The British Museum

The American Dream: pop to the present



Mel Bochner, It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This, 2013.

Workshops for ESOL learners

What is the 'American Dream' and how has it been depicted by artists from 1960s onwards? How did artists of the 1960s onwards used printmaking into a tool of activism and protest? What can we learn from the past that shapes current debates facing America and the world today? Bring your ESOL students on a journey of discovery using art to understand the past (and the present).

How to book

Workshops are available for up to 20 students and will be suitable for all levels. Workshops are free for ESOL groups.

Workshops start at 10.00; 10.15 and 10.30 and include entry into the exhibition, unfortunately we are unable to offer free workshops outside of these times but students who want visit do receive a concessionary rate.

Workshops will be allocated on a first come, first served basis but we do have a large number of dates available. Please let us about any access requirements.

Please return your information form to me (not the General Office) with a choice of dates (ie 1st, 2nd and 3rd), this will help us with the swift processing of your booking.

Available dates: March 23, 27, 28, 30 April 20, 21, 24, 28 May 5, 8, 12, 18 June 5, 15

Booking information required

- NUMBER OF LEARNERS:
- ENTRY LEVEL:
- DATE (CHOOSE 3):
 - First choice:
 - Second choice
 - Third choice:
- START TIME (10.00; 10.15; 10.30):
- TUTOR NAME AND COLLEGE:
- MOBILE NUMBER (for use on the day only):

About the Exhibition

#AmericanDream

America. Land of the free. Home of the brave.

Trace the creative momentum of a superpower in this major new exhibition.

The past six decades have been among the most dynamic and turbulent in US history, from JFK's assassination, Apollo 11 and Vietnam to the AIDS crisis, racism and gender politics. Responding to the changing times, American artists produced prints unprecedented in their scale and ambition.

Starting with the explosion of pop art in the 1960s, the exhibition includes works by the most celebrated American artists. From Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg to Ed Ruscha, Kara Walker and Julie Mehretu – all boldly experimented with printmaking. Experience this extraordinary history through their eyes.

Taking inspiration from the world around them – billboard advertising, global politics, Hollywood and household objects – American artists created highly original prints to rival their paintings and sculptures. Printmaking brought their work to a much wider and more diverse audience.

The sheer inventiveness and technical ingenuity of their prints reflects America's power and influence during this period. Many of these works also address the deep divisions in society that continue to resonate with us today – there are as many American dreams as there are Americans.

This exhibition presents the Museum's outstanding collection of modern and contemporary American prints for the first time. These will be shown with important works from museums and private collections around the world.

Sponsored by Morgan Stanley

Supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art