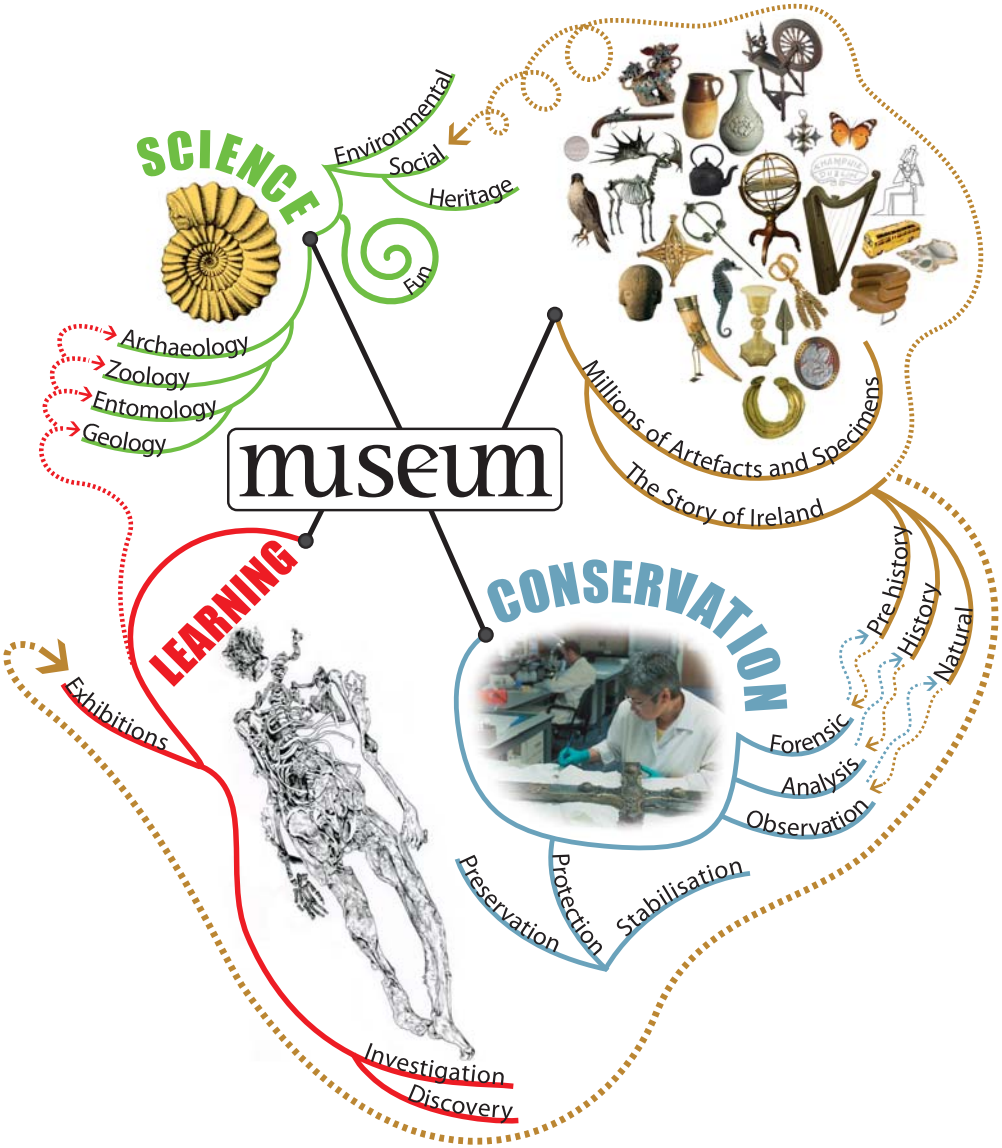
The Science Behind the Scenes at the Museum

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November, 2012

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks

A weekend of events celebrating how conservation works in the National Museum of Ireland



Before any object goes on public display at the Museum, it must be assessed by a Museum conservator. This complex process ensures that every object is stable and protected. From carefully treating, cleaning, and recording an object, to helping to determine how old an object is, a conservator's work is never simple!

This weekend of talks, film screenings and events celebrates the conservator's work. We've invited our conservators to come out from behind the scenes and we invite you to come and meet them to hear some of their fascinating stories.

All welcome, admission free.

The Science Behind the Scenes at the Museum
Saturday 17th November 2012

VENUE: ASGARD EXHIBITION

10.30am
Welcome
Rolly Read, Head of Conservation, National Museum of Ireland

10.40am
Asgard : Nail Sickness - an ancient scourge in a new light
John Kearon, Project Manager and Lead Conservator, Asgard Conservation Project

VENUE: AV LECTURE THEATRE

11.30am
The Conservation of the Lough Kinale Book Shrine
Dr Paul Mullarkey, Assistant Keeper, Conservation Department, National Museum of Ireland

12.00pm
Clowanstown fish traps – a short trawl through the conservation treatment of Mesolithic basketry
Kasia Bernaciak, Archaeological Conservator

12.15pm
The laser cleaning of a Bronze Age Food Vessel
Lorna Barnes, Glass, Ceramic and Stone conservator, National Museum of Ireland

12.30pm
"Two tubs of elbow grease please…" Mechanical Cleaning of Applied Arts Objects
Hannah Power, Applied Arts Conservator, National Museum of Ireland

12.45pm
Question and Answer session

1.00pm
Launch and screening of new short film - Behind the Scenes: A Tour of the Conservation Studios

1.15pm
Close

FILM SCREENINGS IN AV LECTURE THEATRE

2.15pm
Behind the Scenes: A Tour of the Conservation Studios
A short film about the public tour of the conservation studios, introducing the Museum conservators and their work.

2.30pm
Treasure from the Bog
A documentary about The Faddan More Psalter, a unique archaeological find from County Tipperary which revealed potential links between Irish Christianity and the Coptic Church of the Middle East.

3.30pm
Bog Bodies
The bodies of 'Old Croghan Man' and 'Clonycavan Man' were preserved for 2,300 years in an Irish peat bog and discovered within weeks of one another. During investigation and conservation at the National Museum, evidence revealed much about their diet, social status and even hairstyle.

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Sunday 18th November 2012

FILM SCREENINGS IN AV LECTURE THEATRE

2.15pm
Behind the Scenes: A Tour of the Conservation Studios

2.30pm
Treasure from the Bog

3.30pm
Bog Bodies

See film details in Saturday programme.

PERFORMANCE IN PALATINE ROOM

3.00pm
Seanchaí bringing Science to Kids
Storytellers and scientists bring the enchantment of scientific discovery to children in a lively and well-grounded show. The performance is followed by interactive experiments linked to the story. With University College Cork and Dublin's Story-O group.
Admission free but advance booking essential.
To book a place contact bookings@museum.ie

4.00pm
Saving History Family Trail
Explore the Museum finding out about how conservation works in the exhibitions, keeping objects safe from too much light, heat, moisture and even bugs!
Booking essential. To book a place contact bookings at bookings@museum.ie

For bookings:
Email: bookings@museum.ie
Tel: +353 (0) 1 648 6453

Organised by the Education and Outreach Department in conjunction with the Conservation Department.
Supported by Dublin City of Science 2012.
http://www.dublinscience2012.ie/

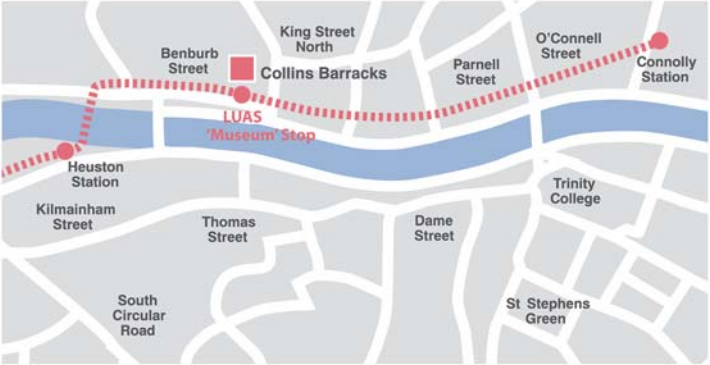
For further information about the Museum's education programmes and resources go to
http://www.museum.ie/en/list/explore-learn-decorative-arts-history.aspx

For information about the Museum's Conservation Department go to
http://www.museum.ie/en/list/studios.aspx

www.museum.ie

How to find us:

Buses to Collins Barracks:
90 (Aston Quay), 92 (St Stephen's Green) 25, 25A, 66, 67 (Wellington Quay)

Luas:
Collins Barracks:
Dedicated Museum stop – Red Line

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National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann