

# ARNOLFINI



Grayson Perry, 'Matching Pair', 2017 © Grayson Perry. Collection of the artist and Victoria Miro, London (Photo: Robert Glowacki)

## **Autumn at Arnolfini** **Grayson Perry, #newrules, new programme and a** **new Café Bar partner**

*Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* opens at Arnolfini on Wednesday 27 September, running through to Christmas Eve on Sunday 24 December.

As Bristol's major centre for contemporary arts prepares for an exhibition expected to attract in excess of 75,000 visitors to the city, today Arnolfini announces further details of its autumn season.

Talks and tours, lunches and film nights will offer visitors the chance to delve deeper and explore the ideas at the heart of Grayson Perry's artistic practice, with special guest appearances from Bristol-based artists, performers and collectives. October also marks the return of Bristol Family Arts Festival, with city-wide family activities led by Arnolfini.

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

Friday 22 September sees the opening of Bristol Beer Factory at Arnolfini, with the award-winning, independent brewery taking over the management of Arnolfini's café bar. This new partnership brings with it a refurbishment, extended opening hours and a refreshed food menu.

As Arnolfini prepares to embark on a new chapter in 2018, the organisation begins a public conversation on reimagining a 21<sup>st</sup> century centre for contemporary arts. *Imagine New Rules* will invite public contributions online and at Arnolfini, supported by a new fortnightly podcast and events as part of the Festival of the Future City.

## **Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever**

*27 September to 24 December.*

*Press tour led by Grayson 26 September, 3pm.*

Including ceramic works, sculptures in iron and brass, drawings, prints and tapestries across three floors of Arnolfini's harbourside location. The works in the exhibition examine masculinity, class, politics, sex, religion, popularity, art, and current issues such as Brexit and 'Divided Britain'.

Please email [rachel.wood@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:rachel.wood@arnolfini.org.uk) if you would like to attend the press tour.

## **Bristol Beer Factory at Arnolfini**

Friday 22 September sees the opening of Bristol Beer Factory at Arnolfini, with the award-winning, independent brewery taking over the management of Arnolfini's Café Bar.

Bristol Beer Factory will provide a selection of its locally brewed, flavour-packed craft beers and ciders, with the partnership also bringing a refurbishment, a seasonally focussed food offering and extended opening hours.

Simon Bartlett, Managing Director and Co-Founder of Bristol Beer Factory said:

*"Our collaboration with Arnolfini is another great step forward for Bristol Beer Factory this year. It represents the joining of two Bristol independent favourites, combining one of the best city's best cultural destinations with our great portfolio of beers.*

*"This joint venture will further enhance all that Arnolfini has to offer as one of Bristol's foremost arts attractions. Through this partnership we intend to make the Café Bar one of the best venues Bristol has to offer."*

Bristol Beer Factory at Arnolfini will open regularly late into the evening, with a revived menu of sandwiches, salads and light bites served throughout the day.

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

The Bristol Beer Factory team have been involved in the refurbishment of the Café Bar with wall colours provided by Arnolfini sponsor Farrow & Ball.

## **Autumn season listings**

*Tickets available from [arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk), in person at Arnolfini's box office or by calling 0117 917 2300. Advance booking recommended.*

### **Thurs 12 Oct – Come the Revolution present Wo(man) in Me**

Through film and discussion, take a look at the cultural icons that have blurred the lines between gender and race identities, from Grace Jones to Prince. Tickets £5 / £3.

### **Tues 17 Oct - Martin Parr in conversation with Sunil Shah**

One of Bristol's best-known photographers in conversation on his work, revered for its intimate portrayal of the social classes of Britain, whilst discussing the role of photography in documenting British culture today. Tickets £8 / £6.

### **Tues 24 Oct – An Evening with Grayson Perry**

Grayson Perry shares an insight into his artistic practice, influences and view of the world post-Brexit with an intimate audience at Arnolfini. Tickets go on sale on Thursday 21 September and are expected to sell quickly. Tickets £20 / £17.50.

### **Fri 27 Oct - Lates: Beacons, Icons and Dykons presents Angora Nights**

Celebrate legendary movie director Ed Wood at this rare screening of Tim Burton's seminal biopic of the filmmaker. With performance and discussion led by Tom Marshman, and a late night party hosted by Don't Tell Your Mother. Tickets £5 / £3.

### **Thurs 9 Nov – Headlong & the Guardian present Brexit Shorts**

A series of short films, featuring leading theatre voices as they reveal their individual stories in a divided Britain. With discussion led by Chris Wiegand. Tickets £6 / £4

### **Fri 10 Nov – Lates: DEBUNK with Libita Clayton, Jeanie Sinclair and Clawson & Ward**

A group of diverse artists and practitioners come together for the first time as they create space to debunk the idea that history has a singular narrative told from one voice. Expect experimental DJs, performance, moving image and noise. Tickets £5 / £3.

### **Thurs 16 Nov - Nikesh Shukla: In Conversation**

As Arnolfini's autumn writer-in-residence, Nikesh will be producing new work exploring themes around Brexit, British values and an idea of nationalism that celebrates all of us. Join Nikesh and invited guests for a reading of the new work and discussion. Tickets £5 / £3.

### **Thurs 30 Nov - Josie Long and Joff Winterhart**

Comedian Josie Long and illustrator Joff Winterhart talk about their recent books, creating a springboard to explore a wide range of themes and ideas, from masculinity and drawing to politics and hopefulness. Tickets £8 / £6

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

**Fri 1 Dec – Lates: THORNY with Lone Taxidermist**

An immersive late night artist-led takeover of Arnolfini by Bristol based collective THORNY. With anti-gender live performance, music and DJs, this is a love fuelled party for the outsiders. Early bird tickets £8 / £6

**Fri 8 Dec – Biggerhouse films present ‘different voices’**

An opportunity to watch the eight resulting films of Different Voices’ autumn residency at Arnolfini, plus a discussion about the next step for Neurodiverse film making. Free, booking essential.

Saturdays, 12pm - **Free** weekly tours of *Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* led by Arnolfini staff, guest artists and volunteers. Free, no booking required.

Further event listings and more detailed information are available online at [arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk)

## **Family activities**

**Sat 30 September – We Are Family**

Join us to make, play and explore the themes of Grayson Perry's exhibition, through an interactive drop-in workshop led by artist India Harvey.

**Last Sunday of each month – Relaxed Viewings**

Early openings for Neurodiverse families and children who may find it easier to enjoy *Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* in a calmer environment, ahead of the crowds. Free, booking essential.

**Throughout October – Bristol Family Arts Festival**

Participating venues include Arnolfini, Watershed, Spike Island, M Shed, Brunel’s SS Great Britain, the Architecture Centre and more. Find full listings at [bristolfamilyarts.org.uk](http://bristolfamilyarts.org.uk)

**19 October, 28 November - Bring Your Baby Tours**

A special gallery tour designed for parents and carers to explore the exhibition in an environment that welcomes babies. Tickets £3

**Tues 24 Oct – The Big Draw**

Play with materials and techniques and experiment with different types of drawings. From giant depictions to tiny sketches, fuel your imagination and see what wonderful creations you and your family can make. Free, no booking required.

**Sat 28 Oct – Family Arts Festival finale**

Get creative and experiment with ideas, games and ways of making as the traditional Bristol Family Arts Festival finale extravaganza takes over Arnolfini’s auditorium. Free, no booking required.

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

### **Tues 14 Nov – Drag Queen Story Time**

Join us for a magical morning of fantastic stories and fabulous tales as we weave a story inspired by artworks, dressing up and teddy bears! Free, booking essential.

### **Mon 20 Nov – Drag Queen Story Time at Junction 3 Library**

Bring your family along for a special morning of storytelling at Junction 3 Library in Easton. Free, no booking required.

### **Sat 25 Nov – We are Family at Hillfields Library**

Join us at Hillfields Library to make, play and explore the themes of Grayson Perry's exhibition, through an interactive drop-in workshop led by artist India Harvey. Free, no booking required.

Further event listings and more detailed information are available online at [arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk)

## **Imagine New Rules**

*Throughout the autumn. Contribute when visiting Arnolfini and online #newrules*

New Director, Claire Doherty says:

*“Arnolfini has been a place for imagination and bold new ideas since 1961. The centre for contemporary arts has been the fuel for change in Bristol and has often embraced change itself, and now it’s time for it to do so once again.*

*New types of arts organisations are emerging to respond to the ways in which culture is being produced and experienced. The Victorian institutions of the museum, gallery and theatre are being stretched and pulled in new directions and it’s time to rethink what a centre for contemporary arts could be in Bristol.*

*As Arnolfini enters a new chapter in 2018, we want to tear up the rulebook which says arts centres have to look, feel or do things a certain way. And so, over the coming months we will be reimagining Arnolfini for the future.”*

Visitors to Arnolfini will be invited to contribute their own new rules for a 21st century place for the arts on the second floor of the space and online #newrules.

### **Fortnightly podcast**

Arnolfini launches a new podcast series, where new director Claire Doherty will be imagining an arts centre for the future and for Bristol with invited guests. Claire’s first podcast will be available in the afternoon of Thursday 21 September.

Next week on Thursday 28 September Claire will be joined by curator and writer Edson Burton (Come the Revolution), with new podcasts then available fortnightly each Thursday afternoon. Future guests will include visionary artists, directors and producers who are spearheading a new movement of arts organisations which are playing active civic roles in their home towns and cities.

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

Download the podcast at [arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) and [soundcloud.com/arnolfiniarts](https://soundcloud.com/arnolfiniarts)

### **What If? Reimagining the Role of Cultural Institutions as Agencies of Change in Cities**

On Friday 20 Oct, Arnolfini leads a morning of discussions that bring together cultural leaders and producers who are testing out new ways of programming, collaborating and effecting change in their cities.

This event is part of the Festival of the Future City in partnership with the Festival of Ideas. Free, booking essential.

[futurecityfestival.co.uk](http://futurecityfestival.co.uk)

## **Ends**

### **Press requests and further information**

*All information correct at time of press.*

Low res press images (please contact Rachel Wood or Matt Gilford for high res):

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/shsei6c3sb12rdg/AADp9nufG1R\\_a6LnJZSdcd3ea?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/shsei6c3sb12rdg/AADp9nufG1R_a6LnJZSdcd3ea?dl=0)

Press tour and preview:

### **Tuesday 26 September, 3pm**

Tour led by Grayson Perry and opportunity for press to preview the exhibition.

Places are limited, to register please contact:

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### **Visiting information**

*Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!*

Wednesday 27 September – Sunday 24 December 2017

**Admission free**

Arnolfini press release: 19 September 2017

Arnolfini

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA

Box Office +44 (0)117 917 2300

Exhibition opening times: Tuesday – Sunday 11am-6pm.  
Closed on Mondays, except Bank Holidays.  
Exhibition closes at 1pm on 24 December.

[arnolfini.org.uk](http://arnolfini.org.uk) | @ArnolfiniArts | #GraysonPerry

Bristol Beer Factory at Arnolfini opening times:

Monday: 10am – 10.30pm  
Tuesday: 10am – 10.30pm  
Wednesday: 10am – 10.30pm  
Thursday: 10am – 11.00pm  
Friday: 10am – 11.00pm  
Saturday: 10am – 11.00pm  
Sunday: 10am – 10.30pm

### Supporters

Grayson Perry: *The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* is initiated and organised by the Serpentine Galleries, London.

Exhibition supported by:



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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Arnolfini**

Arnolfini is Bristol's international centre for contemporary arts based on the harbourside in the heart of the city. Founded in 1961, the organisation is dedicated to producing and presenting visual arts, performance, dance, film, music and events, underpinned by a commitment to a dynamic civic role in the city.

In 2016, Arnolfini was a finalist in the Art Fund's Museum of the Year, recognised for its extraordinary commitment to broadening participation and engagement with the arts.

Under the new leadership of Director Claire Doherty, from August 2017, Arnolfini will undergo significant change over the next year.

As a charity, Arnolfini fundraises for all its activities.

### **About Grayson Perry**

Grayson Perry has had major solo exhibitions nationally and internationally, including the critically acclaimed *Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman* at the British Museum in 2011; *Hold Your Beliefs Lightly*, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, The Netherlands, which travelled to ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark in 2015 – 2016; *My Pretty Little Art Career*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2015; *Provincial Punk*, Turner Contemporary, Margate, 2015; and The Arts Council Collection and British Council-led UK and international tour of *The Vanity of Small Differences*. Winner of the 2003 Turner Prize, Perry was elected a Royal Academician in 2012. The following year, he received a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and in 2015 was appointed Trustee of the British Museum and Chancellor of the University of the Arts London. In 2016, following on from his design of *A House for Essex*, Perry was awarded a RIBA Honorary Fellowship.

Grayson Perry: *The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!* is initiated and organised by the Serpentine Galleries, London.

The exhibition opened at the Serpentine Galleries from 8 June – 10 September 2017. In its 14-week run it lived up to its title as the busiest exhibition in the Galleries' history, averaging 2,416 visitors a day – totalling 202,918 overall.

*Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences* opens at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery from 31 March 2018.

A series of six large tapestries by Grayson Perry which explore the British fascination with taste and class. Inspired by Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, Perry's rich tapestries depict many of the eccentricities and peculiarities of life in the UK. More info at [bristolmuseums.org.uk](http://bristolmuseums.org.uk)

## **About Bristol Beer Factory**

BBC Food & Farming Award winners, Bristol Beer Factory started life in 2004 brewing just a few standard cask conditioned ales in a vibrant part of South Bristol. Realising there is so much more to brewing and so many more styles of beer, their range has now developed into over 8 different regular bottled ales, 7 regular cask ales and up to 5 specials throughout the year.

Their enviable national award-winning core range includes Independence, Milk Stout and Southville Hop, they have also recently launched the Brewery Taproom on North Street, The Beer Club and their new 4% session ale, Fortitude. Fourteen years on, they are still fiercely independent and focused on producing great beer.

Bristol Beer Factory recently appointed new investors Guy and Becky Newell and Josh Eggleton as Non – Executive Directors.