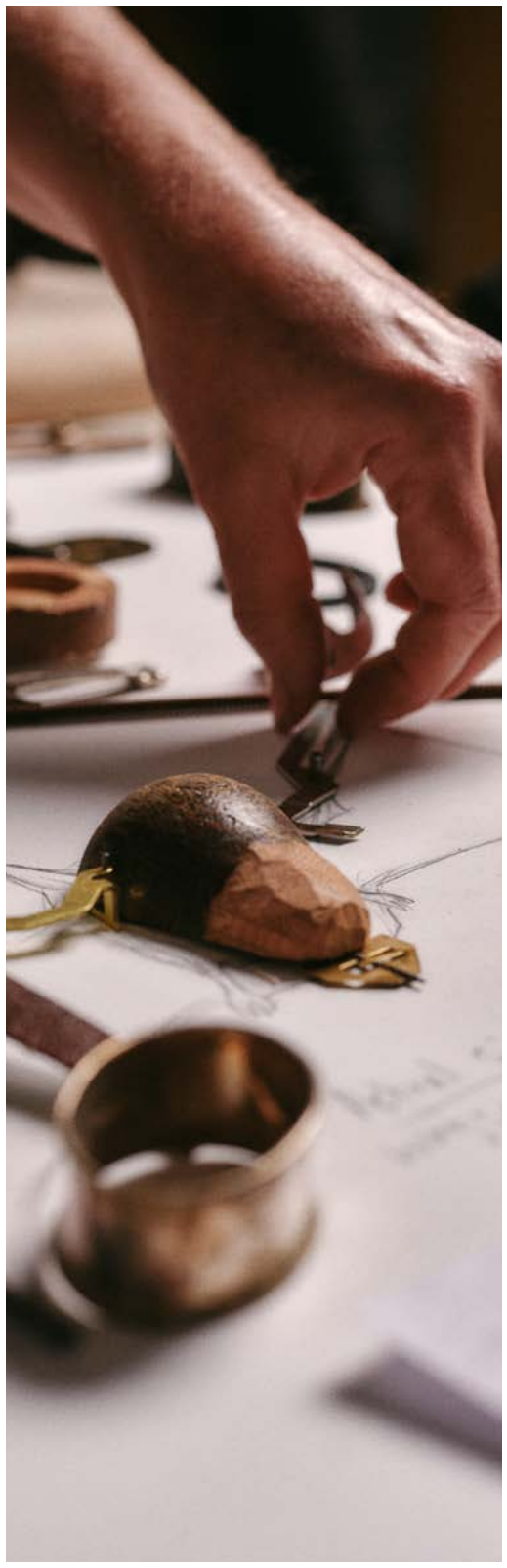
Studio Discovery Days

Tours, talks, demonstrations and workshops by the Harley Studio artists.



Friday 21 February

Museum Demonstrations
Free, drop-in 10.30am – 3pm

Rachel Wood will take inspiration from our jade tea set, sculpting drinking vessels from clay.

Kyra Cane will be sketching the ornate silverware on display. Take a closer look at the objects and use our materials to draw alongside her.

Jane Withers will hand-embroider designs inspired by costumes in our historic portraits, linking them to contemporary knitted textiles – and inviting you to have a go.

Steve Handley will present a collection of his handmade chairs for the first time, talking about his design process and materials.

Friday 21 February

Piecing Together Pottery
Booking required

Learn how to mend broken ceramics with restorer Fiona Hutchinson. There will be an opportunity to put your new-found skills into action during the session.

Friday 21 February

Museum Talk: Frames in Focus
Booking required

Take a fresh look at the frames in our museum with picture frame conservator and gilder Claire Ridley.

Friday 21 February

Studio Tours
Booking required

Take a guided tour of three Harley artist studios: Richard Hartley (guitar maker), Wendy Shaw (Hope & Elvis creative arts), and Goetze & Gwynn (organ restoration).

Saturday 22 February

Museum Demonstrations
Free, drop-in 10.30am – 3pm

Michelle Reader will showcase her design process, crafting a maquette from wire, cardboard and found objects, inspired by our animal-themed artworks.

Steve Handley will present a collection of his handmade chairs for the first time, talking about his design process and materials.

Emma Thorpe will write a folk song in a day, based on the story of our pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution.

Saturday 22 February

Studio Tours
Booking required

Take a guided tour of three Harley artist studios: Richard Hartley (guitar maker), Wendy Shaw (Hope & Elvis creative arts), and Geoff Tinniswood (piano technician).

Thursday 27 March

Improve Your Posture
Booking required

Take a class with Georgina Rixon at Detail Dance Studio. Using a mix of yoga, pilates, ballet and anatomical rehabilitation movements, you will learn to improve your posture.

Friday 28 March

Museum Demonstrations
Free, drop-in 10.30am – 3pm

Ross Alcock will be stripping, cleaning, and rebuilding a 30 hour long case clock.

Bec Smith (Urban Projections) will bring our portraits to life with AR technology, creating dynamic animations using smart devices and inviting you to have a go.

Laura Baxter will craft jewellery inspired by the collection – sharing some of the techniques used to create objects such as our pearl earring.

Sarah Freeman and Jennifer Young (Freeman and Young Conservation) will retouch a historic painting, treating areas of paint loss and damage.

Friday 28 March

Talk: A Sculptor's Story
Booking required

Join us for a talk with Phil Neal, as he charts his eclectic and unusual career journey: from facial prosthetics to Formula 1, to now working as a freelance sculptor.

Friday 28 March

Studio Tours
Booking required

Take a guided tour of three Harley artist studios: Goetze & Gwynn (organ restoration), Simon Mount (woodwork and furniture), and Geoff Tinniswood (piano technician).

Saturday 29 March

Museum Demonstrations
Free, drop-in 10.30am – 3pm

Sarah Freeman and Jennifer Young (Freeman and Young Conservation) will retouch a historic painting, treating areas of paint loss and damage.

Ruth Waller will make tassels with a contemporary twist, using the same historic passementerie processes used to create tassels for the Talleyrand Bed.

Ross Alcock will be stripping, cleaning, and rebuilding a 30 hour long case clock.