MUNNINGS ART MUSEUM

2027

Castle House, Studio and Grounds | Changing Exhibitions

The Munnings Art Museum is at Castle House, the former home and working studio of Sir Alfred Munnings (1878-1959), President of the Royal Academy 1944-1949. Munnings described Castle House, an elegant Tudor and Georgian country residence, as “the house of my dreams” and it nestles in the tranquil Dedham Vale on the borders of Essex and Suffolk. In 1961, following Munnings’ death, Castle House was opened as an art museum by his widow, Violet.

The museum owns the largest collection of paintings and drawings by Sir Alfred Munnings anywhere in the world which it displays on a rotating basis each year. It is the only permanent and comprehensive retrospective of Munnings’ life’s works, from boyhood drawings, through to pre First World War impressionistic scenes of rural life and horses and equestrian portraits of the 1920s and 1930s, to gentle landscapes done at the end of his career.
Furniture and personal effects, and a famous stuffed Pekingese dog, belonging to Alfred and Violet Munnings remain in situ making Castle House feel like the home it was 100 years ago.

In the garden stands the artist’s former working studio, complete with his tools.

Horses can be seen grazing in the surrounding paddocks just as they were when the artist was in residence.

The Collection Six rooms and the hallways of the museum are hung with exquisite paintings of horses, people and country life. They form a nostalgic record of England at the beginning of the 20th century and are the subjects for which Munnings is renown the world over.



Study for The Start, c1952



Tagg’s Island, 1919



Rich Gift, 1920



RW Sutherland, Cavalry Officer, 1916



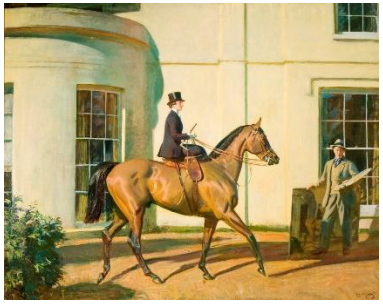
The White Canoe, c1923



Huntsman on a Grey, 1920s



Poplars, Waveney, 1909



My wife, My Horse and Myself, 1935



Langham Mill Pool, 1923

Special Exhibitions:
Saturday 22nd May to Sunday 12th September 2027
The Art of the Newlyn School: Paintings from The Bowerman Collection

Some of the most important paintings of the Newlyn School are coming to Dedham in the summer of 2027. Thirty-four works from the celebrated Bowerman Collection will be displayed alongside masterpieces by Sir Alfred Munnings from the museum's own nationally important collection.

The Art of the Newlyn School: Paintings from The Bowerman Collection offers a rare chance to see paintings by the artists who transformed Newlyn and West Cornwall into one of Britain's most celebrated artistic colonies. It was amongst these artists that Alfred Munnings lived and painted in the idyllic years just before the outbreak of the First World War.

The exhibition includes much-loved works such as Walter Langley's powerful *Breadwinners* alongside rarely seen gems including Elizabeth Forbes's *Picnic in the Woods* and Dod Procter's *Blue, Portrait of a Girl*. Together, the paintings reveal the extraordinary range of artists who came to Cornwall from the 1880s onwards, drawn by its people, landscape and remarkable light. Among them are Stanhope Forbes, the 'father of the Newlyn School' and his wife Elizabeth Forbes, alongside Walter Langley, Albert Chevallier Tayler and Henry Scott Tuke.

In the early twentieth century a new generation of artists brought fresh colour and energy to the colony. Harold Harvey captured the people and rural landscapes of Cornwall, while Dod Procter and Dame Laura Knight challenged expectations of what women artists could achieve. The Munnings Art Museum is delighted to be bringing this exhibition to Dedham to display the works of these artists side by side with Munnings, old friends reunited again.

The Munnings Art Museum is the only East of England venue on a major national tour by The Bowerman Collection, one of the most important private holdings of Newlyn School paintings. Founded from the private collection of David Bowerman MBE, the Bowerman Charitable Trust in Sussex was established with the aim of making great art accessible to the public.

The exhibition is accompanied by a new book *The Art of the Newlyn School: Paintings of Cornish Life and Light* written by curator Alison Bevan.

Paid admission to the museum in 2027 includes entry to all exhibitions.



Stanhope Forbes (1857-1947)



Dod Proctor (1890-1972)



Elizabeth Forbes (1859-1912)

Visiting

Tea Room + Garden Part of the artist's former studio is now the Tea Room serving refreshments. Open 10am-4.30pm on days when the museum is open.

Entry to the museum garden and Tea Room is free.

Car and Coach parking is free and there is ample space.

The Shop sells a unique range of books, homeware and gifts inspired by the art of Sir Alfred Munnings.

Group Visits The museum offers pre-booked groups a discount on admission and guided tours (£10.50 per person / TOURS £14 per person, max 25 people)

Walkers, cyclists and dog owners The Essex Way passes through the paddocks of Castle House. Walkers and cyclists are welcome to visit the museum, Tea Room or simply enjoy the grounds. Dogs on leads are welcome in the grounds.

Events

The museum has a programme of **tours, talks and equestrian art workshops** in person and online.

Venue Hire

With stunning artworks and intimate ambience the museum provides a unique setting for an event. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Location: Dedham is Just off the A12 at junction 30 between Colchester and Ipswich. The museum is 1 mile south of Dedham village centre. The nearest station is Manningtree, 1 hour from London Liverpool Street towards Norwich.

Opening Times + Dates:
Monday 28th March to Sunday 31st October 2027
Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays
1.30pm to 4.30pm / Groups at other times by appointment

There will be additional opening times during *The Art of the Newlyn School: Paintings from The Bowerman Collection* please see website for details or sign up to the mailing list via the website.

Admission payable – includes entry to all exhibitions

Adult	£15.40 with Gift Aid
	£14
25s and under	Free
Museum Year Pass	£25 can be Gift Aided
Lifetime Pass	£350 can be Gift Aided
with Guest	£500
Students 26+	£10.50
National Art Pass (Art Fund)	£7
British Sporting Art Trust Members	£7
Lamorna Society Members	£7
Essential companions, blind visitors	Free
Museums Association members	Free
ICOM members	Free

About Sir Alfred Munnings

Munnings was born the son of a Suffolk miller and rose to become President of the Royal Academy of Arts, for which he was knighted. After taking up an apprenticeship in poster design as a teenager he enrolled in night classes at Norwich School of Art and soon began to produce pictures of idyllic rural life in Suffolk and Norfolk which found favour with early buyers and patrons. The loss of sight in his right eye just before his 21st birthday did not deter Munnings' drive to paint from nature and following widespread acclaim for his paintings of the Canadian Cavalry during the First World War he was never short of commissions to paint patrons and their horses right up until the end of his life. He died at Castle House aged 80.

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The Castle House Trust is a registered charity no. 1161304

