ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE THE GREEK UNDERWORLD
Level G, Gallery 21. Join students from Cheney School and the Rumble Museum as they journey to the Ancient Greek Kingdom of the Dead as described in Dante's Divine Comedy, with activities and artefact-handling with some of the Rumble Museum's collection.

POETRY WORKSHOP
GUIDES, JOURNEYS, DESTINATIONS
Level 2, Gallery 4: 5.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm. Who is your guide and where are they leading you? Reimagine the structures of Dante's epic to write your own poem about a journey, whether it's deep into the underworld or just down to the corner shop. Delivered by Maya Little from TORCH.

INTERACTIVE TALK
DANTE'S WOMEN, WHO WOULD YOU SAVE?
Level G, Gallery II. What makes a character worthy of Paradise or fit for the fires of Hell? Dante specialists Drs Rebecca Bowen and Nicolò Crisafi present an interactive engagement with the biggest ethical question of the Divine Comedy by asking participants: who would you save? Presented by Dr Rebecca Bowen, Retained Lecturer in Italian (Pembroke College, Oxford) and Dr Nicolò Crisafi, Teaching and Research Fellow in Italian (Pembroke College, Cambridge). Talks at 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm. Please note this is limited to 20 people per session on a first come first served basis.

STREET ART WORKSHOP
Level -1, Education Centre. Come along and create Dante inspired street art with Dr Macs Smith. This activity will run throughout the evening from 5pm. Slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

BOOK STAND
Level G, Galley 22. Professor Peter Hainsworth and Samuel Fanous present several recent publications on Dante.

DIGITAL DISPLAY
TORCH intern Shae Moors, an Activate College student, responds to Dante. Welcome Area display screens.

ART DISPLAY
Level I, Gallery 31. From The Cherwell School in Oxford. Students from Year 7 - Year 13 have taken part in the Dante Festival Challenge to reimagine Dante's Inferno in the modern age.

General entry is FREE, but booking is required. Dressing up encouraged! Separate tickets required for the TOKYO exhibition

ashmolean.org/lates

Scan the code to tell us what you think about tonight's event

A collaboration with TORCH and the Ashmolean Museum as part of the Humanities Cultural Programme

DANTE THE INVENTION OF CELEBRITY

PROGRAMME
Fri 26 Nov, 5pm–8pm
Comparative Criticism; Tutorial Fellow, St Anne's College
recover this fragment of the language of Eden.
And how might it be translated into English? Join me to try to
of the

Dante tells us that the word for God is signalled in manuscripts
had been entirely lost even before the Tower of Babel. All he
Garden of Eden? Amazingly, Adam replies that that language
pondering for a long time: what language was spoken in the
first human. He asks him a question that he had been
by Dante, in attempting to bridge the infinite gap between human and divine, at the same time
declares his failure and reaches one of the highest points ever attained by poetry.
Dr Serena Vandi, Powys Roberts Research Fellow in European Literature, St Hugh's College

Dr Macs Smith, Career Development Fellow in French at the

BITE-SIZE TALKS
LEVEL -1, LECTURE THEATRE
5.30PM: ‘ENTHOUSANDING’ WORDS. DANTE INVENTOR OF LANGUAGE AT THE END OF THE
PARADISO
Dante's 'travel report' of the afterlife is a unique poetic enterprise. The third part of this journey - Paradiso - poses an
extreme challenge: finding the words to represent a dimension which is beyond humanity, space, and time. Amongst the
many strategies that Dante adopts to try and give an idea of the
inexpressible, the most fascinating one is undoubtedly the
invention of special new words. By looking at some of these
heavenly verbs, we will see how Dante, in attempting to bridge
the inexpressible, the most fascinating one is undoubtedly the

TALLIS

6PM: DANTE AND THE INVENTION OF CELEBRITY
An introduction to the Dante and the Invention of Celebrity
exhibition exploring the narrative of the show through a
selection of objects.
Professor Gervase Rosser, Professor of the History of Art,
Ertegun Director and Fellow of St Catherine's College

6.30PM: TRANSLATING THE LANGUAGE OF EDEN
In the heights of Paradiso, Dante encounters the soul of Adam,
the first human. He asks him a question that he had been
pondering for a long time: what language was spoken in the
Garden of Eden? Amazingly, Adam replies that that language
had been entirely lost even before the Tower of Babel. All he
tells Dante is that the word for God is signalled in manuscripts
of the Commedia by a vertical or slightly slanting line. But
what would it have sounded like? Is it a translation into Italian?
And how might it be translated into English? Join me to try to
recover this fragment of the language of Eden.
Professor Matthew Reynolds, Professor of English and
Comparative Criticism; Tutorial Fellow, St Anne's College

7PM: “THESE DIRTY AVENUES TO FAME”: CELEBRITY AND SCANDAL IN EIGHTEENTH-
CENTURY NEWSPAPERS
In the second half of the eighteenth century Britain was
flooded with new print media trading in scurrilous stories
about the rich and famous. This talk will introduce some of
the most notorious scandal sheets of this period, explain
why regulating gossip was so politically contentious, and
give a guide to reading the codes and puzzles of one 1780s
newspaper page.
Dr Ruth Scobie, Stipendiary Lecturer in English, Mansfield
College

7.30PM: THE ICON, THE EXILE: DANTE AND
ITALIAN STREET ART
Why are Italian street artists interested in Dante Alighieri? In
recent years, his face and scenes from the Divine Comedy
have appeared in paste-ups and murals across Italy, and he
has even had a major street art exhibition dedicated to him. In
these works of art, we find two visions of Dante: the national
icon and the exile. Touching on 19th-century nationalism,
Italian fascism, and the contemporary refugee crisis, this talk
will show how street art fits into the long history of art inspired
by Dante, and it will examine what new perspectives on Dante
are emerging from this encounter between a medieval poet of
the eternal and contemporary artists of the ephemeral.
Dr Macs Smith, Career Development Fellow in French at the
Queen's College

PERFORMANCES

AI-DA, THE WORLD’S FIRST HUMANOID ROBOT, PRESENTED BY THE HUMANITIES CULTURAL
PROGRAMME
Ai-Da has contributed works to the Ashmolean Exhibition
Dante - The Invention of Celebrity (Level – 1, Gallery 8). This
includes palimpsest works, featuring portraits of Beatrice and
Dante in the Paradiso, and a lenticular artwork reflecting on
the blindness of human progress when pursued at any cost in
our technological age.

5.10PM: IN CONVERSATION WITH AI-DA
Ai-Da, the world’s first humanoid artist-robot, fields questions
from children at Cheney School and the Rumble Museum.
Level 2, Gallery 44. Gallery space is limited for this event and
available on a first come first served basis.

6.15PM & 7.15PM: AI-DA ON DANTE
Ai-Da performs poetry in response to Dante's Divine Comedy
and her creators, Aidan Meller and Lucy Seal, tell us more
about the world’s first humanoid artist-robot. Level 2, Gallery
44. Gallery space is limited for this event and available on a
first come first served basis. Ai-Da’s performance at 6.15pm will
be livestreamed to the Atrium window.

DANTE’S TRUBADOURS: A LECTURE-RECITAL
This lecture-recital will take you back to the sound world that
fired Dante’s poetic imagination. We will encounter some of
the most famous poetic figures of his day: the troubadours.
First, Bertran de Born, whom Dante meets in Hell on account of
his divisive poetry; then Arnaut Daniel, who is purging his
lust in the fires of Purgatory; and finally Folquet de Marselha,
who appears in the Heaven of Venus, “the lovely planet that
strengthens us to love”
Lachlan Hughes, Stipendiary Lecturer in Italian, St Hilda’s
College; and Joseph W. Mason, Junior Research Fellow, New
College. Performances at 5.30pm, 6.20pm and 7pm. Level 1,
Gallery 33.

SPESSE FIATE
Students Piers Kennedy (DPhil, Music Faculty) and Rowan
Ireland (UG, Ruskin Schools of Art) present a light-hearted
audio visual reimaging of Dante’s sonnet Spesse fiate. 5.45pm,
6.30pm, 7.30pm. Level 1, Gallery 5.

ATRIUM
Enjoy performances all evening in the Atrium

5PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs a programme
inspired by Dante.
Telemann – Suite in A minor for Strings and Recorder

5.25PM: Oxford Festival of the Arts presents La Divina
Commedia performed by renowned Italian dance company
NoGravity. NoGravity’s style embraces illusion, sculpture and
aerial dance. (Atrium window).

5.45PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs.
Elliott Park – Song of the Olive Garden (orch. E. Park)

6.15PM: Ai-Da on Dante (Atrium window - livestreamed).

7PM: Inner Peace Records perform original music plus improv
rap inspired by Dante.

7.20PM: The Oxford Baroque Ensemble performs.
Lobo
Versa est in luctum

McDowell
The lord is good

Gesualdo
Tenebrae responsories for Maundy

Tallis
Te lucis