

Scrutiny Bulletin: 9 January 2023

Title of Update: Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery Annual Review
2021-22

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1. What is the update about?

The attached annual review celebrates the work of the museum during the period April 2021 to March 2022. It covers all aspects of the work of the museum: exhibitions, events, collections, contemporary art, community engagement, conservation, digital, skills development, commercial activities and visitor services.

2. Background

The museum produces an annual review every year. The previous annual review covered the period 2020-21

3. Current position

The review summarises an active and busy first post pandemic year – a year in which RAMM was the focus for many people venturing out from their homes to be in shared spaces, connecting with others and through our collections and exhibitions re-discovering a broader world. For those people who had felt isolated or struggled with their mental health, RAMM was a source of comfort and calm in what could seem an overwhelming return to our previous lives.

For RAMM too, 2021-22 was a year of recovery and rebuilding following the enormous challenges of the pandemic. When the museum reopened its doors on 18 May 2021, having only been able to open for 31 days in the previous year, we were met by a wave of good will and positivity from our visitors and partners. It was a powerful reminder of the important role the museum plays in the cultural life of the city and clearly demonstrated how much RAMM is valued by the people of Exeter.

The 2021 summer family activities in the Garden were particularly joyous, as was the first live Lates event in November 2021. The year culminated in the opening of In Plain Sight: Transatlantic Slavery and Devon in 2022, an important exhibition long in the making due to delays caused by the pandemic.

Partnership working is key to the museum's success, and across the year we worked with a wide range of groups and organisations that link the museum to the community we serve. 2021-22 saw the museum growing and building its partnership with the University of Exeter through the Creative Arc programme, and forging links with Wellbeing Exeter.

4. Future position

N/a

5. Are there any other options?

N/a

6. Conclusion

This review celebrates the work of the museum and contains a thank you to all the museum's funders and partners who make this work possible.