

# THE ART OF LIVING

MARIANKA SWAIN SHARES HER CAPITAL CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

## PICK OF THE MONTH

### CUTTING A FINE FIGURE

"It's a rather unusual thing for a person to spend more of his time trying to copy a head than in living a life," remarked Giacometti in 1962. In a major retrospective, Tate Modern recontextualises the work of an artist who, over several decades and through a variety of methods (confounding single 'ism' categorisation), went in search of an elusive truth.

His distinctive elongated figures brought him international recognition, but are merely a fraction of this sculptor, painter and draughtsman's output, explains Dr Lena Fritsch, exhibition co-curator and co-editor of accompanying book *Giacometti*.

"We present him as a restless innovator, experimenting with a range of styles, art historical sources and materials while creating works that are immediately recognisable, reflecting his unique artistic vision.

"This exhibition introduces visitors to all aspects of Giacometti's practice. It opens with a selection of sculptures of heads in different materials and styles, from early naturalistic sculptures created during his teenage years to his late portraits from the 1950s and 1960s.

"Giacometti returned to the human head throughout his career and those who sat for him were the people to whom he felt closest, for example his mother and father, brother Diego, wife Annette, and friends in Paris such as the philosopher Simone de Beauvoir."

More than 250 works are on display, ranging from "Giacometti's surrealist sculptures, such as *Invisible Object* or *Woman with her Throat Cut*, and his tiny sculptures that he made during the Second World War in Geneva, to his great post-war paintings of Annette, Diego and Caroline, and large elongated figures *Walking Man* and *Standing Woman*."

Lena is also excited about the sketchbooks, "which give a fascinating insight into Giacometti's work and his interests in non-European art", and of course a major

highlight is the *Femmes de Venise* sculptures made for the Venice Biennale in 1956.

"We present eight of the surviving nine plaster works, alongside two bronze casts. The original plaster works, five of which were restored by the Fondation Alberto et Annette Giacometti, Paris especially for our show, will be reunited for the first time in 60 years."

Access to the Fondation's collection and archive has proved key, allowing the Tate to display "plasters and drawings never seen before, and which showcase the full evolution of Giacometti's career across five decades."

Such a collection recognises a man who fused ancient and modern, decorative and fine arts, and sought meaningful representation of not just humans, but the human condition.

**GIACOMETTI  
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10**

Tate Modern, Bankside SE1  
Adults £16.80, 12-18 £15, under-12s free  
[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)



'The Hand', 1947, bronze



'Diego Seated', 1948, oil on canvas

## DON'T MISS

### MAKING WAVES

The British Museum delves into the later life of the great Japanese artist Hokusai, showcasing work rarely displayed due to its light sensitivity. Iconic print *The Great Wave* – acquired by the museum in 2008 – is a big draw, but the exhibition also explores less familiar print series, paintings, drawings, woodblock prints and illustrated books.

Hokusai's subjects range from landscapes and the natural world to mythological beasts, deities, holy men and ghosts – the latter an antecedent to modern manga. They reflect the spiritual dimension of his artistic quest and belief that the perceived world was deeply connected to an unseen but deeply powerful one.

**HOKUSAI: BEYOND THE GREAT WAVE  
UNTIL AUGUST 13**

British Museum, Bloomsbury WC1  
Adults £12, under-16s free  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)



'Boys' Festival', attributed to Hokusai, 1824-26

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National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Jorge Malina, Marvel Comics

## COMMUTER CORNER

Can Paula Hawkins match the staggering success of *The Girl on a Train*? Follow-up *Into the Water* (hardback £20, Kindle £7.99) is similarly complicated by unreliable narration – here a veritable horde of slippery chroniclers. Following her sister's apparent suicide, Jules Abbott returns to a hometown historically plagued by drownings; murky secrets galore for the keen thriller reader to uncover.

Or be inspired by the free podcast from MAKERS, an organisation dedicated to telling women's stories. Amanda McCall interviews trailblazing figures like Gloria Steinem, who stresses the importance of learning women's history and making our own; Oprah Winfrey, champion of equal pay; the *Beauty and the Beast* screenwriter keeping Belle out of the kitchen and the creator of Muslim superhero Ms Marvel; and empowering storytellers like Judy Blume and Shonda Rhimes, defenders and persuasive practitioners of uncensored writing.

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