

Truths and Rights - Black Heritage Season 2007

Events in October hosted by the Victoria and Albert Museum

Truths and Rights is a season of powerful events, from October through to December for all ages that highlights the often untold stories of our black British heroes and investigates the hidden history of artworks in the museum's collection.

All events are free except where otherwise stated and booking for some events is advised.

For further information about the museum's full Black Heritage events go to http://www.vam.ac.uk/uncomfortable_truths/ut_events/index.html

Dear Visitor,

The Victoria and Albert museum is now in its final quarter of the bicentenary year to commemorate the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in Britain. Continuing under the umbrella of the Uncomfortable Truths project the museum has planned a series of exciting mainly free events across 2007 with something for everyone.

Many of you have been attending events at the museum for the bicentenary since February and have demonstrated how you feel by returning for more!

The events that follow all take place in October and look closely at issues of protest & persuasion, the legacies of the slave trade on black British artists and a day of celebrating Sweet Mother Africa. Many of these events are collaborations with cultural organizations including Cultural Exchange Through Theatre in Education and Celebrating Africa. Come along and enjoy yourself with family and friends - don't miss out!

Sunday 7 October

An Ira Aldridge Double Bill

Part I - The Remarkable Ira Aldridge – discussion, debate and display (includes intermission & book signing) 13.45 – 15.30



Ira Aldridge as Othello, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Take an engaging look at the life and times of Ira Aldridge through panel discussion, debate and display with those who know Ira well, Oku Ekpenyon, Burt Caesar, Leon Robinson and Makeda Coaston who will Chair this event. *The book IRA ALDRIDGE: Celebrated 19th Century Actor* written by Martin Hoyles will also be launched at this event.

Part II - Splendid Summer – theatre performance 15.45 – 17.15



Ira Aldridge as Aaro, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

A tribute to Ira Aldridge, the great Shakespearean actor who was mercilessly slated by London critics, but his magnificence on stage earned him a reputation across Europe and Russia that far outstripped his contemporaries. Actor Shango Baku will play Aldridge, who was also an unusual abolitionist and a campaigner for the enslaved.

A collaboration with Cultural Exchange Through Theatre in Education (CETTIE).

Tickets for this Ira Aldridge double bill is free but advanced booking is strongly recommended. Call 020 7942 2211 or email bookings.office@vam.ac.uk

The Impact of Legacy: can black art really triumph? Fridays 12 October - 14 December,

8 week course (no sessions on 26 Oct, 9 & 30 Nov), 13.30 - 16.30

On this interactive course examine the impact of the slave trade on art & design and the affect on British culture today, whilst exploring the legacies and realities of what it means to gain real success as a Black artist or designer. Course leader: Peter Ashan.

Free but must be pre booked. Call 020 7942 2211 or email bookings.office@vam.ac.uk



Sir Foster Cunliffe Playing, Yinka Shonibare MBE, 2007, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Sunday 14 Oct Celebrating Africa Family Activity Day

12.00 – 17.30

Enjoy showcase performances by African cultural groups and artists from Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa; make Algerian recycled toys or print an African inspired T-shirt; African film screenings and talks with special guests. In collaboration with Celebrating Africa.



African Bazaar, Africa 2005, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Saturday 20 October Gallery Tour

Traces of the Trade: Britain and the West Indies , 15.00 - 16.30

Find out why, by the late 18th century, Britain owned most of the successful West Indian colonies and how this power was reinforced when France lost its most important colony, Saint-Domingue (western Hispaniola, now Haiti) to a slave revolt in 1791 led by Toussaint Louverture.

Free – meet at the Meeting Point in the Grand Entrance.



Portrait of Francis Williams, Unknown Jamaican, British or American painter, About 1745, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

The Victoria and Albert Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

Tel. 020 7942 2000

Website: www.vam.ac.uk

Tube: South Kensington
Buses: C1, 14, 74 and 414 stop outside the Cromwell Road entrance

***Celebrating Africa** plays a pivotal role in promoting a more rounded image of Africa, celebrating cultural diversity through the arts and more importantly building more inclusive relationships between cultures, communities and nations.

***CETTIE (Cultural Exchange Through Theatre in Education)** is a registered Charity for over 20 years that promotes Diversity and inclusion through its work with schools, libraries, theatres, and community venues.

