

ABOUT TONIGHT

Immerse yourself in 1920s and 1930s America at this evening event tracing America from the Roaring Twenties through to the end of the Great Depression.

Explore our #AmericasCoolModernism exhibition, discover the glamour of 1930s Hollywood alongside the American rural farmstead, and be inspired by The Machine Age, The Great Gatsby and the effects of Prohibition.

Tonight's LiveFriday is the headline event of the Ashmolean's American Cool Arts Festival, a month long series of events celebrating American art, literature, music, drama and film from the 1920s–40s. For this LiveFriday the Ashmolean is working with Blackwell's Bookshop, Curzon Oxford, the Oxford Playhouse & the Rothermere American Institute. Be greeted by the fabulous The Gatsby Girls, listen to some bite-size talks on America in the 20s and 30s, make a Georgia O'Keeffe collage, Meet a Modernist and find out the password for the Ashmolean Speakeasy "The Blue Ruin" from the "silent" movie actors from Pegasus Theatre.

LEVEL -1

The Gatsby Girls and Guys | SEE

"I'll say there's nothing finer than the Charleston" - Cecil Mack 1923. With authentic steps from the Charleston to the iconic moves from MGM studios, the girls and guys will transport you back with energy and style. The gals will show off their fancy footwork, high kicks and fabulous tricks while the boys spin and flip all over town!

The Beatroots | LISTEN

Oxford's premier postgraduate mixed-voice 12-piece vegetable-named a cappella group performing two jazz-infused sets.

A Touch of Paris | LISTEN

A Touch Of Paris specialise in classic American Swing, French Chanson and Cabaret. With a French born singer whose impressive vocals cover a four octave range, the band are certain to dazzle you with their unique, expressive style.

Consuelo Vanderbilt – Blenheim Palace's Dollar Princess by Blenheim Curator **Antonia Keaney** | TALK

In the year which saw Prince Harry marry his American fiancée, it is worth noting that it was once common practice for British aristocrats to take an American bride. The 8th Duke of Marlborough and his brother, Lord Randolph, both wed Americans. It is perhaps fortunate that Randolph's whirlwind romance and marriage to Jennie Jerome, resulted in the birth of the Anglo-American, Winston Churchill! By 1892, the upkeep of Blenheim Palace was costly and the constant lack of funds was a problem; the 9th Duke – under his grandmother's orders - addressed this situation by finding and marrying a Dollar Princess.

Anna Christie Film Screening with Prof Alex Goody | LISTEN

Anna Christie is a 1930 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer pre-Code drama film adaptation of the 1922 play of the same name by Eugene O'Neill. The

film stars Greta Garbo, Charles Bickford, George F. Marion, and Marie Dressler. It was marketed using the slogan "Garbo Talks!", as it was her first talkie. Of all its stars, Garbo was the one that MGM kept out of talking films the longest for fear that one of their biggest stars, like so many others, would not succeed in them. Her famous first line is: "Gimme a whisky, ginger ale on the side, and don't be stingy, baby!" Prof Alex Goody will set the scene and highlight key points in this iconic film.

1930s E-Reader: Machine-Age Augmented Reality | ACTIVITY

In 1931, the American Surrealist writer Bob Brown invented a reading machine that anticipated the internet, text messaging and even augmented reality; together with his expatriate collaborators, he built a prototype and collected modernists texts called 'readies' by Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams and others to demonstrate its potential. The machine never went into production, but now, the Avant-Gardes and Speculative Technology (AGAST) Project at Oxford Brookes and the Ashmolean Museum have reconstructed this legendary Machine-Age experiment.

The Medium of Modernism: Watercolour in America from Homer to Hopper with Timothy Wilcox | TALK

Learn about the emergence of watercolour painting in the early 20th century as a dynamic, modern means of expression. This talk will focus on the work of Winslow Homer, a father-figure in watercolour painting, and his students Georgia O'Keeffe, John Marin, and Charles Demuth.

Tickets: £7/£6 Members & concessions.

LEVEL G

Keble String Orchestra Play American Cool | LISTEN

KSO play authentic music including a medley of Dixieland favourites arranged by Kenneth Abeling and Magnetic Rag by Scott Joplin (1868-1917), and a new piece Cityscapes by music student Gabby Woodward inspired by works in the America's Cool Modernism exhibition. Gabby's piece reflects on elements of the 'Roaring Twenties' through the use of fused jazz sounds as well as capturing the busy industrial scene by means of fast paced hypnotic 'neo-minimalist' repetition.

Cool Colourful Collage | ACTIVITY

Join in with a cool collective colourful collage of a painting from America's Cool Modernism. Or colour or make your own collage to take away.

Meet a Modernist Writer | ACTIVITY

Have you ever wondered what you'd ask Ernest Hemingway or James Joyce after a few gin cocktails? Ever wished you could chat to Buster Keaton about his films or ask the Fitzgeralds about the jazz age? This is your chance! Scattered throughout the galleries you'll find iconic writers, painters and actors from the 1920s eagerly waiting to answer your questions. Come along and introduce yourselves – it's time to meet the modernists!

Make an Egyptian inspired 20s Headdress | ACTIVITY

Have you come to LiveFriday sans-headdress? Come and make one in the Egyptian Galleries with museum volunteers! While cloche hats were worn during the day, headbands, called Bandeaux, were seen in the evenings with the most formal dresses. The trend started when King Tut's tomb was discovered in 1924. Soon after, everyone wanted to look like an Egyptian queen. Join in!

John Lewis 20s Fashion Show Edit | SEE

Fancy being a flapper girl or Jay Gatsby? Be inspired by the 20s look in the modern jazz age, with a special fashion show styled by John Lewis's personal styling team. Like the look? Buy it at John Lewis Westgate! Historian Dr Helen Saunders will set the scene, with an introduction to the history of 20s and 30s fashions.

Talking Pictures | ACTIVITY

Pegasus Theatre's Young Company will pop-up throughout the museum performing epic silent movie chases and scenes from the 1930 play, *Once In A Lifetime* by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman. The piece will showcase the transition from silent movies to 'talkies' in the golden age of motion pictures and explore prohibition-era stories. They will be seen at various locations during the evening, and can even give you clues to the secret speakeasy saloon - The Blue Ruin Bar.

LEVEL 1

Swing by and get creative! | ACTIVITY

Swing by and get inspired by the vibrant and colourful industrial paintings from the American Cool exhibition. Take part in a collaborative stain glass effect collage with Artist Amanda Beck by adding a skyscraper, bridge, factory or a swirling street to get you in the 1920/30s creative frame of mind.

Decadent Times Photo Booth | ACTIVITY

1930s Decadence, 21st Century Delivery. Authentic Props in a Unique Atmosphere. Modern Technology Meets Vintage Style: The oldest camera in history, the wooden obscura, was also known as the field camera. Inside we have installed a modern camera, which takes the most awesome photos. Connected to our field camera is the HMV Table Television. We have inserted a touch screen TV showing your photo set up and the finished product. Simply touch the screen for the countdown to begin and bam! Your photo is ready.

Prohibition's a Drag | SEE

A short introductory talk by Katie Gardner on American legal restrictions placed on artists and their work, particularly in regard to gender expression, in the 20s and 30s followed by a performance by drag king/queen double act The Dragprov Revue. Enter the underground and throw the rules out the window with these LiveFriday veterans, who will improvise dazzling songs and sketches based entirely on audience suggestions.

LEVEL 2

Her Abstract Nature | ACTIVITY

A stall to explore the art and life of Georgia O'Keeffe. Participants will be able to make small artworks to take home with them.

The Retro Room Vintage Shop | ACTIVITY

Meet Audrey the owner of The Retro Room in St Clements Street, bringing with her some vintage pieces for you to try on and buy dresses, hats,

jewellery and more! Audrey has owned shops in Glasgow, and dressed actors on stage and screen, so she knows her Vintage!

The Rothermere American Institute Talkspot | TALKS

7.30–7.45

Dr. Tessa Roynon (RAI, Oxford): African-American Literature: Coolness and/or Power?

7.50–8.05

Dr. James Cetkovski (Trinity College Oxford): Grace Under Pressure: Hemingway's 'American' Masculinity

8.10–8.25

Oenone Kubie (RAI Oxford): Child gangs in Prohibition Chicago

8.30–8.45

Dr Eric White (Brookes): 1930s E-Reader: Machine-Age Augmented Reality

8.50–9.05

Helen Saunders (KCL): The Little Black Dress in 1920s America

9.10–9.25

Dr. Tara Stubbs (RAI, Oxford): Fitzgerald Beyond Gatsby

9.30–9.45

Dr. Michael Walsh (Oxford): The Secret History of Cool

Great Gatsby Read-a-thon with Blackwell's Bookshop | ACTIVITY

Join Blackwell's Bookshop as they attempt to read an entire book- "The Great Gatsby" in 3 ½ hours! Come and cheer them on, read a bit yourself and find out more about the America's Cool Modernism Book display.

LEVEL 3

America's Cool Modernism: O'Keeffe to Hopper | EXHIBITION

The first exhibition to explore the 'cool' in American art in the early 20th century, from early experiments in abstraction by artists like Georgia O'Keeffe, Arthur Dove and Paul Strand to the strict, clean precisionist paintings of Charles Sheeler and Charles Demuth. See incredible loans from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the Terra Foundation for American Art, Chicago, including 35 paintings that have never been seen in the UK before. This exhibition is ticketed. Entry is free for the Ashmolean Members or for those who have bought a LiveFriday + Exhibition Combo ticket. Entrance via Gallery 58, tickets available at shop on level 3.

LEVEL 4

Decadent Times Lounge @Rooftop Restaurant | JAZZ, COCKTAILS AND GAMES

Listen to the cool jazz tunes of Luca Stoll and his trio, chill out with a Prohibition-friendly cocktail and play some authentic 20s games with Decadent Times.

TICKETS

Some performances are ticketed or have limited capacity. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets can be purchased from the Information Desk on Level G.



LIVEFRIDAY

AMERICAN COOL

Friday 25 May 2018

7.00–10.30pm

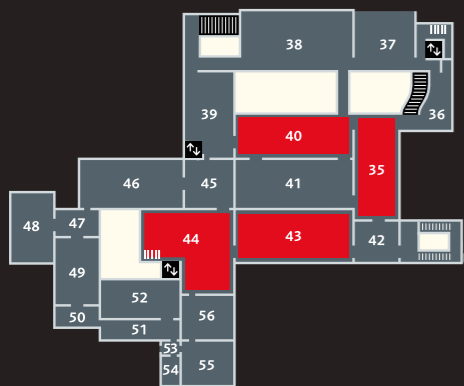
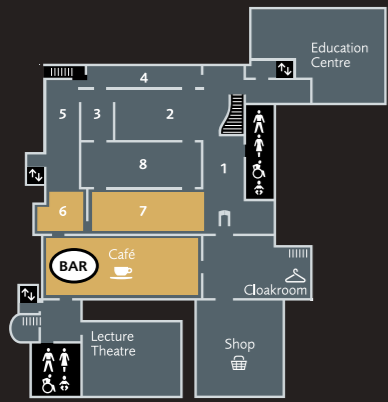
Oxford's Weekend Starts Here...

Immerse yourself in 1920s & 30s America.

From the glamour of 1930s Hollywood to the American rural farmstead.

www.ashmolean.org/livefriday

Thank you to our festival partners: Blackwell's Bookshop, Curzon Oxford, Music at Oxford, The Rothermere American Institute & Oxford Playhouse



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G

1

2

3

4

The Gatsby Girls and Guys
SEE, Atrium

The Beatroots
LISTEN, Atrium and Café

A Touch of Paris
LISTEN, Café

Consuelo Vanderbilt – Blenheim Palace's Dollar Princess
TALK, Gallery 7

Anna Christie Film Screening with Prof Alex Goody
SEE, Gallery 7

1930s E-Reader: Machine-Age Augmented Reality
ACTIVITY, Gallery 6

The Medium of Modernism: Watercolour in America from Homer to Hopper
TALK, Lecture Theatre, Tickets: £7/£6 members & concessions

Cool Colourful Collage
ACTIVITY, Galleries 18

Meet a Modernist
ACTIVITY, Gallery 20 (Level G) and 30 (Level 1)

Keble Strings & John Lewis 20s Fashion edit with Helen Saunders
LISTEN & SEE, Gallery 21

Make an Egyptian inspired 20s Headdress
ACTIVITY, Gallery 22

Talking Pictures
ACTIVITY, Throughout the museum

Swing by and get creative!
ACTIVITY, Gallery 28

Decadent Times Photo Booth
ACTIVITY, Gallery 31

Prohibition's a Drag
SEE, Gallery 33

Her Abstract Nature
ACTIVITY, Gallery 43

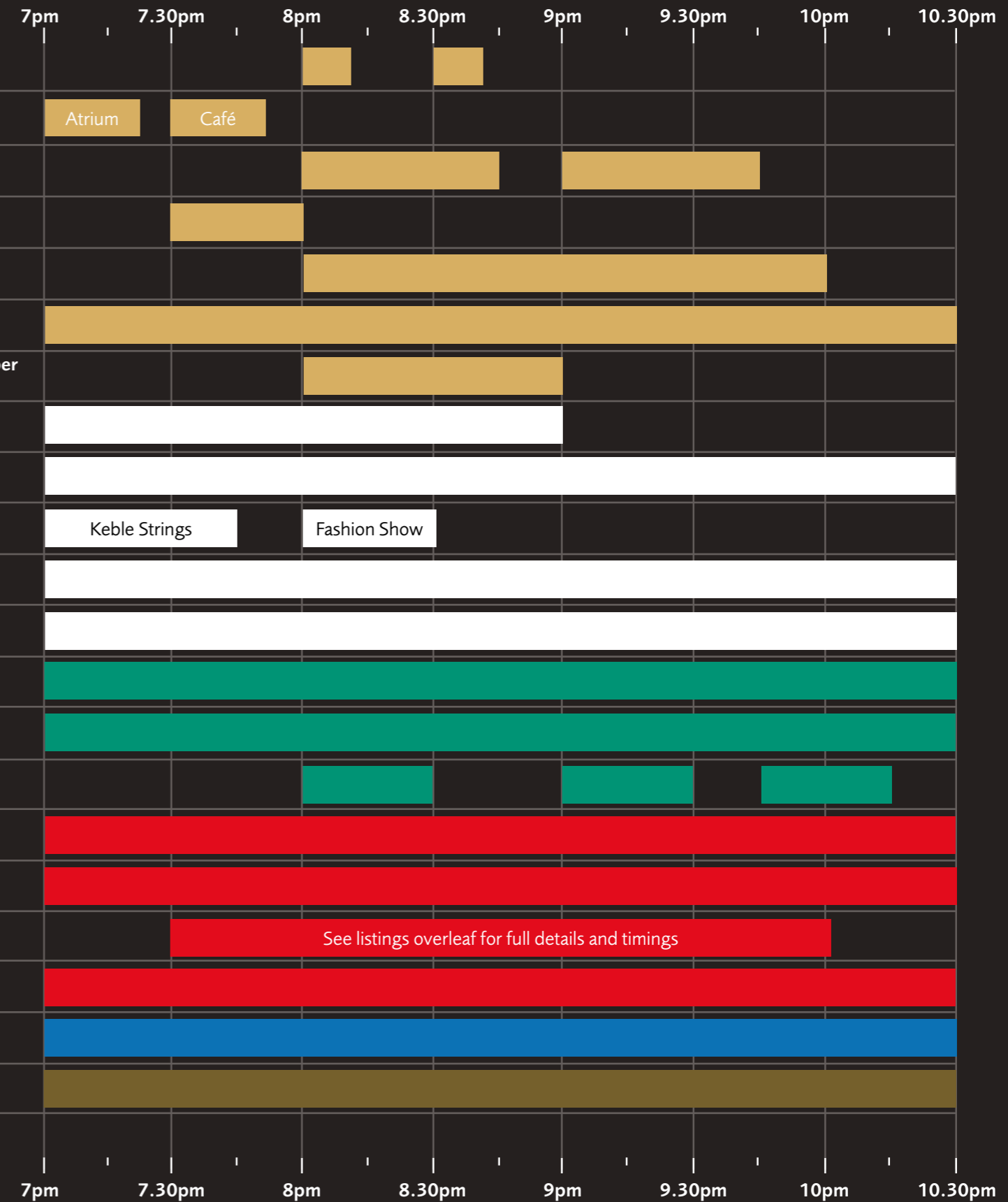
The Retro Room Vintage Shop
ACTIVITY, Gallery 35

The Rothermere American Institute Talkspot
TALKS, Gallery 44

Great Gatsby Read-a-thon with Blackwell's Bookshop
ACTIVITY, Gallery 40

America's Cool Modernism: O'Keeffe to Hopper
EXHIBITION, Entrance via Gallery 58, tickets available at shop on Level 3

Decadent Times Lounge
JAZZ, COCKTAILS AND GAMES, Rooftop Restaurant



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AMERICA'S COOL MODERNISM O'KEEFFE TO HOPPER

Please note that if you wish to view the Exhibition, these entries are timed. The Exhibition is on Level 3. Purchase your ticket at the information desk (Level G) or Exhibition Shop (Level 3). Concessions are available. University of Oxford Students entry Free with ID.

COMING SOON

SPELLBOUND LIVEFRIDAY 26 OCT 2018

Follow us @AshmoleanMuseum

