

Bluecoat

Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts

Exhibitions, literature, performance,
talks, workshops and other
opportunities to join in.

Thu 3 Dec 7.30pm
*Industrialising
Intimacy* -
Elaine Mitchener

Wed 20 Jan 9am – 6pm
The Work Between Us:
Black British Artists
and Exhibition Histories
Symposium

Sat 23 Jan – Mon 28 Mar
*Left Hand to Back
of Head, Object Held
Against Right Thigh*

Sat 23 Jan – Sun 13 Mar
Melissa Gordon:
Fallible Space



DEC
JAN
FEB
2015/16

EXHIBITIONS AND RELATED EVENTS

Exhibitions, Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 6pm
Free entry

Exhibition ends Sun 10 Jan



Niamh O'Malley, *Window*, 2013 (detail)

Niamh O'Malley: *Glasshouse*

Spanning video, drawing, print and sculpture, *Glasshouse* is the largest solo show in the UK to date by Dublin-based artist Niamh O'Malley.

Originally trained as a painter, the artist's interest in the construction of images has extended spatially through the medium of glass. Rather than treating it as an invisible barrier, O'Malley emphasises its physicality – its thickness, its surface, its opacity – giving attention to properties that might more usually be overlooked.

At Bluecoat she has created a number of new works which frame and reflect internal architectural features as well as visitors as they pass through the gallery.

Sat 9 Jan 2pm
**Exhibition Tour:
Jennifer Barker**

Glass artist Jennifer Barker leads a tour of *Glasshouse*.
Free, no booking required

LAST CHANCE TO SEE

Exhibition ends Sun 6 Dec

Bisakha Sarker: *Do not yet fold your wings*

This mesmerising multimedia artwork encapsulates dancer Bisakha Sarker's continued search for a late style which embraces the demands of a body changing with time.

Featuring choreography by **Marc Brew**, music by **Chris Davies** and visuals by **Ansuman Biswas**.

Commissioned by Bluecoat with support from The Baring Foundation.



© Simon Richardson

EXHIBITIONS AND RELATED EVENTS

Exhibitions, Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 6pm
Free entry

Sat 23 Jan – Mon 28 Mar



Rowena Harris, *Note to self – mine and yours perhaps*, 2015. Courtesy the artist, Gallery Apart and Ettore Alloggia Collection. Photo: Giorgio Benni

Left Hand to Back of Head, Object Held Against Right Thigh

ARTISTS:
**Rowena Harris // Mary Hurrell // Natalie Finnemore //
Mitra Saboury // Marianna Simnett // Marie Toseland //**

Left Hand to Back of Head... explores how we can experience art beyond what we are able to say about it. The exhibition presents a collection of works that set out to affect the audience on a physical level, through sensations and emotions.

The artists in this group show use film, video, installation and sculpture to form relationships between artworks and the bodies of the audience. This dynamic extends to the title of the show, which may act as an observation, suggestion or direct instruction.

Saboury and Simnett explore visceral relationships between the human body, objects and processes. Saboury languorously manipulates industrial materials inside her mouth while Simnett derives her narratives from intimate medical processes. Other works anticipate bodies; Finnemore's sculptures choreograph the gallery visitor, outlining the path they take through the gallery while acting as a support structure for sculptures by other artists.

Much of the work included in *Left Hand to Back of Head...* shares methods of communication with contemporary dance and movement. A related performance strand runs through the exhibition inviting dancers, philosophers and writers to make their own responses.

This is the first show by **Adam Smythe**, Bluecoat's new curator. He is interested in "how art can produce material affinities with our own bodies. Just as we feel the presence of a dancer, so too art can affect us in the same manner that the beat of a drum might compel us into motion.

"The exhibition draws on the context of Bluecoat as a centre for the arts, an organisation that hosts an array of art forms. Bluecoat continues to enable dialogue between artistic disciplines and this exhibition seeks to articulate the many connections between visual art and performance."

For further information or to book tickets
visit www.thebluecoat.org.uk or telephone **0151 702 5324**

Wed 27 Jan 6pm
**Philosophy Talk:
Dr Joel Smith –
An Introduction
to Phenomenology**

In response to *Left Hand to Back of Head...* Dr Joel Smith, Lecturer in Philosophy at Manchester University, gives an introduction to the field of phenomenology – the study of experience and consciousness. Dr Smith will talk about key thinkers whose work has run parallel to this artistic enquiry such as Maurice Merleau-Ponty.
Tickets £3/£2

Wed 3 Feb 7pm
**It's What You Don't Say
(That Counts)**

Members of **LIC** (Liverpool Improvisation Collective) create new movement work in the gallery. See page 7 for more about our work with LIC.
Free, no booking required

Thu 11 Feb 6pm
**Performance: My Back
Is All Around Me**

Artists and writers **Marie Toseland** and **Katarina Hruskova** perform readings of their work, using the human voice to connect our bodies to the architecture of the gallery.
Tickets £3/£2

Wed 17 Feb 6pm
**LJMU Writers'
Workshop Present:
Writing the Body**

Readings from poets **Andrew McMillan** and **Rebecca Goss**. McMillan's debut collection *Physical* is a raw and urgent hymn to the male body. In both *The Anatomy of Structures* and the powerfully moving *Her Birth*, Goss explores our embodied experiences of desire, pain, loss and love.
Tickets £3/£2

Sat 20 Feb 2pm
**Exhibition Tour:
Natalie Finnemore**
Exhibiting artist Natalie Finnemore leads a tour of the exhibition.
Free, no booking required

USEFUL KNOWLEDGE READING GROUP



The Serving Library, Bluecoat 2015

Join our monthly Monday reading groups. Nominated by readers from previous groups, these texts reflect the themes of Bluecoat's exhibitions and act as the starting point for wider discussions. All texts are available via info@thebluecoat.org.uk or can be picked up from Tickets & Information.
Free, booking required

Mon 7 Dec 6pm
Freelance educator **Beth Lewis** presents *X-Screens: Röntgen Architecture* by **Beatriz Colomina**, an essay about the relationship between X-ray images, architecture and surveillance in response to Niamh O'Malley's exhibition.

Mon 25 Jan 6pm
Researcher **Margaret Matich** has nominated a paper by **Anne van Leeuwen** *Beauvoir, Irigaray, and the Possibility of Feminist Phenomenology* in response to *Left Hand to Back of Head...* expanding on ideas of feminist thought.

Mon 15 Feb 6pm
Researcher **Sally Blackburn** chooses a section from **Vernon Lee's** *Aesthetic Responsiveness: Its Variations and Accompaniments* in response to *Left Hand to Back of Head...* focusing on emotional and physiological responses to artwork.



© Brian Roberts

EXHIBITIONS AND RELATED EVENTS

Exhibitions, Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 6pm
Free entry



Melissa Gordon *Material Evidence*, 2013 (installation at Spike Island) © Stuart Whipps

Melissa Gordon: *Fallible Space*

Performance Space: Sat 23 – Sun 31 Jan 10am – 6pm

Vide: Sat 23 Jan – Sun 13 Mar 10am – 6pm

Fallible Space is a new project by London based painter, printmaker and editor Melissa Gordon.

Gordon is interested in addressing the exhibition as a 'theatre in the round': highlighting shifting perspectives when staging her work. Here she presents the first solo exhibition in Bluecoat's Performance Space, accompanied by a longer running exhibition in the Vide. *Collision*, the 1916 play by British artist, poet, playwright, novelist, feminist and actress Mina Loy, provides the starting point for *Fallible Space*. An enduring fascination for Gordon, *Collision* describes the transformation of an interior, a kaleidoscoping of ceiling, floor and walls.

On the opening evening (Fri 22 Jan), large-scale silkscreen panels will be activated by a physical theatre performance. Working with musicians and lighting design by artist **Jessica Wiesner**, Gordon will focus on the rhythm of Loy's writing. The vibrations of interfering half-tone lines in prints and paintings also reflect on the play's dynamic properties.

Fri 22 Jan 7pm

***Collision* (1916)**

A mime uses the artwork's panels, hanging frames, and pulley systems to enact a live transformation of the *Fallible Space* installation, which will remain as the exhibition. This is the first-ever staging of *Collision* by Mina Loy, on the centenary after it was written. Music by **Chris Evans** and **Morten Norbye Halvorsen**.

Free, booking required

Sat 30 Jan 4 – 6pm

Myths of the Modern Woman

Performances and discussions curated by Gordon and **Sandeep Parmar**, academic, poet and author of *The Reading Mina Loy's Autobiographies: Myth of the Modern Woman* in response to Loy's writing and *Fallible Space*.

Tickets £3/2

Sun 31 Jan 10am – 6pm

Finale ("the curtain falls, the curtain falls")

On the final day of *Fallible Space*, a mime returns to the exhibition to silently perform the collapsing of the entire installation.

Free, drop in

INTRODUCTION

By Mary Cloake



© Mad Panda Photography

Winter is a time for sheltering and taking stock. At Bluecoat we offer some remarkable and unusual work which we hope will stimulate and provide material for reflection.

Social media and digital devices play a crucial role in our daily interactions, changing our physical relationship to the world. We sometimes find it hard to acknowledge that we are creatures of the body as much as of the mind. Our winter season brings the body back into focus: to remind ourselves how we register emotionally, how we sometimes 'sense' before we understand.

In the gallery, *Left Hand to Back of Head, Object Held against Right Thigh* explores the connections that art can make with our bodies, over and above our capacity to rationalise. In the events programme the body is to the fore throughout, not least with poet **Andrew McMillan** reading from his visceral collection, *Physical*.

Technology has also transformed the ways in which we develop and maintain relationships. As such, traditional definitions of intimacy have changed. *Industrialising Intimacy*, a collaborative contemporary music theatre piece, explores this conundrum, while at the same time drawing on the new expressive avenues which the digital has opened up.

Engagement with the arts can happen in various ways. We always offer opportunities for

people to deepen their experience through practical artistic workshops. This season we are delighted to welcome two leading practitioners to share their skills. **Elaine Mitchener** leads a vocal improvisation workshop on the day prior to her performance; and a short story course from **Sarah Schofield** opens up this form to writers and non-writers.

One of the key roles of Bluecoat is to champion areas of practice that lie between art forms and to facilitate collaboration. We foster experimental interdisciplinary projects because we believe that engaging with work that spans disciplines enables us to see the world differently.

This season we are adding to the interdisciplinary mix. In December at the launch of *Thought X*, a new *Science into Fiction* anthology, the collaborative process between scientists and writers will be discussed. In early spring, **Liverpool Improvisation Collective** give a dance response in the gallery to the themes of *Left Hand to Back of Head...* Travelling in the other direction, *Fallible Space*, by London artist **Melissa Gordon**, will create an exhibition in the Performance Space.

We also host *Black British Artists and Exhibition Histories*. The symposium, which will set an important context for Bluecoat's work in this area, has a resonant title, *The Work Between Us*. This could perhaps be amplified as a motto for all the fruitful liminal spaces that are there to be discovered at Bluecoat this winter.

Mary Cloake
Chief Executive



Mitra Saboury, *Pothole (asphalt)*, 2014 (video still)

EVENTS

For further information or to book tickets visit www.thebluecoat.org.uk or telephone **0151 702 5324**



Industrialising Intimacy, image courtesy Kin Ho

Thu 3 Dec 7.30pm

Industrialising Intimacy

Industrialising Intimacy is the brainchild of respected vocal artist **Elaine Mitchener** in collaboration with award-winning choreographer **Dam Van Huynh**, pioneer of computer music. The performance features the work of composer **George Lewis** and renowned sound artist, writer and musician **David Toop**.

Industrialising Intimacy combines vocal improvisation, movement and sound to create an original work of contemporary music theatre. The performance investigates the loss of privacy in our society versus the strength of true intimacy.

Tickets £8/£6

Wed 2 Dec 3 – 5pm

Elaine Mitchener: *Free Your Mind, an Approach to the Arts of Vocal Free-Improvisation*

Vocal artist Elaine Mitchener leads a workshop focusing on the art of vocal improvisation. Through interactive exercises the participants explore different facets of free improvisation and rediscover their own instrument.

Non-singers or inexperienced singers are welcomed as well as actors and artists working with movement. This workshop is also appropriate for singers who want to expand their musical vocabulary and explore the infinite range of their vocal possibilities.

Tickets £5/£4

Wed 6 Jan, 3 Feb, 2 Mar, 6 Apr, 4 May & 1 Jun
7 – 9pm

Comma Press Short Story Writing Course with Sarah Schofield

Over the course of 6 workshops, you'll get a handle on the predominant narrative structures used by short story writers, and implement them in your own work. Completing set writing tasks between workshops and receiving structured, peer-driven feedback, you'll develop 3 short stories to completion, with tailored advice on how to shape the story, and improve characterisation, dialogue, and narrative voice.

£150 for a course of six monthly sessions

Wed 16 Dec 6pm

Comma Press: *Science into Fiction*

Join us for the launch of the latest in Comma Press' *Science into Fiction* anthology series: *Thought X*. Writers and scientists have been commissioned to work together on new short stories that explore one of the great 'what ifs' within physics – The Thought Experiment.

The event features a scientist, author and one of Comma Press' staff talking about the collaborative process, which aims to support writers to venture from their comfort zones and to create scientifically accurate stories. The resultant story will also be read aloud.

Supported by the Institute of Physics.
Tickets £3/£2

Thu 28 Jan 7.30pm

Liverpool Poetry Café

Ellen Storm, prize winning poet and medical doctor in paediatrics who is currently studying creative writing at Lancaster University will launch her first collection, *Rupture*. Also **Edwin Stockdale**, who was shortlisted for the 2013 Cheshire Prize for Literature.

Tickets £3/£2

Thu 4 Feb 6pm

Sean Edwards Performance Lecture: *Thickness on Paper*

A short performance lecture by Welsh artist **Sean Edwards**, taking as its starting point a 1957 billiards and snooker instruction manual. Edwards' work explores the sculptural potential of the everyday.

Tickets £3/£2

Sat 6 Feb 10am - 1pm
Poetry by Heart

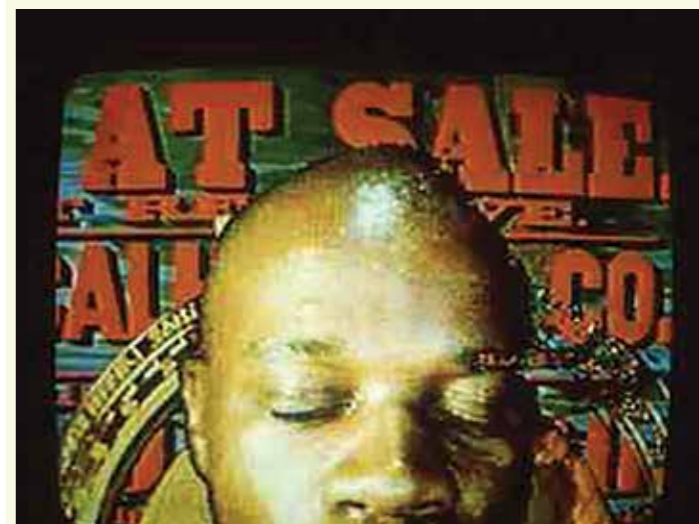
The Merseyside final of the Poetry by Heart recitation competition for young people aged 14 – 18. Students recite a pre-1914 and a WW1 or post-1914 poem to become a regional winner progressing to the national finals. Support your local students and hear a wide range of poems recited by inspiring young people. Free, booking required

Thu 25 Feb 7.30pm

Liverpool Poetry Café

Helen Mort was born in Sheffield. Her first collection *Division Street* was shortlisted for the Costa Prize and the T.S. Eliot Prize and, in 2014, won the Fenton Aldeburgh Prize. She reads alongside Bloodaxe-published Staffordshire poet **Roger Elkin**.

Tickets £3/£2



Keith Piper, *Trade Winds*, 1992. *Trophies of Empire* exhibition

Wed 20 Jan 9am – 6pm

The Work Between Us: Black British Artists and Exhibition Histories Symposium

How do artists of African and Asian descent in Britain feature in the story of twentieth-century art? This symposium examines ground-breaking exhibitions like *The Other Story*, *The Image Employed*, and the Bluecoat-initiated *Trophies of Empire* (1992) that put such artists' practices on the cultural map. **Lucy Steeds** (*Afterall* journal), artists **Sonia Boyce** and

Keith Piper, international curator **Paul Goodwin** and other speakers will examine how these shows came about, what their impact was and how their artworks have peppered and punctuated contemporary art.

Organised by Black Artists and Modernism, a research project in partnership between University of the Arts London and Middlesex University. Funded by AHRC.

Free, booking required

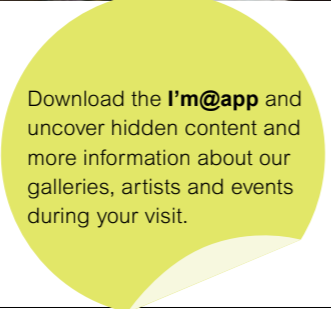
Bluecoat is a charity. We rely on supporters to help our arts and community programmes thrive and to improve this magnificent building. If you would like to support us please use our donation boxes or donate online at www.thebluecoat.org.uk

PRINT STUDIOS



© Brian Roberts

The Print Studios are a resource for print makers of all levels of ability. Print Club offers the opportunity to try your hand at print making in an informal setting, before joining one of our full day introductory workshops. More experienced individuals and groups can book on to a more involved course or simply hire our intaglio and screen print studios at very reasonable rates.



Download the **I'm@app** and uncover hidden content and more information about our galleries, artists and events during your visit.

Mon 14 Dec / 11 Jan / 25 Jan / 8 Feb / 22 Feb 6pm – 8pm
Print Club
Tickets £15

Sat 5 Dec 11am – 5pm
Monoprint
Tickets £60/£50

Sat 12 Dec 11am – 5pm
Introduction to Screenprint
Tickets £60/£50

Sat 16 Jan 11am – 5pm
Tabletop Printmaking
Tickets £60/£50

Sat 16 Jan 11am – 5pm
Introduction to Screenprint
Tickets £60/£50

Sat 30 Jan 11am – 5pm
Introduction to Etching
Tickets £60/£50

Sat 27 Feb 11am – 5pm
Intermediate Screenprint
Tickets £60/£50

REGULAR EVENTS



© Brian Roberts

Tuesdays 8 Dec / 12 & 26 Jan / 9 & 23 Feb 1 – 2.30pm
Philosophy in Pubs
Our resident philosophers meet at Bluecoat every week to debate the important questions.

All are welcome to join the group for deep thinking and stimulating conversation.
Free, drop in

Wednesdays 9 Dec / 13 Jan / 10 Feb 7.30 – 9.30pm
The Gathering
A monthly space for musicians to meet and improvise together.
Free, drop in

Thursdays 10 Dec / 14 Jan / 11 Feb 6 – 8pm
Talking Poetry
Monthly series exploring spoken poetry, through recordings on vinyl, audiotape and CD. Listen to and discuss great poetic voices, from Dylan Thomas to Seamus Heaney, Gertrude Stein to Patience Agbabi, and bring along your own favourites.
Free, booking required

Thursdays 17 Dec / 21 Jan / 18 Feb 1 – 3pm
Scripts
Informal meetings for those interested in creative writing, from poetry to short story writing.
Free, drop in

Fridays 29 Jan / 26 Feb 7.30 – 9pm
Story Night
Open mic – all welcome to come and tell a story, read an original story, or sing a story-song.
Free, booking required

Saturdays 12 & 19 Dec / 9 & 23 Jan / 6 & 20 Feb 10am – 1pm
Storytellers
Workshops for sharing and developing your storytelling technique.
Sessions may be drop in or bespoke workshop, times vary. Check website for details
www.liverpoolstorytelling.co.uk

ART & CRAFT WORKSHOPS
Bluecoat plays host to a range of workshops and courses. Why not learn something new this winter?
Further information can be found as follows:
Craft workshops: www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com
Life drawing, painting, photography and crafts: www.dot-art.co.uk
Letterpress: www.chloweb.wordpress.com
Furniture renovation: www.paintedchair.co.uk

FAMILIES



© Brian Roberts

Every Tues 12 Jan – 29 Mar (no session on 16 Feb) 9.30 – 11am
Baby Book Club
It's never too early to start reading together! Our popular Baby Book Club returns with a course of 11 weekly sessions for parents and carers with babies aged from 3 to 12 months.
£33 for 11 sessions (places are limited)

Every Sat 1 – 4pm
Explore
Join us for artist-led activities for families of all ages to do together, related to our exhibitions. You can drop in for a short time or spend all afternoon making your own masterpiece.
Free (donation encouraged), drop in

Daily 1 – 4pm
Explore in the Gallery
Visit the trolley in the gallery where our Engagement Assistants have trails and other activities to help you explore our exhibitions.
Free, drop in

PROJECTS



© Peter Griffiths

BROWSE

Whether you are looking for Christmas gifts, or just treating yourself, you'll find what you need at Bluecoat. With a range of independent shops and regular book and record fairs, Bluecoat is one of the best places in the city centre to find something unique or special.



Kernaghan Books

Fri 15 & Sat 16 Jan / Fri 19 & Sat 20 Feb 10.30am – 5pm
Book Fair
Collectible books and plenty of bargains for avid readers.
Free

Sat 5 Dec & Sat 30 Jan 10am – 5pm
Record Fair
Find that elusive vinyl, plus CDs, DVDs, music books and posters.
Free

CELEBRATE



© Brian Roberts

Winter Weddings

Why wait until summer, when Bluecoat is a beautiful setting for your wedding at any time of the year? The stunning facade and elegant interior spaces provide the perfect backdrop for your special day. If you are planning to be wed in January, February or March 2016 you can benefit from our half price room hire offer. Contact us for more information or to arrange a visit: weddings@thebluecoat.org.uk.

INHABIT

We are proud to announce the launch of *INHABIT*, a programme for New Dance development at Bluecoat. *INHABIT* will extend Bluecoat's Engagement Programme, allowing a wide range of people to both experience and participate in movement based work.

New Dance embraces diverse movement forms, from highly stylised to the everyday as well as cross cultural and interdisciplinary work. This makes it an art form that naturally extends to new audiences, spaces and participants.

INHABIT will be delivered in collaboration with **LIC** (Liverpool Improvisation Collective) – independent dance artists **Andrea Buckley, Jo Blowers, Paula Hampson and Mary Prestidge**. Based at studios

in Bluecoat, LIC work individually and collectively as dance practitioners, also contributing to the independent dance ecology in the region.

Running for three years from early 2016, *INHABIT* will develop LIC's work, leading to significant new individual performances and inviting guest proponents of dance to collaborate and perform at Bluecoat.

As a prologue, LIC perform a new work in connection with the rhythmic and bodily concerns of the winter exhibition *Left Hand to Back of Head...* (see page 3 for more details). The full *INHABIT* programme will launch in spring 2016.

INHABIT is funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

**DIARY
DECEMBER – FEBRUARY
2015 – 16**

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Sat 5 Dec	Monoprint workshop	6
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Thu 10 Dec	Talking Poetry	6
Sat 12 Dec	Storytellers	6
Sat 12 Dec	Introduction to Screenprint	6
Mon 14 Dec	Print Club	6
Wed 16 Dec	Comma Press: <i>Science into Fiction</i>	5
Thu 17 Dec	Scripts	6
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Wed 6 Jan - Wed 1 Jun (6 sessions)	Comma Press Short Story Writing course with Sarah Schofield	5
Sat 9 Jan	Storytellers	6
Sat 9 Jan	Exhibition Tour: Jennifer Barker	2
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Tue 12 Jan	Philosophy in Pubs	6
Tuesdays 12 Jan – 29 Mar (no session on 16 Feb)	Baby Book Club	7
Wed 13 Jan	The Gathering	6
Thu 14 Jan	Talking Poetry	6
Fri 15 & Sat 16 Jan	Book Fair	7
Sat 16 Jan	Tabletop Printmaking	6
Sat 16 Jan	Introduction to Screenprint	6
Wed 20 Jan	<i>The Work Between Us</i> : Black British Artists and Exhibition Histories Symposium	5
Thu 21 Jan	Scripts	6
Fri 22 Jan	Double Exhibition Launch – <i>Left Hand to Back of Head, Object Held Against Right Thigh</i> & Melissa Gordon: <i>Fallible Space</i> , including performances: <i>Collision</i> (1916), 7pm	4
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Thu 11 Feb	Talking Poetry	6
Mon 15 Feb	Useful Knowledge Reading Group: Sally Blackburn	2
Wed 17 Feb	LJMU Writers' Workshop Present: <i>Writing the Body</i>	3
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Fri 19 & Sat 20 Feb	Book Fair	7
Sat 20 Feb	Storytellers	6
Sat 20 Feb	Exhibition Tour: Natalie Finnemore	3
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Tue 23 Feb	Philosophy in Pubs	6
Thu 25 Feb	Liverpool Poetry Café: Helen Mort & Roger Elkin	5
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This season is presented with thanks to:

Our Core Funders

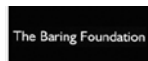


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The Elephant Trust

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Opening Hours

Building and Espresso café:

Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm
Sun 11am – 6pm

Gallery:

Mon – Sat 10am – 6pm
Sun 11am – 6pm

Upstairs Bistro:

During December:
Open daily 11.30am – 4pm

From 1 January:

Mon – Sat 11.30 – 4pm
Sun closed

Tickets & Information

Telephone:

0151 702 5324

Bluecoat, School Lane
Liverpool L1 3BX

Registered charity number: 700862

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www.thebluecoat.org.uk

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[@the_bluecoat](https://www.instagram.com/the_bluecoat)

We will be closed to the public from Fri 25 – Mon 28 December.