

Powell-Cotton Museum Wins 2022 Collections Trust Award



We are delighted to announce that the Powell-Cotton Museum has won the 2022 'Collections Trust Award' for our recent project 'Museum Makers – People Centred Cataloguing'. The award recognises the achievements of those who manage the collections at the heart of all museums.



Last year, funded by the ArtFund's Headley Fellowship, freelancer Kathleen Lawther worked with the museum to research and catalogue a collection of photographs taken in Somalia in 1934 to 1935 with the aim of making the collection more accessible. The project provides suggestions and case studies for how museums might approach people-centred cataloguing.

The exhibition 'Living Lineages: Bajuni lives in the Powell-Cotton Museum photographic archive' is co-curated by Abira Hussein, Faiz Shee and Kathleen Lawther. It shows images of Bajuni people that lived off the coast of Somalia and northern Kenya and explores how a team of researchers traced the origins of Bajuni people from the 1930s, offering new ways of interpreting Britain's colonial archives. It will be on display at the museum throughout 2023.

Dr Nicola Stylianou, Powell-Cotton Museum's Head of Collections commented,

"We're delighted to have been recognised for our People-Centred Cataloguing project as it truly shows the museum at its best - drawing on our amazing collections and archive and putting people at the centre of who we are, and what we do. These photographs show the enormous potential of our archive to connect to people across the world - and how bringing them into the narrative helps us to create exciting and engaging displays for our audiences. We will be spending the prize money from the award to continue collaborating with Abira Hussein and Faiz Shee to uncover more stories about our photographs, and to make sure we properly record the contribution of Faiz, and his contacts in Kenya."

A selection of the photographs are on display in the museum for visitors to view.

Tagging

@collectionstrust

@kathleenlawther

@abirahussein

@artfund



Opening Times:

Museum and Gardens: Weekends and Bank Holidays. Feb-March, 11-4pm, April-August, 11-4pm, September-October, 11-3pm.

Access to Quex House is by free guided tour with standard entry for the museum. Tours will take place throughout the day. Please note Quex House is occasionally closed on wedding days. See website for dates.

Prices:

Adult: £3.50

Concession: £3.00

Child (4-16): £2.50

Infant (0-3): Free

Notes to Editors:

- **The Powell-Cotton Museum** is home to some of the worlds' oldest intact habitat dioramas, the oldest of which (the Kashmir Diorama) was completed in 1910. Today, the Museum's collection includes over 20,000 World Culture objects; 6500 mammal specimens; fine and decorative arts from across Asia; approximately 8,000 archaeological finds from the Thanet coastline, and an archive of supportive material including over 30,000 photographs and 40,000 documents.
- **The Powell-Cotton Museum** supports and welcomes the use of its collections for research purposes. Researchers can visit www.pcmresearch.org to find out more.
- **Opening Times and Admission** The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens are seasonally open on weekends and bank holidays until 29th October 2023.



- **Access** The Museum, Gardens and ground floor of the house are wheelchair and pushchair friendly, with one accessible toilet. Complimentary on-site parking is available for visitors, including two dedicated disabled bays.
<https://www.accessibilityguides.org/content/powell-cotton-museum-house-and-gardens>
- **Travel** Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Park Lane, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent CT7 0BH
It can be reached easily by train from London St Pancras or London Victoria to Birchington-On-Sea.
Thanet's number 8 bus serves Birchington Square. The walk along Park Lane and into Quex Park takes under 10 minutes.
From London take the M2, or from Canterbury the A28, and follow the signs for 'Margate' and then local signs to 'Quex Park'.
- Please direct press enquires FAO: Lyndsay Ridley, Head of Operations at the Powell-Cotton Museum. lyndsay.ridley@powell-cottonmuseum.org

