Wellcome to the Jungle: Loans of Fun

09 February 2018

Henry Wellcome Auditorium, Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Rd, Bloomsbury, London NW1 2BE

**12.30** **Registration**

**13.00 Welcome and Chair’s Address**, **Aisha Burtenshaw, UKRG Chair**

**Senior Management Team, Wellcome Collection**

*A quick hello*

‘**A museum of modern nature’.** **Emma Smith, Exhibitions Registrar, Wellcome Collection**

Talking about the Wellcome Collections recent exhibition ‘A museum of modern nature’. The exhibition was crowd-sourced and made up entirely of objects lent and donated by the public, telling stories about their personal relationship with nature in the 21st century. The objects varied from an elderflower, to a sun catcher, a collection of model cars and even a slice of bread! It was a big experiment with visitors, which was both challenging and rewarding.

**Landseer in a Lorry. Janice Slater, Head of Collections Management, National Galleries of Scotland**

Hear how an idea sparked by a comedy sketch show was turned into reality when National Galleries of Scotland exhibited their new acquisition Sir Edwin Landseer’s The Monarch of the Glen in the back of a truck outside a school in rural Perthshire. Colleagues worked together to find solutions to concerns regarding environmental conditions, security and access to offer a unique up close and personal experience with this work.

**Buzz, bubble, and stir: a recipe for trouble. Brandi Pomfret, Echelon Arts Management**

Serving the needs of Contemporary Art frequently leads Registrars and Exhibition Managers into a landscape of unpredictable demands. Few of the traditional rules apply when one is asked to acquire and exhibit art featuring live animals, running water, food production, and the interaction of museum-goers. This session illustrates past challenges encountered, and aims to provide insight into the installation of artworks that are inherently self-destructive, and potentially dangerous to other artworks and visitors alike.

**14.30 – 15:15 Comfort Break** Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served in the Williams Lounge

**‘When is a gun a gun?’. Hannah Kauffman, Deputy Registrar, V&A**

On 6 May 2013, Texan law student Cody Wilson fired the world’s first 3D-printed firearm, The Liberator. The invention of this so-called ‘wiki weapon’ triggered intense moral and political debate, not only about gun ownership, but also around new manufacturing technologies and the unregulated sharing of designs online. As part of the Museum’s ‘rapid response’ collecting policy, the V&A immediately began exploring how to obtain a version of the gun. During the complex process of importing the gun from the US, the legal hurdles became as important to the story as the object itself. It became apparent that The Liberator’s methods of manufacture and distribution were ahead of governments’ ability to legislate, provoking the question: when is a gun considered a gun?

**ERC update. Alyson Rolington, ERC Chair**

**Nadine Loach, Chair of the Sustainable Exhibitions for Museums Network**

sharing the ‘Greening Exhibitions Survey’, launching at the beginning of 2018 and addressing the (environmental) sustainability which can be a challenge for registrars.

**Summary and Close, Aisha Burtenshaw, UKRG Chair**

**With many thanks to our host, Wellcome Collection**

Please join us for drinks at The Crown & Anchor – Euston where we have a space reserved from 17:00: <https://www.thecrownandanchornw1.co.uk/>

**Getting to Wellcome Collection**

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### **BY TUBE** Euston Station: Northern Line/ Victoria Line, 3 min walk Euston Square: Circle Line, Metropolitan and Hammersmith and City Lines, 1 min walk

### **BY TRAIN** Kings Cross/ St Pancras: 20 min walk

### Euston Station: 3 min walk