

IKON

Exhibitions / Events
September – November 2017
ikon-gallery.org
Free entry



Portrait of the Artist: Käthe Kollwitz

Exhibition

13 September – 26 November

First Floor Galleries

Käthe Kollwitz (1867–1945) was one of the leading artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, notable for the emotional power of her drawing, printmaking and sculpture.

She lived an intensely examined life, expressed in her numerous self-portraits, diaries and correspondence; at the core of this existence was her work as an artist and a mastery of graphic art which quickly established her reputation in Germany, then further afield as her influence spread internationally after the First World War. Establishing herself in an art world dominated by men, Kollwitz developed a vision centred on women and the working class.

Kollwitz's unique artistic talent, her technical prowess and intelligence, and above all her humanity, can be seen in the work shown here. She was refreshingly unpretentious, keen to reach as many as possible, the general public as well as art specialists, and content that her art "should have purposes outside itself."

The exhibition looks at her work through the exploration of her self-portraits and portraits of working women, her two great series concerned with social injustice: *Ein Weberaufstand (A Weavers' Revolt)*, completed in 1897) and *Bauernkrieg (Peasants' War)* completed in 1908), the ever-present imagery of death, especially a mother's grief, and finally the theme of war and remembrance after her younger son, Peter, had been killed at the beginning of the First World War.

There is much about the life and work of Kollwitz that instils hope, that is inspiring and life affirming, despite the burden of hardship and sorrow carried by so many of her figures and by herself. She was an intensely passionate individual, in personal relationships and politics, an artist who pushed hard in the direction of equality for women in all walks of life. Her emphasis was often on what was distinctive about women's experience, including the fundamental nature and potency of maternal love. She believed that art could be a force for good in society.

The exhibition is drawn from the collection of the British Museum and is complemented by a small number of loans from a private owner and The Barber Institute of Fine Arts at the University of Birmingham.

The exhibition is organised in partnership between Ikon and the British Museum and is generously supported by the Dorset Foundation and is accompanied by a fully illustrated publication.

Cover Käthe Kollwitz
Frau mit totem Kind
(*Woman with Dead Child*) (1903)
Etching, drypoint, sandpaper and soft ground with the imprint of Bütten paper and Ziegler's transfer paper, printed in brown on copperplate paper and overprinted with a gold-sprayed lithographic tone stone
424 × 486 mm
© British Museum



- 1 Käthe Kollwitz
Selbstbildnis mit aufgestützter Hand
(Self-portrait with hand against cheek)
(before July 1906)
Etching and soft ground with imprint of
Ziegler's transfer paper, overworked
with brown wash and graphite, on beige
copperplate paper
225 × 170 mm
© British Museum

Sofia Hultén

*Here's the Answer,
What's the Question?*

Exhibition

13 September – 26 November

Second Floor Galleries



Ikon presents *Here's the Answer, What's the Question?* a selection of sculptures, installations and films in the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by Berlin-based artist Sofia Hultén. Conveying an ongoing preoccupation with the nature of the material world and the way we navigate it. Hultén's engaging thoughtfulness suggests that things do not have to be as they seem normally in everyday life.

For Hultén, time is a fourth dimension that conflates art objects with their subject matter in a "looping" process. Objects often become material and vice versa and where readymades are remade in ways that challenge widely accepted definitions of art and what we think we know.

The emphasis on process in her work reminds us that time is a vital factor in the equation of artistic experience. The artist is interested in shuffling the chronological order of things, and this possibility lies at the heart of video works such as *Nonsequences* (2013) in which a sequence of events re-enacted to defy expectations of cause and effect. For example, in one we see an apple being polished on jeans, dropped into dirt then disposed of in a plastic bag. In another, the apple is placed in the bag before being dropped in dirt and so on. Through this, the artist frequently poses a challenge to what we think we know through permutation – simultaneously presenting us with combinations and recombinations of the same objects.

Through her work, we are in the realm of known unknowns, where common sense (with its straightforward assumption of the perceived as real) no longer holds sway as if she is telling us some answers to which we then have to make up the corresponding questions.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Ikon and Museum Tinguely including texts by Lisa Anette Ahlers and Chris Sharp along with an artist's interview with Birmingham-based graphic designer James Langdon.

This exhibition is organised in collaboration with Museum Tinguely, Basel.



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- 2 Sofia Hultén
Particle Boredom (2016–2017)
Wood resin
- 3 Sofia Hultén
Nonsequences I (2013)
Video



Anna Molska

The Weavers

Exhibition

13 September – 26 November

Tower Room

Please note that the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps

Polish artist, Anna Molska explores modernist and socialist utopias through her work, and uses them as a pretext for the analysis of contemporary reality.

Molska's 12 minute film *The Weavers* (2009) is based on Gerhart Hauptmann's 1894 play inspired by the 1844 rebellion of Silesian weavers against the poverty of their lives and harsh working conditions. The play is also the subject of a series of prints currently being shown at Ikon that established Käthe Kollwitz's reputation as a major artistic figure in Germany before the First World War.

Associated Events

New exhibitions open

Wednesday 13 September, 6–8pm – FREE

Join us to celebrate the opening of our new exhibitions. Pay bar.

Music – Rosendal Viola Quartet in Concert

Tuesday 19 September, 7–8:30pm – £8

Booking essential

Formed in 2016, the Quartet is comprised of four members of Birmingham Conservatoire's string faculty. Taking place in Ikon's Käthe Kollwitz's exhibition, pieces will include Bach, Knox and Bowen with proceeds benefitting Arco – a long distance learning project between the Conservatoire and Cape Gate MIAGI in Soweto.

Talk – Käthe Kollwitz

Wednesday 20 September, 6–7pm – £3

Booking essential

Join author Max Egremont for a discussion of Käthe Kollwitz's life-long relationship with her birthplace, the historic city of Königsberg, home of the philosopher Immanuel Kant and an outpost of the enlightenment.

Exhibition Tours

Spotlight Tours

Every Friday, 1pm and Sunday, 3pm – FREE

Join a member of Ikon staff for a 15 minute spotlight tour focused on a key work in the exhibition. No need to book, meet in the Ikon foyer.

Heritage Spotlight Tour

Saturday 9 September, 1–2pm – FREE

Booking essential

Coinciding with Birmingham Heritage Week (7–17 September) and Heritage Open Days (7–10 September), visitors go behind the scenes and explore Ikon's archive in the building of the former Oozells Street School.

Symposium – Käthe Kollwitz

Saturday 14 October, 10am–6pm – FREE

Booking essential

Käthe Kollwitz's letters and diaries provide insights into her views on literature, politics and the role of the arts. Organised with Camilla Smith, University of Birmingham, speakers include Shulamith Behr, The Courtauld Institute, Frances Carey, The British Museum, and Dorothy Price, University of Bristol.

Ikon at Centrala

Thursday 2 November, 6–9pm – FREE

Unit 4 Minerva Works

158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5RT

Booking essential

Polish artist Anna Molska discusses her film *The Weavers*, followed by a screening of Ralf Kirsten's 1987 film *Käthe Kollwitz: Images of a Life*. In association with Centrala and Behind the Curtain.

Sofia Hultén in Conversation

Wednesday 15 November, 6–7pm – £3

Booking essential

Enjoy a discussion on Sofia Hultén's current exhibition, with reference to popular science and science fiction, with friend and designer James Langdon. The galleries will be open between 5–6pm for visitors to enjoy the exhibition of drawings, films and sculpture, before the talk.

Slow Boat Tour – Käthe Kollwitz

Saturday 30 September, 1.30–4:30pm – £12

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston B15 2TS

Booking essential

Meet at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts for a talk based on the display *Käthe Kollwitz and Graphic Art in Germany 1910–1923*. We will have a 15 minute walk to the Vale and a 60 minute canal journey to Brindleyplace followed by a tour of the exhibition at Ikon.

Access Tours

Available on request – FREE

Booking essential

Ikon can provide British Sign Language (BSL) and audio described introductions to our current exhibitions. Individual or group bookings are free but must be booked. Call Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email learning@ikon-gallery.org

Public Events

Alongside Ikon's public programme of events we are partnering with two great city festivals: **Birmingham Weekender and Birmingham Literature Festival.**

birminghamweekender.com
birminghamliteraturefestival.org

Music - Didier Kisala with The Froe

Sunday 24 September, 3-5pm

Free, no need to book

Didier Kisala, founder member of Birmingham-based Congolese band The Redeemed, will play alongside the Froe string quartet at Ikon. Hosted by Surge Orchestra & Celebrating Sanctuary. Presented as part of Birmingham Weekender.

Ikon Slow Boat at Birmingham Weekender

Sunday 24 September 2017, 12-4pm – FREE

Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace

Birmingham B1 2JB

No need to book, just drop-in

Ikon Youth Programme presents *People Like Us #3* – creative arts and film screenings around its zine examining identity, community and contemporary art.

Stories Crossing Borders:

What is British Asian Literature?

Saturday 7 October, 3.30-4.30pm

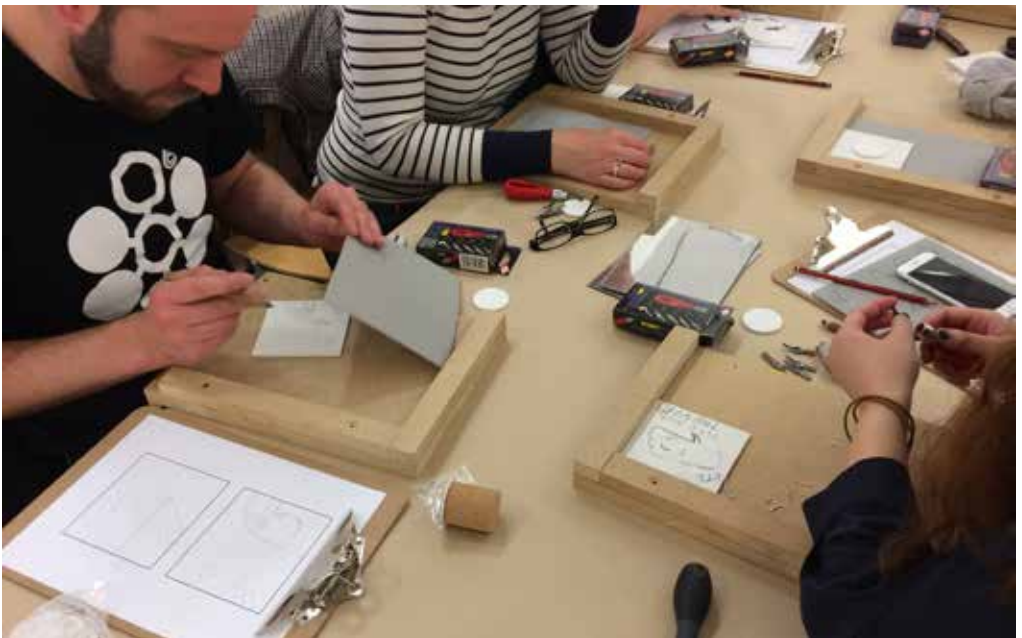
£8/£6.40 conc./Festival Pass – FREE

Studio Theatre, Library of Birmingham

Booking essential

Join Mahtab Hussain and authors Bali Rai, Radhika Swarup and Bidisha as they talk about their experience of living and working as British Asians in the arts and literature. The speakers will also take questions from the audience. Produced by desiblitiz.com, supported by Ikon and Arts Council England and presented as part of Birmingham Literature Festival.





Workshops

Meet the Print Master

Wednesday 11 October, 2–4pm – FREE

Booking essential

Print Master Justin Sanders leads a tour with a focus on Käthe Kollwitz's printmaking techniques followed by a walk to the print workshop at the Birmingham School of Art (the architecture of which is related to Ikon's own, designed by architect John Henry Chamberlain in the 1870s).

Masterclass – Relief printing

Saturday 21 October, 10am–4pm, £90

Birmingham School of Art, Margaret Street

Birmingham B3 3BX

Booking essential

Learn how to transfer drawings onto blocks and cut out your own design or illustration. Take home five of your own prints on Somerset velvet paper using the Albion and Calumbian presses.

Masterclass – Lithographic printing

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October, 10am–4pm

£200

Birmingham School of Art, Margaret Street

Birmingham B3 3BX

Booking essential

You will develop an understanding of lithography, learn how to prepare a stone, draw transfer and process your image.

Book online at www.ikon-gallery.org or call us on 0121 248 0708.

Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do so please consider making a donation for free events.

All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated.

Family Events



Free Drop-in Activities

Suitable for all ages. No need to book, stay for as long as you like.

During October, as part of The Big Draw, Ikon hosts family-friendly drawing based activities.

To find out more about The Big Draw visit thebigdraw.org

Family Saturdays

Saturday 7 October, 1–4pm – FREE

Saturday 4 November, 1–4pm – FREE

Join us for practical and hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibitions. Spend some creative time making and experimenting as a family.

Creative Hands: An Animation

Tuesday 24 October, 1–4pm (Ikon) – FREE

Wednesday 25 October 1–4pm (Barber) – FREE

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts

As part of this year's Big Draw, based on the theme Living Lines, Ikon and The Barber Institute of Fine Arts invite families to contribute to a drawing based animation in response to Hans Cürli's *Die Schöpfende Hände* (*Creative Hands*), which captures Käthe Kollwitz's drawing of a mother and child, currently on display in Ikon's Resource Room.

Art Explorer Bags

During exhibitions – FREE

Available at reception

Ikon's Art Explorer Bags are made for each exhibition. They contain short creative activities to help families explore the shows together.

Bookable Family Workshops

Activities aimed at specific age groups.

Parent and Toddler Morning

Friday 10 November, 10–11am

£4 per child, payable in advance

Booking essential

Gallery-based sessions for parents with toddlers aged 0–3 years to recreate an immersive environment based on the colours, forms and materials of the Sofia Hultén exhibition. When booking, please indicate the child's age.

Teacher Events

Meet the Learning Team

Wednesday 13 September, 5–6pm – FREE

Booking essential

Group leaders, teachers and educationalists are invited to meet Ikon's Learning team for an introductory tour of the new exhibitions, before discussing how groups of all ages might fully engage with them. Stay for a glass of wine at the exhibition opening from 6pm. Places are free but should be booked by emailing learning@ikon-gallery.org

ARTiculation Discovery Day

Tuesday 31 October, 10am–3pm – FREE

Booking essential

Open to Key Stage 4 and 5 students to develop and support understanding of and engagement with art through the exploration of works, personal observation, discussion and research. Part of the ARTiculation outreach programme, Discovery Days are open to all students from state-maintained schools. Book online at articulation@sculpture.uk.com or call 01980 862 802.

4MAT Creative Teacher Retreat

Saturday 18 November, 12–4pm

£25 per person, payable in advance.

Booking essential – limited capacity

Tea and cake provided

Inspired by the Käthe Kollwitz exhibition, join our Learning Team to explore inspiring approaches, try out new ideas, processes, materials and methods to take back into the classroom. 4MAT is the regional teachers' network that meets regularly to share advice, expertise and experience whilst making new connections with colleagues from across the region.



School Visits

At Ikon your pupils can enjoy creative learning and develop key transferable skills such as problem solving, communication and literacy. We offer countless opportunities to think creatively and critically, engaging in cross-curricular learning, narrowing the achievement gap and raising attainment. There is a range of options available to suit your needs.

Find Out More

Second Floor Resource Room

During exhibitions – FREE

Take a trip to the Resource Room where you will find background information relating to our exhibitions including filmed interviews and books.

Group Visits

Group visits, tours and creative workshops are available for each exhibition.

For more information see

**www.ikon-gallery.org/learning/adults/ or
call the Learning Team on 0121 248 0708**

Ikon Slow Boat

Looping the Loop is a three year project enabling Ikon to take art to and inspire creativity amongst communities around local canal networks. The waterways and the boat provide artists in residence, local people and Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) the opportunity to experience workshops, exhibitions, performances and film screenings in a unique setting. Regular updates are available through Ikon's website, social media channels and blog.



Film – Flatpack Floating Cinema Shorts

Saturday 9 September, 12–4pm – FREE

Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace

Birmingham B1 2JB

No need to book, just drop-in

Coinciding with Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days, screenings of films of Ladywood from the 1950s–1980s curated by Media Archive for Central England; this includes colour scenes of old Ladywood's demolition (late 1950s) and children playing in the area (1965).

Tipton Canal and Community Festival

Saturday 16 September – FREE

Neptune Heath Park, Sedley Road West

Tipton, DV4 8PX

No need to book, just drop-in

Visit us and explore historic, artistic and community-focused screenings.

Birmingham Canal Navigations Society Rally

Friday 3 – Sunday 5 November 2017

Tipton Pump House, Engine Street

Oldbury B64 6DU

No need to book, just drop-in

Join Flatpack and IYP for refreshments and boat trips.

Looping the Ports

Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace

Birmingham B1 2JB

Throughout September and October, Ikon artists James Lomax and Mahtab Hussain will be our artists in residence. Working along side Ikon Youth Programme, they will explore be exploring new work and practices. Come on board and view their progress on our website and through social media.

Ikon Youth Programme

For 16–21 year olds with interest in visual art

Ikon Youth Programme meets once a week at Ikon to tour the exhibitions, get to know the Ikon team, share ideas and work with artists. These sessions are relaxed, friendly and informal. For more information contact James Cockbill on 0121 248 0708 or visit ikon-gallery.org/iyp

Slow Boat is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Sandwell Council, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, WA Cadbury Trust and the Grantham Yorke Trust.

Future Ikon Exhibitions



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Thomas Bock

6 December 2017 – 4 March 2018

This is the first exhibition dedicated to the work of Thomas Bock (c. 1793–1855) since 1991, and the first ever outside of Australia. Bock was one of the most important artists working in Australia during the colonial years. Born in Birmingham (UK), he trained as an engraver and miniature painter. In 1823 he was found guilty of “administering concoctions of certain herbs ... with the intent to cause miscarriage” and was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. Bock arrived in Hobart, Australia, the following year, where he was quickly pressed into service as a convict artist, engraving bank notes, illustrations for a local almanac, cheques, commercial stationery and so on. An early commission was a number of portraits of captured bushrangers, before and after execution by hanging, including the notorious cannibal Alexander Pearce.

The exhibition presents a selection of drawings, paintings and photographs that demonstrate both his technical skill and sensitivity to a wide range of subject matter. Bock’s portraits of Tasmanian Aborigines, fellow criminals, free settlers in Hobart Town, as well as nudes, landscapes and everyday scenes, providing touching insight into his domestic life.

Organised by Ikon in partnership with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart.

Edmund Clark

6 December 2017 – 4 March 2018

Edmund Clark has been Ikon’s artist-in-residence (2014–2017) at Britain’s only therapeutic prison, HMP Grendon in Buckinghamshire. An artist with a longstanding interest in incarceration and its effects, this exhibition showcases the body of work he has developed in response to the prison and helping to facilitate the prisoners’ own creative output. The work explores HMP Grendon as an environment and a process, which is the result of Clark’s familiarity and engagement with the prisoners, prison officers and staff’s daily routine. The works raise important questions about ideas of representation, self-image, trauma and panopticism.

- 4 Thomas Bock *Mathinna* (1842)
Watercolour
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
- 5 Edmund Clark *HMP Grendon* (2016)
Photograph
Courtesy the artist

About Ikon

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Housed in the neo-gothic Oozells Street School, it is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation.

The gallery programme features artists from around the world. A variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation.

Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom.

Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, our Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.



Ikon Shop

Open daily, you'll find a wide selection of art books, exhibition catalogues and design led giftware suitable for all occasions, alongside seasonal ranges and special items made in Birmingham.

If you are interested in collecting affordable art or need to find a special piece for your walls at home then take a look at our limited editions. Each of these unique works are investment pieces as they are by artists who have exhibited at Ikon.

Students, Independent Birmingham, Brindleyplace and Culture Card holders receive a 10% discount (conditions apply).

Alternatively browse our shop online at www.ikon-gallery.org

Follow Ikon Shop's products of the week on Instagram @ikongallery

For offers and news of our latest products sign up to the Ikon email list via the website.



Yorks at Ikon

Visit our new look café and enjoy specialty coffee (roasted at Yorks Coffee Roasters here in Birmingham), house-baked cakes, loose leaf teas, craft beers on tap, wine and cocktails. Enjoy Yorks' renowned brunch menu including shakshuka, Arabian buttered eggs and avocado smash alongside familiar favourites such as eggs benedict. From lunch until late, Yorks fires up the stone based pizza oven, serving stone baked pizzas, sandwiches, flatbreads and a daily changing selection of salads.

Visit www.yorksbakerycafe.co.uk for menu details, specials and regular live music events.

Thank you

Ikon would like to thank the following for their invaluable support over the past 12 months

ARTiMBARC; Arts & Humanities Research Council; Arts & Science Festival; Birmingham City University; Canal & River Trust; Bloxham Charitable Trust; Galleria Continua; San Gimignano/Beijing/Les Moulins/Habana; Exterion Media; Flatpack Film Festival; Glen Howells Architects; Grantham York Trust; HMP Grendon; Japan Foundation; Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust; Oakley Charitable Trust; One Million Years Foundation; David Owen; Saco Serviced David Zwimer Apartments; Archives Jean Painlevé; The photography Show; Garfield Weston Foundation; The University of Birmingham; and others who wish to remain anonymous.

Support Ikon

As a charity, Ikon needs your support. We rely on donations from individuals and businesses to fund what we do. If you would like to support us, whether by making a donation, becoming a patron or leaving a legacy, visit www.ikon-gallery.org or call 0121 248 0708.

Corporate Patrons

Deutsche Bank; Emerson Press; EY; Glenn Howells Architects; Hilton Garden Inn Birmingham Brindleyplace.

Ikon would also like to thank all those who make a donation during their visit.

Individual Patrons and Benefactors

Ross Alderson; Paul Aston; Lulu Badr; Adrian Bland; Simon Chapman; Angela Choon; Thomas Dane; Jean Denning; Victoria Denning; Carl & Didi Forster; Robert Goddard; Patzi Hasilmann; Peter Jenkins; Tom Jones; Stephen and Sigrid Kirk; Jeanette Koch; David and Mary Lodge; Tom Merillion; Simon Morris; Stephen Pallister; Jasmin Pelham; Sam Skillings; Mr & Mrs A E Taylor; Jonathan Wearing.

Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Project and Event supporters

Sofia Hultén's *Here's the Answer, What's the Question?* is supported by the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe

Edmund Clark, Artist in Residence at HMP Grendon is supported by Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University and the Michael Marsh Charitable Trust.

Ikon's Slow Boat, *Looping the Loop*, is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust.

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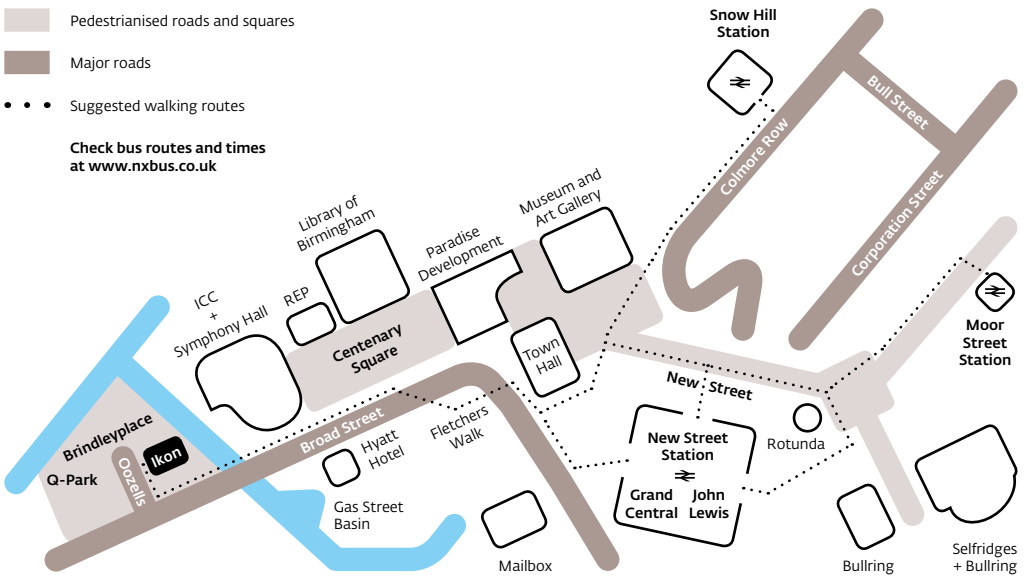


■ Pedestrianised roads and squares

■ Major roads

••• Suggested walking routes

Check bus routes and times at www.nxbus.co.uk



Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

+44 (0) 121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org

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Registered Charity no. 528892

Galleries open

Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays, 11am–5pm

Galleries closed 4–12 September for installation

Yorks Cafe at Ikon open

Monday to Wednesday, 8am–8pm

Thursday and Friday, 8am–9pm

Saturday, 8.30am–9pm; Sunday, 9.30am–6pm

Ikon Shop open

Daily 10.30am–5.30pm

Access

Ikon aims to be fully accessible for disabled visitors. Wheelchair available. Lift to all floors. Assistance dogs welcome. Fitted induction loop and portable loop for talks.

Getting to Ikon

Please note due to the transformation of Paradise Circus your journey to Ikon may be affected. For information on roadworks and changes to pedestrian routes visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/connected

Pedestrian route from New Street train station

From New Street station walk to Victoria Square, past the side of Town Hall, through Fletcher's Walk and into Broad Street. Pass the Hyatt Hotel on the left, then turn right into Oozells Street. This walk takes approximately 15 minutes.

By road

Birmingham is accessible by the M5, M6, M40 and M42 motorways. Drivers should follow signs to Birmingham City Centre then look for the brown tourist signs to the International Convention Centre, Barclaycard Arena, Canals and Brindleyplace.

Car and bicycle parking

The nearest car park is Q-Park Brindleyplace on Brunswick Street (pre-book and quote IKON for 10% discount at www.q-park.co.uk/parking/birmingham/q-park-brindleyplace). Orange and blue badge holders may park on the double yellow lines on Oozells Street in accordance with badge guidelines. There is a bicycle rack near Ikon.

Local accommodation

Ikon has partnered with Hilton Garden Inn to offer visitors a discount rate. Visit www.hilton.com, select Hilton Garden Inn, and enter the corporate id N2771505 in Corporate Account.

Ikon is a charity and offers free entry for all, please consider making a donation during your visit.