

2025 at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

In 2025 the ordinary becomes extraordinary with three exhibitions celebrating the uniqueness that can be found in the everyday, from the art of bookbinding to an artistic great's take on household items, as well as a collection of photographs charting rural life.

Bound Together: Modern British Bookbinding

18 February – 3 May 2025

In the first of its kind, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will stage an overview of the life and work of the internationally renowned bookbinder Roger Powell OBE (1896-1990), who produced and worked on exquisite books out of his bindery in nearby Froxfield for five decades.

With a selection of rarely seen fine bindings by Powell and those connected with him, including Douglas Cockerell, William Matthews, and Peter Waters, sourced from private collectors, as well as over 20 uniquely bound books by members of Designer Bookbinders who are leading practitioners in the field today, this exhibition will spotlight the artistry and incredible techniques of a practice that dates back thousands of years.



Powell studied the oldest surviving European leather-bound book, the 8th century *St Cuthbert Gospel*, and his own teachings including a method to keep the vellum intact are still widely used today. He worked on the rebinding of historical artefacts such as the *Book of Kells* in the 1950s, the *Lichfield Gospels* in the 1960s, and 20th century editions of famous works including Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

When Florence's River Arno flooded in 1966, Powell and his business partner Peter Waters were integral figures who helped conserve and restore thousands of badly damaged books from the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze. His expertise was still being sought at the end of life when, in 1986, he advised the Edward Barnsley Workshop on making new oak book boards for rebinding the *Domesday Book* for its 900th anniversary.

His mastery of the craft has meant that his legacy continues to this day, with editions bound by Powell still highly sought after, and his belief that a book is a three-dimensional object with design and parts all unified now an accepted understanding.

As well as featuring some of his great work, the exhibition will also explore the fascinating life of Powell, from his World War 1 service to an early foray in farming, and his lifelong pursuit of beekeeping.

Michael Craig-Martin

20 May – 13 September 2025

One of the best-known artists of his generation, and also highly influential for the next, Michael Craig-Martin (b.1941) has been celebrated worldwide for his conceptual artworks that are instantly recognisable.

In 2025, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery will be displaying a selection of the artist's prints that highlight his distinctive approach to depicting ordinary everyday items.

The Irish-born artist's 1973 creation *The Oak Tree* continues to excite and provoke in equal measure, and as a Goldsmiths Tutor he has been credited as helping foster the Young British Artists who were students at the time.

For over four decades, Craig-Martin has been bringing bright and psychedelic colours to his exploration of the relationship between real objects and their depictions, highlighting the transitory nature of objects in 21st century contemporary life.

The prints include depictions of headphones, lightbulbs and trainers and invite the viewer to consider the transitory items that fill the world around us.



Rediscovering the photographs of Winifred Joseph, 1917 to 1945

30 September – 20 December 2025

An intimate and sprawling chronicle of artistic and rural life in the mid-20th century will come to Petersfield in the Autumn.

From the Museum and Art Gallery's archive, over 1000 negatives capture the life of an artistic circle in Petersfield between the two world wars. Taken mainly by Winifred Joseph (1894-1966) at the home of Dr Harry Roberts, an East End-based doctor, the house in Hampshire named 'Oakshott Hangers' became a much-used country retreat from the capital.

Over the years, artists and architects including Geoffrey Lupton, the poet Edward Thomas and artist Flora Twort as well as a wide range of Petersfield residents came to the house. Joseph documented it all, from daily life tending to horses and raising children, to playful pets.

With over 16 albums that have been carefully preserved, the exhibition will offer a unique glimpse into 20th century rural life, and the people that enriched it.



Notes to Editors

For media images, please email communications@petersfieldmuseum.co.uk .

- *Roger Powell in his workshop at the Slade*, c.1970s, Photographer: Don Eades ©Don Eades Photographic Archive, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery
- Michael Craig-Martin, *Folio*, 2004. © Image courtesy the artist and Cristea Roberts Gallery. Photography by Daniel Browne
- Winifred Joseph, *Bas with brass*, 1922. Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is an accredited, independent museum and registered charity. Established in 1999, it underwent a £4 million redevelopment, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A rare example of a restored Victorian Justice Heritage site, its permanent collections include an Archaeology Collection and Social History Collection relating to Petersfield and the surrounding area, the Flora Twort Art Collection, a Photography Collection (including the Don Eades Photographic Archive) and a Fashion and Textiles Collection (including the Bedales Historic Dress Collection), as well as a Reference Archive. The Flora Twort Gallery is a dedicated art gallery with a fine art and contemporary craft exhibition programme and an inclusive public programme. It is also home to the Tim Wilton-Steer Collection of works by and about the poet Edward Thomas, housed in The Edward Thomas Centre.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, AND IMAGES

Molly Schmidt, Marketing and Communications Officer at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery
communications@petersfieldmuseum.co.uk | 01730 262601 | www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk