



THE URBAN WEEKENDER

creativetourist.com

Manchester's Guide for the Creative Tourist

Creativetourist.com is a monthly online magazine and series of city guides that have been put together by Manchester Museums Consortium. This group of nine museums and galleries in Manchester are separate venues that share a dual vision: the desire to stage intelligent, thought-provoking and outward looking exhibitions and events; and to celebrate the city in which they live, work and play. Twice a year, **Creativetourist.com** publishes insider guides to the city – uncovering not just galleries and museums but shops, bars, leftfield events, restaurants and nights out that are distinctly, uniquely Mancunian.

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01

**FROM PHANTASMAGORIC
ART TO CINEMATIC
BREAKFASTS;
FROM POLLOCK'S
PRINTS TO GREAT
BRITISH GRUB; FROM
HOT CURRY HOUSES TO
UNDERGROUND RAVES
AND NEVER-SEEN-
BEFORE ARTWORKS:
MANCHESTER THIS
AUTUMN HAS ALL THE
INGREDIENTS FOR THE
PERFECT CITY BREAK.**

CITY OF ANGELS

Surrealism, in all its phantasmagoric and disquieting glory, has been around for almost a century. 2009 marks the 90th anniversary of the movement and yet, in all that time, the female Surrealists, those uncompromising women who rejected the role of the muse for that of the artist, have gone largely unnoticed.

02

*Angels of Anarchy:
Women Artists and
Surrealism*

Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3JL
Telephone 0161 235 8888
www.angelsfanarchy.org.uk

Until 10 Jan 2010
Open: 10am-5pm Tues-Sun;
Closed Mon, 24-26 &
31 Dec, 1 Jan
£6/£4/under 18s free



01—



02—

Until now, that is – because this autumn sees the opening of *Angels of Anarchy*, the first ever attempt to survey the work of women Surrealists. And with 150 artworks by over 30 artists, and work on loan from Tate, Pompidou and the Museo De Arte Moderno (Mexico), it looks set to be a blockbuster.

The role that these pioneers played in the history of art shouldn't be underestimated. 'These are some of the key artists of the 20th Century and until now haven't received the attention they deserve,' says the exhibition's curator, Dr. Patricia Allmer. 'They found it difficult to compete with their male counterparts, who viewed women as models and muses, there to be adored – but not to work as artists.'

(01) Untitled (1934), Dora Maar,
© ADAGP Paris, Musée National d'Art
Modern – Centre Georges Pompidou
© Photo CNAC / MNAM, Dis. RMN
/ © Jacques Faujour. (02) On Being
An Angel (1977), Francesca Woodman,
courtesy of George and Betty Woodman
and Marian Goodman Gallery,
New York

Collectively, the Surrealists challenged and subverted social (and art historical) norms. Their female counterparts, however, went a step further, re-shaping the masculine interpretation of painting, still life, portraiture, domestic interior and erotic art. For women like Lee Miller, Frida Kahlo and Meret Oppenheim, boundaries were there to be broken and by rejecting their allotted role in art, these artists created an erotic, collaborative and powerful art form that was created by women, for women. So at Manchester Art Gallery this autumn, you won't find simpering or enslaved female forms on display, and you won't chance upon the misogyny evident in the work of, say, Picasso or Hans Bellmer.

Instead, you'll find painting, photography and sculpture that is empowering – and that still has the power to shock. It might not be a feminist show, but *Angels of Anarchy* celebrates the strength and intelligence of the fairer sex. The only question you'll have to answer is: are you (wo)man enough to take it?

CLOSE BY

*If Angels puts you in a surreal mood, head for Cornerhouse. Manchester's fabulous art house cinema screens a series of films this November by the likes of Germaine Dulac, Bady Minck and Nelly Kaplan. Cornerhouse is also one of the liveliest places to hang out: its café and bar seemingly never close, the weekends feature a roster of DJs and every other Sunday features its **Breakfast Club** (a classic film screening and breakfast combo for under a tenner).*

Just around the corner is one of Manchester's best-kept dining secrets: Zouk. Costing £1 million to fit out (inside, it's all glittering chandeliers and luxe décor), Zouk's open-sided kitchen lets diners ogle chefs as they do battle with a ferocious charcoal grill. The menu matches the interior: homemade poppadoms and pickles set the scene for dishes that inject new life into traditional Pakistani cooking. But despite the high-end surrounds, dining at Zouk comes with a surprising (and welcome) mid-range price tag.

Nearby is Odder, a Mancunian independent chain whose quirkily decked-out bars feature live music, DJs, decent beers and cheap-but-cheerful food (you'll find sister pubs Odd and Oddest in the Northern Quarter and Chorlton respectively).

Cornerhouse
70 Oxford Street M1 5NH
Telephone 0161 200 1500
www.cornerhouse.org
The Breakfast Club runs 4 & 18 Oct, 1 & 22 Nov,
6&20 December

Zouk
The Quadrangle
Chester Street M1 5QS
Telephone 0161 233 1090
www.zoukteabar.co.uk

Odder
14 Oxford Road M1 5QA
Telephone 0161 238 9132
www.oddbar.co.uk/odder

Odder



03

An exhibition at the Whitworth this autumn is nothing if not timely: it reflects global economic crisis, war in distant lands and intense political conflict back on home soil. But it's not about the here and now - *The American Scene* instead focuses on the US during the last century.

This was a period when America was flooded by European émigrés who brought about the landmark Amory Show of 1913, the Jazz Age, the rise of Modernism, the tortured birth of Abstract Expressionism, the reactionary beginnings of Pop – and who lived through two world wars and the Great Depression.

It was a time when old rules were ripped up and artists tried, time and again, to create something new – something that expressed both the hope and the violence of the first half of the 20th Century. A time, in other words, when America not only caught up with European art and culture – it sprinted ahead with head-turning speed.

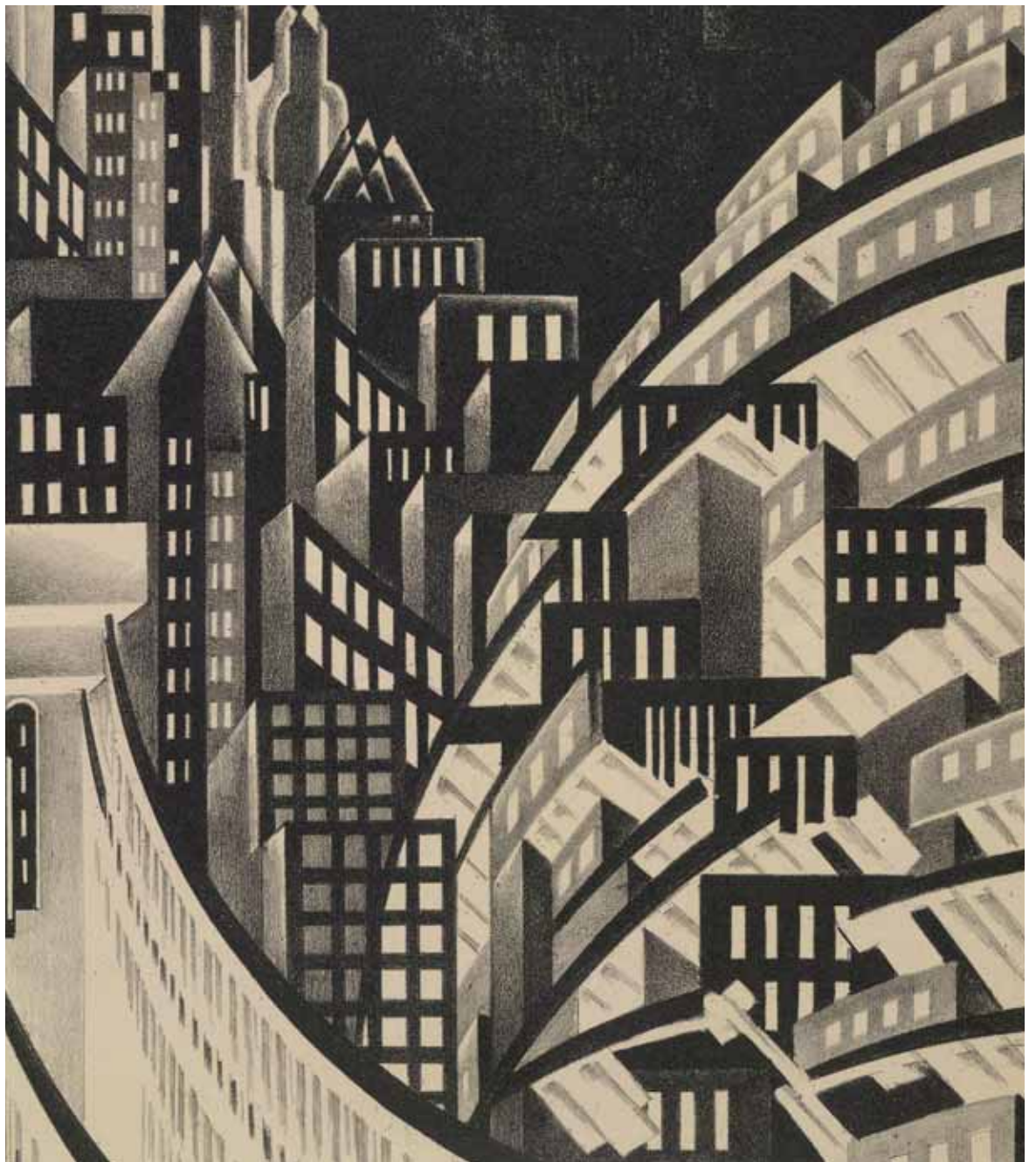
With 106 prints by 60 artists, *The American Scene* gives you a chance to dig into the British Museum's prints collection (one of the finest outside the US) and uncover some truly great works by the likes of Edward Hopper, Josef Albers, Louise Bourgeois, Willem de Kooning, Josef Albers and Jackson Pollock – artists and artworks, it seems, that are as relevant today as they ever were.

*The American Scene:
Prints from Hopper to Pollock*

*Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER
Telephone 0161 275 7450
www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk*

*Until 13 Dec.
Open: 10am-5pm Mon-Sat;
12-4pm Sun
Free*

OLD ORDI



New York (c.1925), *Louis Lozowick*

**WORLD
ER.**

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We have to fess up: one of the most exciting things about The American Scene is its associated events programme. There's The Seven Ages of Elvis, an evening of food, fun and Elvis impersonators, and Rush Hour Slowdown, an after-work session of music and booze that acts, in the Gallery's words, as a 'musical decompression chamber' – check website for details.

Elsewhere, jazz and music aficionados can get their rocks off at the legendary Band on the Wall. The formerly creaky music hall on the edge of the Northern Quarter has benefited from a £4 million refit; and where once it played a starring role in Manchester's punk scene (The Buzzcocks, Joy Division and The Fall played there), it now plans to host a dizzying array of live music (everything from jazz and dub to funk punk and soul).

While you're in the Northern Quarter, grab a bargain basement curry – our favourite curry house is Yadgar's Cafe. The décor may leave a little to be desired (although gold spray-painted polystyrene and plastic flowers do have their charm), but the lentil dahl and potato curry are reliably tasty. Next door, the Cedar Tree serves up Lebanese fare. We recommend ordering several small dishes – such as the tabbouleh and hummus. It's inexpensive and operates a bring-your-own booze policy (corkage £3). Be warned, though: the service can be a little surly. And finally, check out the independent bars and cafes that line Thomas Street and Oak Street – our perennial favourites are Cup (by day) and Common (by night).

Band on the Wall
Swan Street M4 5JZ
Telephone 0161 834 1786
www.bandonthewall.org

Yadgar Caf 
Thomas Street M4 1LQ

The Cedar Tree
Thomas Street M4 1LQ
Telephone 0161 834 5016

Cup
Thomas Street M4 1NA
Telephone 0161 832 3233
www.myspace.com/welovecups

A Place Called Common
Edge Street M4 1HW
Telephone 0161 832 9245
www.aplacecalledcommon.co.uk

A Place Called Common



04

**NEW
WORLD
ORDER.**

Like the X-Factor with a pension, *New Contemporaries* is back for its sixtieth year, showcasing the best film, video, painting, photography and more from around the country. 47 graduate artists have been selected from over 1,000 hopefuls – and it's their work that is launched in Manchester this autumn (we'd also like to note, with some measure of pride, that *New Contemporaries* has opened at Cornerhouse for the past twenty years).

As you'd expect from a bunch of young 'uns, the art on display here leans towards the experimental and/or controversial – and with the selection panel comprising Wolfgang Tillmans, Saskia Olde Wolbers, Ellen Gallagher and John Stezaker, we assume that they wouldn't have it any other way.

As you also might expect from fledgling artists, the quality of the work can vary wildly, but that's just part of the *New Contemporaries* lottery. With a seriously impressive selection committee, and an undeniable pedigree (it has kick-started the careers of Damien Hirst and Gillian Wearing to name just two), *New Contemporaries* is always worth a punt – especially if you stick on your curatorial hat and try and work out which art upstarts will blossom into tomorrow's creative superstars.

Untitled No.1, *Forge de la Garza*

*Bloomberg New
Contemporaries 2009*

*Cornerhouse
70 Oxford Street M1 5NH
Telephone 0161 200 1500
www.cornerhouse.org*

*Until 25 Oct. Galleries Open:
Midday-8pm Tue-Sat;
Midday-6pm Sun;
Closed Mon*

Feasibility Fantasies, Susame Ludwig



CLOSE BY

Keep your talent-spotting hat on and head out into the fray of the UK's biggest (and loudest, sweatiest and possibly most misbehaved) music industry conference. Started up by the late Tony Wilson, In The City attracts the industry's bigwigs, those A&Rs who leave their beloved London in their droves in the hope of spotting music's Next Big Thing. It also attracts Britain's hottest young bands – hundreds of them, in 50-odd venues across the city, playing their hearts out in the hopes of being signed. With previous years launching Radiohead, Doves and the Chemical Brothers, these dreams of international super-stardom seem justified. Almost every music venue and promoter in Manchester are in on the act and, with wristbands available for as little as £20, this must be Britain's best value music festival.

If indie isn't your thing, Home Grown: The Story of UK Hip Hop just might just be – a riotous, meticulously illustrated trawl through the history of British hip hop. Presented by Urbis, this previously untold story includes contributions from Malcolm McLaren, Dick Fontaine, Normski, Greg Wilson, Df Semtex and DMC and stretches from 1970s soul boys and reggae to today's grime and dubstep.

Finally, if you want to drink where the musicians do, try the Briton's Protection or Night & Day. The former is where musicians from the nearby Bridgewater Hall hang out – its traditional ambience is enhanced by a 150-variety whisky menu. The latter is one of the venues for In The City, with its dark, scruffy (but edgy with it) interior playing host to live music throughout the year.

In The City
Various venues including
Night & Day and Roadhouse
www.inthecity.co.uk
18-20 Oct

Home Grown: The Story of British Hip Hop
Urbis
Cathedral Gardens M4 3BG
Telephone 0161 605 8200
www.urbis.org.uk
15 Oct-Mar 2010

Briton's Protection
50 Great Bridgewater Street M1 5LE
Telephone 0161 236 5895
www.thebritonsprotection.co.uk

Night & Day
Oldham Street M1 1JN
Telephone 0161 236 4597
www.nightnday.org

Jah Revelation © Beezer, *Homegrown: The Story of British Hip Hop*



05

**SAY IT
LIKE
YOU
MEAN
IT.**

Later on in the year, Cornerhouse stages a show by the politically provocative Polish artist, Artur Żmijewski. Although he is a rising star (he presents new work at MOMA, New York, this autumn and has previously represented Poland at the Venice Biennale), this is Żmijewski's first solo show in the UK.



Top row: *Repetition* (2007), Artur Żmijewski, courtesy of Foksal Gallery Foundation; Bottom row: *Them* (2007), Artur Żmijewski, courtesy of Foksal Gallery Foundation

Artur Żmijewski
 Cornerhouse
 70 Oxford Street M1 5NH
 Telephone 0161 200 1500
 www.cornerhouse.org

13 Nov-10 Jan 2010
 Galleries Open: Midday-8pm
 Tue-Sat; Midday-6pm
 Sun; Closed Mon;
 Free.

Żmijewski's work can sometimes feel like a cross between the art world and reality TV: he frequently fabricates difficult situations, immerses volunteers in them and then films the results. There's no better example of this than *Repetition* (2005). In it, Żmijewski restages the infamous 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment, a psychological study that saw a group of students placed into a mock prison and split into groups, one playing the guards, the other the prisoners. The planned two-week experiment had to be halted after six days as abuse spiralled out of control, and as the participants began to lose the ability to distinguish between fantasy and reality.

Like its 1970s predecessor, Żmijewski's version fell apart after just a few days – the resulting film makes for compulsive viewing. Since then, the artist has criss-crossed the globe filming mass public-political protests in locations as diverse as Belfast and Gaza. The resulting mini-documentaries, *Democracies* (2009), are as compelling as they are disturbing – and on show in the UK for the very first time. Challenging stuff, and an exhibition that deliberately sets out to illustrate that art can be used for political ends.

CLOSE BY

We're not afraid of a bit of 'challenging' culture in Manchester (this is, after all, the city that pretty much invented radical politics). But we also know how to have a good party. So if you fancy letting your hair down, read on. First up, we'd like to recommend a contemporary take on the original Mancunian rave. The Warehouse Project mixes top name DJs and acts (Richie Hawtin, Little Boots, Aphex Twin and Chibuku Shake Shake) with a warehouse vibe (60,000 punters stuffed into a 'secret' underground location along with a state of the art soundsystem). Add in the fact that it's a limited edition affair, with parties running over just 14 weeks, and you've got a clubbing formula that's so successful that tickets regularly sell out within hours of going on sale (seriously – if you want to go, book now).

If dancing and DJs aren't your thing, throw yourself into Manchester's festival season. Every October, the city comes alive as one festival follows another, from literature and comedy to science, cinema and food and drink. Manchester Comedy Festival features 100 shows, 26 venues and some of the biggest names in British comedy, as well as a slew of shows fresh from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe – all this over just eleven (side-splitting) days and nights.

Gastronomes, meanwhile, will be spoilt for choice at the annual Manchester Food and Drink Festival. Now in its 12th year, highlights include demonstrations from Michael Caines (whose restaurant in the Abode hotel is one of the best in the city), a 'fine food village' in St. Ann's Square, a real ale festival and a whiskey festival. Those of a more bookish disposition should make for Manchester Literature Festival. Its eclectic line-up includes Martin Amis, Simon Armitage, Kate Atkinson, Jimmy McGovern, Jeff Noon and Fay Weldon.

*The Warehouse Project
Store Street M1 2GH
www.thewarehouseproject.com
Until 1 Jan 2010*

*Manchester Comedy Festival
Telephone 0844 847 1536
www.manchestercomedyfestival.co.uk
15-25 Oct*

*Manchester Food & Drink Festival
Telephone 0161 238 4955
www.foodanddrinkfestival.com
1-12 Oct*

*Manchester Literature Festival
Telephone 0161 236 5555
www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk
15-25 Oct*

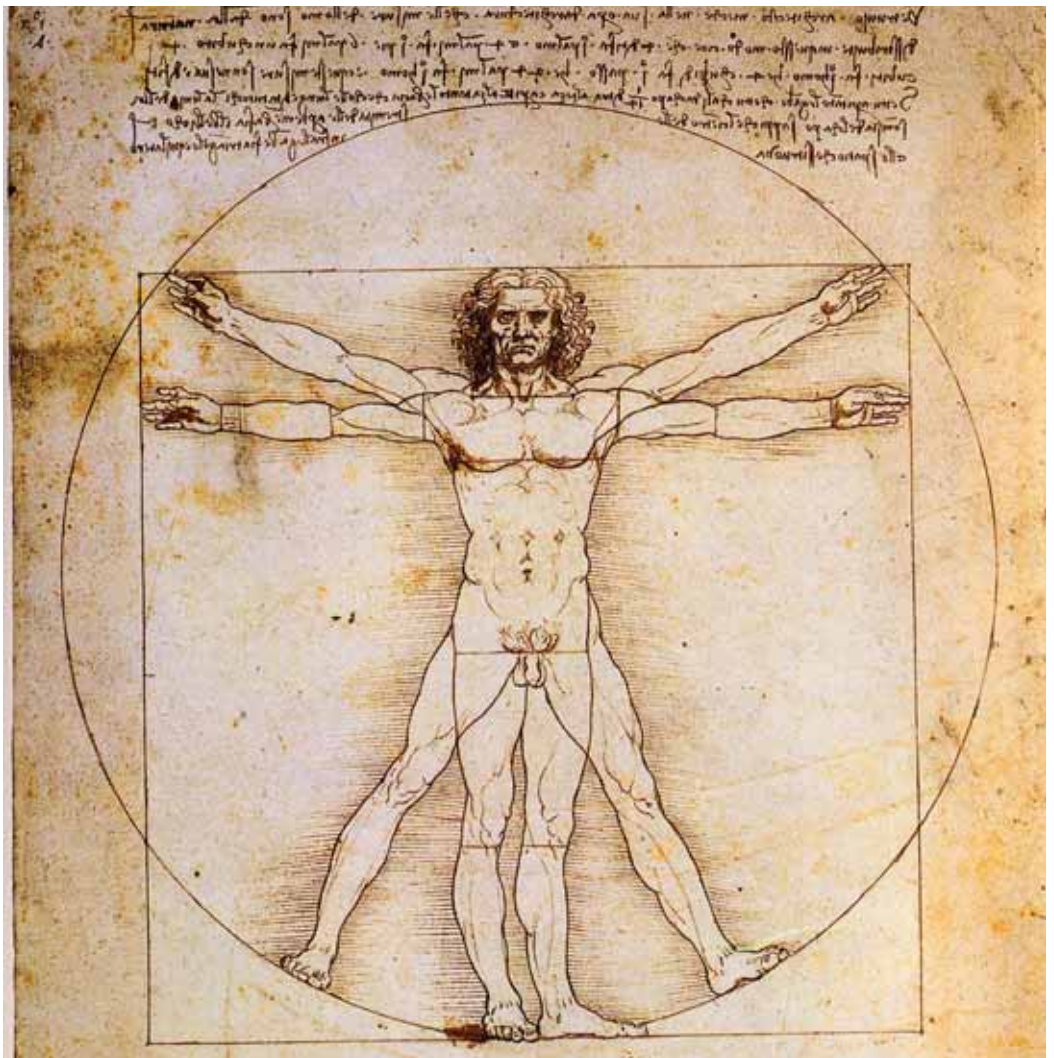
The Warehouse Project



06

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

Leonardo da Vinci was the ultimate Renaissance man. An artist of phenomenal talent, he was also fascinated by the sciences and famously came up with plans for a helicopter, tank, parachute, automobile and submarine hundreds of years ahead of their time.



The Vitruvian Man, *Leonardo da Vinci*

Da Vinci – The Genius

MOSI
 Liverpool Road
 Castlefield M3 4FP
 Telephone 0844 847 2261
www.mosi.org.uk

14 Nov–13 Jun 2010
 Open: 10am–5pm daily;
 closed 24–26 Dec, 1 Jan
 £7.50/£5/£20 family ticket

Dukes 92
 Castle Street
 Castlefield M3 4LZ
 Telephone 0161 839 8642
www.dukes92.com

Choice
 Castle Quay
 Castlefield M15 4NT
 Telephone 0161 833 3400
www.choicebarandrestaurant.co.uk

This autumn, these and other da Vinci creations have been brought to life at MOSI (the Museum of Science & Industry) as part of *da Vinci – The Genius*, the most comprehensive touring exhibition ever dedicated to this remarkable artist.

Ten years in the making, the exhibition includes the UK premiere of the *Secrets of Mona Lisa*, where a 240 megapixel multi-spectral imaging camera has been used to uncover a series of hitherto unverified facts about the world's most famous painting, such as the true identity of the woman behind the portrait. Although the da Vinci show is the star attraction at MOSI this autumn, the Museum is always worth a visit. Built on the site of the world's oldest surviving passenger railway station, with five of the original buildings surviving to this day, it offers an insight into Manchester's remarkable role during the Industrial Revolution.

It is also close to Castlefield, an outdoor 'urban heritage park' that combines every element of Manchester's recent past in its architecture: Roman ruins, Industrial Revolution cobbles and canals, Victorian viaducts, contemporary bridges and, in the distance, the towering 561-foot Hilton Tower, Manchester's tallest building. It is remarkably peaceful in Castlefield and well worth a wander if the sun is shining. We recommend stopping off for real ale and man-size plates of cheese and paté at Dukes 92, or sampling the seasonally-inspired menu at riverside eatery, Choice.

CLOSE BY

A little further up Deansgate is Spinningfields, a new area of the city rising by the banks of the River Irwell. It includes the £12m People's History Museum, a Grade II listed Pump House that has been supplemented by an entirely new wing. Although it doesn't re-open until January 2010, the exterior is still worth a gawp. Made of Corten steel, its striking rusty façade provides a contrast to the Portland stone buildings nearby. And form follows function: the Museum's largely windowless upper floors are wrapped in steel to provide the climate-controlled home for a collection that traces the history of British democracy.

Next door to the Museum is the Civil Justice Centre, a building known as 'the filing cabinet' thanks to a series of glass boxes cantilevered over the streets below. Both buildings have amenable neighbours: Spinningfields is dotted with chain eateries such as Giraffe, Carluccio's, Shimla Pinks, Gourmet Burger Kitchen and Wagamama – reliably good rather than gastronomically exciting, but worth a punt. Close by sits the John Rylands Library, a neo-Gothic building that speaks volumes about Manchester's industrial past. Built in 1900 in memory of cotton magnate John Rylands, it houses four million books and shows off its Gothic credentials via intricate stonework, stained glass and ornate bookcases. Best of all are the Library's collections – which include the Wicked Bible (printed in 1631, it leaves out the word 'not' from the seventh commandment. It reads 'Thou shalt commit adultery').

At the time of writing, Spinningfield's upmarket shopping centre has yet to open but is close to House of Fraser (the oldest department store in Manchester, known locally as Kendal's), and the shops and boutiques that cluster around St. Ann's Square and Exchange Square (home to Selfridges and Harvey Nichols). From November, St. Ann's Square is one of the spaces that hosts Manchester's Christmas markets – 200 stalls that stretch from the Town Hall to Exchange Square. Although the goods on sale vary, the food and drink (in particular the mulled wine) make for an enjoyable al fresco shopping experience.

*The People's History Museum
Left Bank, Spinningfields M3 3ER
Telephone 0161 228 7212
www.phm.org.uk
Re-opens 2010*

*Manchester Civil Justice Centre
1 Bridge Street West M60 9Df
Telephone 0161 240 5000
www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk
(Note that the building is a working court and
public access is limited)*

*Spinningfields
www.spinningfieldsonline.com*

*John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate M3 3EH
Telephone 0161 306 0555
www.library.manchester.ac.uk*

*Manchester Christmas Markets
Albert Square, St. Ann's Square, Exchange Square
www.manchester.gov.uk/markets
18 Nov-21 Dec*

Manchester Christmas Markets



**“THE THING IS,
MANCHESTER
FANCIES ITSELF
FOR A REASON.
WELL, THREE
TO BE PRECISE:
INDUSTRY,
ATTITUDE AND
POLITICAL
REFORM.”**

And finally... Manchester is a city with a past.

The Manchester Guardian once argued, 'What Manchester does today, London does tomorrow' while, more recently, Stuart Maconie (author of 2007 bestseller, *Pies and Prejudice*) wrote, 'Manchester has fancied itself rotten for as long as anyone can remember'. The thing is, Manchester fancies itself for a reason. Well, three to be precise: industry, attitude and political reform. It was Manchester that gave rise to Socialism, the Co-Operative Movement and Free Trade; it was here that the Suffragettes began their campaigns; where Marx and Engels cooked up the Communist Manifesto. Manchester was also the original industrial city, outstripping London during the Industrial Revolution to become the largest centre of manufacturing in the world. Breathtakingly ambitious, this was a place where people came to make their names – and did, with an astonishing degree of success.

This is not the kind of past that a city forgets. Go into any one of its public institutions – the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester Museum, Manchester Art Gallery – and you'll find the evidence. The city's painting, sculpture, photography and textiles collections are among the best in Britain. The Hallé Orchestra was the country's first permanent, full-time orchestra and is still going strong. The site of the world's first passenger railway now forms part of MOSI, the Museum of Science & Industry.

In 2010, the People's History Museum re-opens. A national museum dedicated to the history of working life in Britain, its archives reveal a city whose fight for socialism spread across the globe. But before you write all this off as 'just' history, think on.

The Whitworth, whose textile and wallpaper archives are only rivalled by the V&A in London, is also one of the region's leading centres of contemporary art. The Lowry, which holds the largest (and most varied) collection of work by L.S. Lowry in the world, also commissions new art and performance, as does its neighbour, Imperial War Museum North. And the biannual Manchester International Festival, inspired by the city's industrial and musical past, is the world's only festival made up entirely of new, commissioned art, performance, music and theatre.

'Manchester has become a model of the post-industrial city, just as it was the model of the industrial city,' says writer, broadcaster and local historian, Jonathan Schofield. So while Manchester is a city that has a past, it's also one that has its eyes on the future. The joy of visiting Manchester today is that without too much effort you get to experience a slice of both.

07

Download This:

Find out more about Manchester's political, industrial and cultural past by walking through it. Download a series of free walking tours from www.visitmanchester.com/trails

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

08

Hotels

There are so many hotels – and different kinds of hotels at that – in Manchester that it can be hard to pick the best one. To make life easy, here is our top three (you can catch the latest deals and offers on these and many more from www.visitmanchester.com)

1. Arora

A sleek boutique hotel with four stars, a clutch of awards, city centre location and a bar that serves some of the finest cocktails in Manchester.

*18-24 Princess Street
M1 4LY*

*Telephone 0161 236 8999
www.arorainternational.com*

2. Abode

A stone's throw from Piccadilly Station, with, in the basement, a champagne bar and one of the best restaurants in the city (headed up by Michael Caines)

*107 Piccadilly M1 2DB
Telephone 0161 200 5665
www.abodehotels.co.uk*

3. Jurys Inn

A good bet for a fairly-priced, centrally located hotel, with WiFi and a sports bar thrown in for good measure.

*56 Great Bridgewater Street
M1 5LE
Telephone 0161 953 8888
manchesterhotels.jurysinn.com*

Getting there

Manchester Airport

*(to the South of the city centre) is served by a regular rail connection to Piccadilly Station (every 15 minutes or so; journeys take around 20 minutes).
www.manchesterairport.co.uk*

Piccadilly Station

is the main railway station; the Metroshuttle (www.gmpte.com) operates a free bus service connecting this, and the other city railway stations, to the city centre. Buses run every 5-10 minutes. Oxford Road, Deansgate and Victoria are the other city centre rail stations.

Metrolink

*(tram) connects the city centre to many parts of Greater Manchester – lines run from the centre to Altrincham, Bury and Eccles. Note that the network is currently undergoing major refurbishment and development; city centre trams may be affected until November so check details before travelling.
www.metrolink.co.uk*

First TransPennine Express

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www.tpexpress.co.uk.*

Tourist information

For all travel, hotels and
tourist information, visit
www.visitmanchester.com

*Once you're in Manchester
check out the Visitor Information
Centre,
Lloyd Street M60 2LA
Telephone 0871 222 8223
www.manchester.gov.uk*

*Open 10am-5.30pm
Mon-Sat; 10.30am-4.30pm
Sun & Bank Hols*

