluecoat

landbabyshop@gmail.com

Wed 4 Dec 6 - 8pm

Christmas Paper Flowers

Tickets £15

Mon 9 Dec 6 - 8pm

Christmas Fabric Banners

Tickets £20



Thu 20 Feb
5.30pm - 8.30pm

Wedding Showcase Evening

Please contact weddings@thebluecoat.org.uk
to confirm your attendance

Get married at the Bluecoat.

Fairs



Fri 17 & Sat 18 Jan
/ Fri 21 & Sat 22 Feb
10.30am - 5pm

Book Fair

Collectable books and lots of bargains.
Free

Sat 7 Dec and Sat 1 Feb
10am - 6pm

Record Fair

Find that elusive vinyl, plus CDs, DVDs, music books, posters.
Free



Exhibitions at the Display Centre

Sun 1 - Tue 31 Dec

Mike Badger

Recycled tin sculpture by Liverpool singer-songwriter, guitarist and artist.

Until Sat 11 Jan

Precious Cargo

Lynda Robert's multi-media collages of the built environment and landscape, alongside pieces by contemporary jewelers.

www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com

Mon - Sat 10am - 5.30pm, Sun 12 - 5pm,
closed public holidays

Fri 31 Jan - Sat 15 Mar

The Wedding Party

Everything required for the perfect day - textiles, millinery, table decorations, jewelry and more.

Sat 1 - Fri 28 Feb

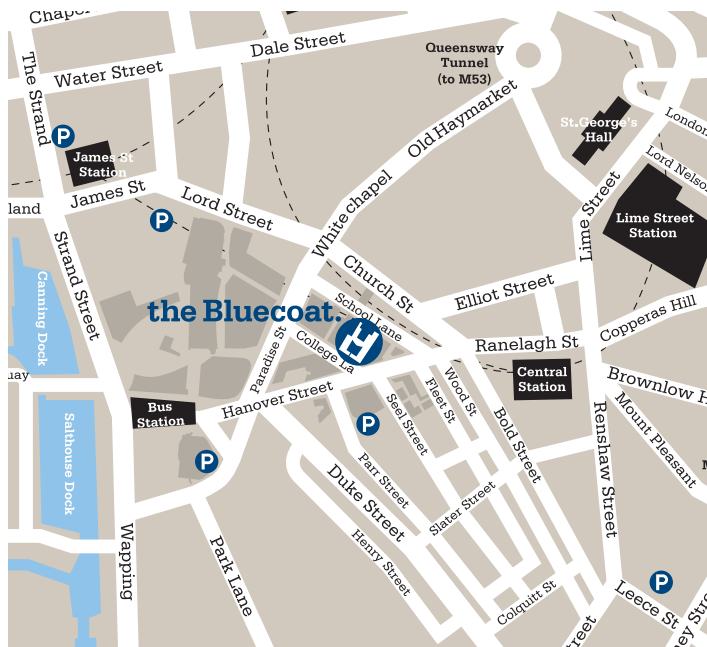
Sarah Crosby

An artist-maker using porcelain as a canvas, with free-hand illustrations.

Diary

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Season Funders | **Events & Exhibitions Partners:**

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Thanks to the City of Liverpool for its financial support

Registered charity number: 700862

Opening Hours
Mon - Sat 8am - 6pm
Sun 10am - 6pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day

Galleries:
open daily 10am - 6pm
Except during exhibition installation

Espresso café:
open daily 8am - 6pm

Upstairs bistro:
Mon - Sun 11.30am - 4pm

MIDDLE DISTANCE | **it's liverpool**
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Tickets & Information
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The Bluecoat, School Lane
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Free Wi-Fi