



Imperial War Museums in 2019: A season exploring culture as a target of warfare and the UK's first major exhibition on the crisis in Yemen

Imperial War Museums (IWM) reveals its upcoming season of programming, with recent and on-going conflict at its forefront. Focus at IWM North will be the on-going humanitarian crisis in Yemen, and at IWM London culture as a target of war will be explored through events and free exhibitions – one of which is a partnership project with Historic England.



Left: A child, impoverished due to the ongoing war in Yemen, counts his money he has made from selling boiled eggs. Yemen, Taiz City, Jamal Street, 3 September 2017. Photograph Ahmed Basha; Right: A member of the Iraqi forces inspects the damage inside the destroyed museum of Mosul on April 2 2017 after they recaptured it from Islamic State (IS) group fighters. Photograph AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP/Getty Images.

Yemen: Inside a Crisis, IWM North

In the UK's first major exhibition to address the country's on-going humanitarian crisis, ***Yemen: Inside a Crisis*** (17 May – 24 November 2019) will examine the real impact that the current war is having on its people. Questioning the causes of the crisis, this exhibition at IWM North will explore how the conflict, which started in 2014, has tipped the fragile nation into an economic tailspin. With food and water beyond affordability for most Yemenis, the exhibition will consider the catastrophic impact this has on the people of Yemen.

Complementing the exhibition at IWM North, conversations and programmes will be taken beyond the museum's walls and onto the streets for the very first time throughout the duration of *Yemen: Inside a Crisis*. A series of pop-up conversations and artistic interventions in the city of Manchester's public spaces will give members of the public an opportunity to hear and learn more about the humanitarian crisis and to ask questions.

Culture Under Attack, IWM London

IWM London's major season of exhibitions and events, ***Culture Under Attack*** (5 July 2019 – 5 January 2020), will explore the impact of acts of war against what defines who we are – our culture. From the buildings we build for our communities to the tangible and intangible things we treasure as individuals, *Culture Under*

Attack will invite visitors to consider what happens when culture is threatened, targeted or deliberately annihilated.

Comprising three free exhibitions at IWM London, the season will include ***What Remains***, an exhibition jointly curated in partnership with Historic England about the deliberate destruction of cultural places, the objects and stories that bring them to life and the rebuilding of culture that follows; ***Rebel Sounds***, an immersive experience exploring the significance of music in relation to cultural and personal identity; and ***Art In Exile***, which uncovers how cultural treasures in British museums and galleries were evacuated and protected during the Second World War.

Live events will accompany these exhibitions, offering visitors to IWM London a unique opportunity to meet and take part in discussions with those who have risked their lives for the culture they love. ***Rebel Sounds Live***, a series of musical performances and discussions by musicians and activists from across the globe, will reveal the stories of people who fought in times of conflict and oppression to keep the music alive.

Aligning with the season, the third IWM annual Remembrance lecture will bring together a panel of artists, archaeologists and academics to discuss cultural memory and its physical protection and preservation in conflict zones.

More across Imperial War Museums in 2019

In addition to this programming, IWM will also be marking 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall (autumn 2019), the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings (June 2019) and will be hosting an action packed line-up of Air Shows at IWM Duxford, further details for which will be announced in 2019.

Ends

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Notes to editors

Exhibitions at IWM North and IWM London will all be free admission, however certain events and live performances will be charged.

IWM's public programme is brought to you by the [IWM Institute](http://www.iwm.org.uk). Covering 1914 to the present day, the IWM Institute is a hub to explore and experiment with new ways of deepening public understanding of war and conflict through research, public programming and digital innovation.

Conflict Now

Conflict Now is a strand of programming that was launched in 2017 to coincide with the museums' centenary. IWM will explore evolving issues across the world as a result of conflict. *Conflict Now* features opinions of individuals who have seen, experienced and worked in areas of conflict – including artists, photographers, refugees, citizen journalists and war correspondents along with exhibitions and events developed by IWM and partner organisations.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2 million visitors each year are IWM London, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; IWM North, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; IWM Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; Churchill War Rooms, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser HMS *Belfast*.

Historic England

[Historic England](#) is the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. We protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. We care passionately about the stories they tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists we share our passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.



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