

THE CLASSIC WEEKENDER

From the best literary works of the 60s to one of the era's most celebrated snappers, from digital art to political history, from the Industrial Revolution to traditional British grub, and from landscape art to new music and cinema; this is your indispensable guide to the long weekend in Manchester.

The
MANCHESTER
weekender
1—3 OCTOBER 2010



A PACY, POIGNANT PRODUCTION



PEOPLE ON PEOPLE

FRI 1 OCTOBER

Your weekend begins with **Manchester Reads the 60s**, an evening of passionate literary debate scheduled to celebrate Penguin's 75th birthday. Join Tony Lacey (Editorial Director of Penguin) and 60s book champions including journalist Lynn Barber for a lively discussion on which books best represent the 60s. Given that this was a decade that produced such classics as *A Clockwork Orange*, it's fitting that tonight's event takes place in the newly opened International Anthony Burgess Foundation. Afterwards, head back into the 21st century with **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer at Manchester Art Gallery**. *Recorders* is the Mexican-Canadian's new exhibition, an artist perhaps best known for *Vectorial Elevation*, an installation at the 2010 Winter Olympics whose searchlights punctured the Vancouver night sky. The Manchester exhibition is no less dramatic, and includes the world premiere of *People on People*, a co-commission with the AND Festival, and four specially adapted interactive artworks that have never been shown in England before, including *Pulse Room*, the artist's contribution to the Mexican Pavilion for the Venice Biennale 2007. To mark the Weekender, Manchester Art Gallery opens its doors until late, allowing you a chance to enjoy this exhibition after hours.

Image: Close-up Shadow Box, 2006, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

Live music from Marconi Union alongside what's being billed as 'interactive activity' from Lewis Sykes, plus a bar in the glass-roofed atrium of this beautiful, Grade I listed building, all add up to an evening to remember. From here, you can head into nearby Chinatown for a bite to eat – the **Little Yang Sing** (littleyangsing.co.uk) is reliably good. If, however, digital art doesn't appeal, we'd recommend the **People's History Museum**. Recently restored (to the tune of £12.5m), this national museum is the only one of its kind in the country and charts the 200-year tale of British democracy. On Friday, the Museum hosts **Pedal Power**, a pacy, poignant production from the Mikron Theatre Company that promises to 'freewheel through cycling history with the wind at its back'. Manchester is the birthplace of the Clarion Cycling Club, an organisation that fused sport and socialist politics. This performance looks back at the 100-year history of socialist cycling in a performance set during the last day of business in a 21st century cycle shop. Afterwards, head into nearby Spinningfields for dinner, or across the river to **The Mark Addy**, a gastropub owned by award-winning chef Robert Owen Brown.

(Rumour has it that members of the real-life Clarion Cycling Club will ride their historic collection of bicycles through Spinningfields on Friday and Saturday – not confirmed as we went to press, so check website for details)

AT A GLANCE

Manchester Reads the 60s, Friday 1 Oct, 6.30pm-8pm. The International Anthony Burgess Foundation, The Engine House, Chorlton Mill, 3 Cambridge Street M1 5BY. £3/£2. Part of Manchester Literature Festival.

Recorders, until 30 January 2011, 10am-5pm Tue-Sun (Closed Mon). Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street M2 3FL. Free.

Recorders: Evening Opening, Friday 1 Oct, 6.30pm-9pm. Manchester Art Gallery. Free.

Pedal Power, Friday 1 Oct, 7.30pm-9.30pm. People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields M3 3ER. £10/£8.



3,000 YEARS OF CHINESE HISTORY AND CULTURE

**SAT 2
OCTOBER
(DAY)**

We'd recommend you start your day on Oxford Road, in the park-side setting of **The Whitworth Art Gallery**. This gallery, whose textile and wallpaper collections are second only to the V&A, is testament to Manchester's industrial past – it was part of a bequest to the city by Victorian philanthropist Sir Joseph Whitworth and, today, continues its founding aim of being a 'source of perpetual gratification to the people of Manchester'. Its landscape exhibition **The Land Between Us** includes 50 of the Whitworth's own JMW Turner watercolours, as well as works by the likes of William Holman Hunt and Samuel Palmer. Alongside, you'll find contemporary pieces by artists such as Rachel Whiteread and Larissa Sansour, united in a show that interrogates the idea of the British landscape and identity. Just down the

road, and part of the Alfred Waterhouse-designed university campus (Waterhouse was also responsible for the neo-Gothic Town Hall), you'll find **The Manchester Museum**. One of the UK's leading university museums and with over three million objects in its stores, this autumn it hosts **China: Journey to the East**, a British Museum show that covers 3,000 years of Chinese history and culture. While you're there, don't miss **Finding Manchester**, **Lost in Bolivia**, a photographic exhibition where Liz Peel and Chris Smith document their journey to Manchester – not the Manchester we know and love, however, but its namesake village nestled deep in the Bolivian jungle. And if that's not enough, just outside is the **Reflective Room**, a temporary 'room' designed by Manchester School of Architecture students that allows a few moments of quiet contemplation in an otherwise busy day – with the designers on hand to answer questions and get you involved in activities. Need refreshment? Try the **Museum's own café** or head across the road to **Kro Bar** (kro.co.uk) – an independent pub that serves up cask ales and Danish-inspired grub inside the Grade II listed former Temperance Society building.

AT A GLANCE

The Land Between Us, until 23 Jan 2011, 10am-5pm (12pm-4pm on Sun). The Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road M15 6ER. Free.

China: Journey to the East, until 26 Jun 2011, 10am-5pm Tues-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun & Mon. The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road M13 9PL. Free.

Finding Manchester, Lost in Bolivia, until 30 Jan 2011. The Manchester Museum. Free.

Reflective Room, Saturday 2 Oct, 1pm-4pm. The Manchester Museum. Free. A collaboration between Manchester School of Architecture and The Manchester Museum.



SELF MADE

SAT 2 OCTOBER (EVE)

Manchester is well known for its nightlife, but we thought we'd give you an altogether different evening experience this weekend. Your first option is to head to **Cornerhouse** and its sterling second-floor café-bar (great for people watching and, if you get there early enough, you'll also be able to see some of the exhibitions that make up **Abandon Normal Devices (AND)**, a city-wide festival of digital culture and new cinema – galleries open until 8pm). Food and art sorted, walk down to the cinema for the world premiere of **Self Made**, a feature-length film co-written by Turner Prize – winning artist **Gillian Wearing** and playwright **Leo Butler**. Based on an idea by Wearing, the film follows 12 participants as they embark on a method-acting workshop. Filmed in Newcastle, the action begins as job adverts are placed that ask

Image: *Self Made*, Gillian Wearing

members of the public; 'If you were to play a part in a film, would you be yourself or a fictional character?' The film follows what happens next, as those who reply are cast and then, ultimately, appear in the final film. Your second option is to see Manchester as few ever do – by water. Despite being home to three rivers (the Irk, the Irwell and the Medlock), post-industrial Manchester has long turned its back on its waterways. Tonight, a specially chartered boat takes you along the Irwell towards the Manchester Ship Canal, built during the 'Cottonopolis' era and in its day the largest navigation canal in the world. But this is more than a mere river cruise – you'll also be served a three-course meal from one of the Northwest's top chefs, **Robert Owen Brown** (whose traditional British dishes *Observer* critic Jay Rayner described as 'an old-fashioned treat'), alongside a personalised commentary from our on-board tour guide that sheds light on the waterside sights en route to Salford Quays – from industrial heritage and one of the UK's top ten buildings (Daniel Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North) to the soon to be opened Media City, a 21st century digital media enclave now home to the BBC.



AT A GLANCE

Self Made: Gillian Wearing, Saturday 2 Oct, 6pm and 8pm. Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street M1 5NH. £7.50/£5.50 (screening only), £10.50/£8.50 (screening and Q & A). Part of the AND Festival.

Manchester by Boat, Saturday 2 Oct, 6.30pm-9.00pm. Tour starts and ends at The Mark Addy, Stanley Street, Salford M3 5EJ. £40. Organised by Manchester Food & Drink Festival, Manchester Tourist Guiding Agency and The Mark Addy, and brought to you by Modern History.

SUN 3 OCTOBER

If you haven't yet made it down to the **People's History Museum** and Spinningfields, this is where we'd recommend you start your final day. Spinningfields is a new riverside part of Manchester sandwiched between the Museum and **Castlefield**, the latter an outdoor 'urban heritage park' home to the Bridgewater and Rochdale canals and the world's oldest passenger railway (now part of MOSI, the Museum of Science & Industry). Both canals and railway once made Castlefield a hub of industrial commerce, although walking along its peaceful paths today you'd never guess. Both Spinningfields and Castlefield boast a clutch of solid eateries (such as Dukes 92, the Museum's own

Left Bank Café and The Mark Addy), all of which are good bets for Sunday brunch. The People's History Museum is showing **Carried Away**, a photographic exhibition that takes a sideways look at protest over the past 100 years: in it, you'll see images of protestors such as Suffragette Dora Marsden being carted off by the authorities. Close by, another female pioneer is celebrated at the **John Rylands Library**: the Manchester novelist, Elizabeth Gaskell. Timed to mark the bicentenary of her birth, **Elizabeth Gaskell: A Connected Life** draws on the library's collection to present personal letters, photos and possessions that tell the story of a woman whose social networks and writing illuminated the murky lives of the Industrial Revolution-era working classes. The library itself is a fabulous neo-Gothic confection that speaks volumes about Manchester's industrial past – historian Ed Glinert described it as 'one of the world's great libraries' – and it is one of the city's key landmarks.

Spend the afternoon in Salford Quays, arriving in time for two musical performances at another landmark: Imperial War Museum North. First up is **What a Performance: The Beating Wing Orchestra**. This Manchester-based band was first brought together for the Manchester International Festival in 2007; its unique refugee membership (drawn from countries such as Kurdistan, Cameroon, Bangladesh and Brazil) coupled with collaborations with international artists, make it one of the most exciting groups working in the UK. Here, the band play live in a performance that promises to be both intimate and public, as music floods the foyer. Later, catch another one-off performance, this time from Neil Yates, one of the UK's most distinctive, original voices on the trumpet: **Tarnished Silver – Sketches of a Northern Town** (see the *Urban Weekender* itinerary for details). In between performances, stroll across the bridge that spans the Manchester Ship Canal and look around **The Lowry**.

This millennial multi-arts centre takes its name from the Salford painter LS Lowry – it holds the world's largest collection of his work. It also hosts a photographic exhibition by swinging 60s snapper **Philip Townsend**, the man who captured on film the likes of The Rolling Stones and The Beatles. In a special event for the Weekender, The Lowry stages an intimate 'in conversation' session with Townsend himself and *Word* editor Mark Ellen – your chance to meet the man behind some of the most iconic images of the 60s.



AT A GLANCE

Carried Away, until 10 Oct, 10am–5pm daily. People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields M3 3ER. Free.

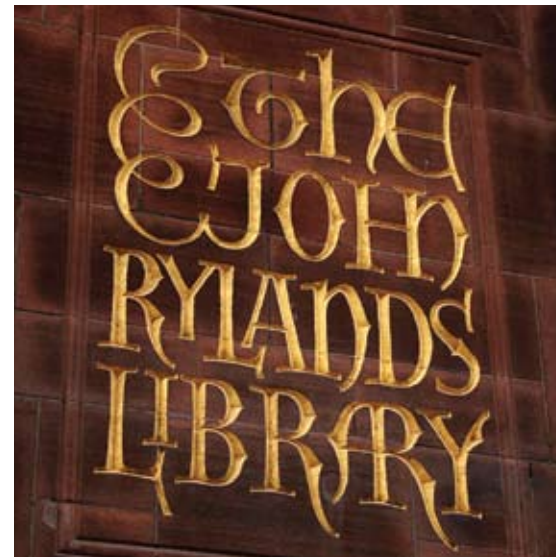
Elizabeth Gaskell: A Connected Life until 28 Nov, 10am–5pm daily (Mon, 12pm–5pm). John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate M3 3EH. Free.

What a Performance: The Beating Wing Orchestra, Sunday 3 Oct, 12pm–1pm. Imperial War Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ. Free.

Neil Yates: Tarnished Silver – Sketches of a Northern Town, Sunday 3 Oct, 4pm–4.30pm. Imperial War Museum North. Free. A partnership between Imperial War Museum North and Manchester Jazz Festival.

Mister Sixties Philip Townsend's Portraits of a Decade, until 7 Nov, 11am–5pm daily (Sat 10am–5pm). The Lowry, Pier 8, Salford Quays M50 3AZ. Free.

Mark Ellen In Conversation with Philip Townsend, Sunday 3 Oct, 2pm–3.30pm. The Lowry. £5.



HOW TO GET HERE

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

The Metrolink tram (metrolink.co.uk) connects the city centre to many parts of Greater Manchester, including Salford Quays.

Visitor information: For the best deals on hotels, special offers and all tourist information, go to visitmanchester.com, email touristinformation@visitmanchester.com or call 0871 222 8223. In the city, visit the new Manchester Visitor Information Centre at Piccadilly Plaza, Portland Street M1 4BT (9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm Sun & Bank Hols).

Accommodation: Manchester's hotels and restaurants appeal to all tastes from traditional to glamorous, funky to boutique, and at prices to suit all pockets, whether you are looking for luxury, family value or downright budget. Book online with www.visitmanchester.com

Discover more about the Industrial Northwest at www.modernhistory.co.uk

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SUPPORTERS

The Manchester Weekender is organised by Manchester Museums Consortium and Creative Tourist, with the help and support of Cornerhouse, Imperial War Museum North, Modern History, The Lowry, Manchester Art Gallery, The Manchester Museum, MOSI, the Museum of Science & Industry, People's History Museum, Urbis, Visit Manchester and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

We would like to thank all of our partners for taking part in The Manchester Weekender:



And:
Beating Wing Orchestra
Dave Haslam

The Manchester Weekender would not be possible without the support of:



The Manchester Weekender is supported by Modern History, a showcase for the best of the region's museums, mills, railways and waterways, bringing to life the rich industrial heritage of England's Northwest, highlighting inventions, achievements and unearthing the social stories that have shaped the modern world.

Visit the places where history defined the happening, where tradition became trend and where belief broke down boundaries, from awe inspiring architecture to engineering endeavour. Discovery lies around every corner and every visit tells a story. Discover more at www.modernhistory.co.uk

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