Imperial War Museums to explore the power of deception with a major exhibition about spies as part of 2023 programme

Next year Imperial War Museums (IWM) will explore the role of deception in conflict, presenting previously unseen objects and rare perspectives of well-known stories alongside the gadgets, disguises, tools and tricks used to gain an advantage over the enemy during the past hundred years. Along with the launch of brand-new galleries, an exciting line-up of events, and poignant anniversaries marked by incredible stories from our collection, this major show forms part of our 2023 programme, revealed today.

At IWM London, The Blavatnik Art, Film and Photography Galleries will bring IWM’s world class art collection together with our extensive film and photography collections for the very first time. This landmark opening in the autumn will be preceded by a rich programme of exhibitions across our branches which, as well as Spies, Lies and Deception (working title), includes touring photography shows Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors at IWM North and Ukraine: Photographs from the Frontline at IWM London.

In spring, IWM will explore two contemporary conflicts. 20 years since the invasion of Iraq will be marked at IWM North and a new exhibition at IWM London will invite visitors to unpack the Troubles in Northern Ireland through the multiple perspectives of individuals who lived through it.

Summer will see IWM explore 75 years since the arrival of the Empire Windrush and shine a light on the wartime service made by people from the Caribbean, many of whom went on to help rebuild a Britain scarred by war. We will also reflect on HMS Belfast’s momentous service in the Korean War as we mark 70 years since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Winter 2023

Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors
IWM North, 27 January – summer 2023
Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors is a photography exhibition featuring over 60 contemporary portraits of Holocaust survivors and their families, shining a light on the full lives they have lived and our collective responsibility to ensure their stories live on. Initially staged at IWM London in 2021, this exhibition at IWM North will include brand new photographs of survivors from the North West region alongside the original portraits. Taken by members and Fellows of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), as well as RPS Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, these powerful portraits depict the special connections between survivors and the younger generations of their families.
Ukraine: Photographs from the Frontline
IWM London, 3 February – 8 May 2023
The invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022 shocked the world. For those living in Donbas and Crimea, however, the harsh reality of war has loomed since 2014, foreshadowing a conflict which has become one of Europe’s most devastating since the Second World War. Continuing its tour from IWM North in 2022, Ukraine: Photographs from the Frontline displays images from renowned photojournalist Anastasia Taylor-Lind, taken during her time in Ukraine between 2014 and June 2022, documenting the devastating reality of living amidst conflict.

Spring 2023

Iraq Invasion: 20th anniversary
IWM North, March 2023
On 20 March 2003, a United States-led coalition which included British forces launched the ground invasion of Iraq. Their stated aim was to rid the country of weapons of mass destruction and end Saddam Hussein’s support for terrorism. The invasion was a military success but came with dire consequences. Destruction and looting left many Iraqis without basic necessities and unemployment was made worse by the disbandment of the Iraqi army. A violent insurgency developed across Iraq and British forces and civilian workers found themselves under attack. In 2023, IWM will mark the 20th anniversary of the invasion and a conflict in which 179 servicepeople died before Britain formally withdrew combat forces in 2009. Thousands of Iraqis were killed, injured or forced to seek refuge. Conflict in Iraq continues to this day.

IWM History Festival
IWM Duxford, 25 & 26 March 2023
Visitors to the new two-day IWM History Festival will be immersed in First World War, Second World War and contemporary conflict history at IWM Duxford this spring. With special guests and curators, author talks, book signings, handling sessions, behind the scenes insights and the chance to see objects from IWM’s collections up close, including inside IWM’s Spitfire N3200 and the Avro Lancaster. The full programme will be announced soon and tickets are on sale from January 2023.

Northern Ireland: Living with the Troubles
IWM London, spring 2023
The Troubles engulfed Northern Ireland in conflict for nearly 30 years. It was – and remains – a contentious period, with roots going back centuries. A fragile cease fire was signed in 1998, yet many aspects of the conflict remain unresolved to this day and are highly contested by those who experienced and participated in the conflict. This new exhibition at IWM London will invite visitors to unpack the Troubles through the multiple perspectives of individuals affected by the conflict.

IWM Duxford Flying Season: 50th anniversary
IWM Duxford, April – October 2023
Celebrating five decades of inspiring sky-high entertainment, 2023’s flying season will mark 50 years of Duxford Air Shows. The Duxford Summer Air Show will take place on 24 and 25 June, promising adrenalin filled action and fun for all the family, whilst the Battle of Britain Air Show on 16 and 17 September will see Spitfires, Hurricanes and other iconic warbirds take to the skies in commemoration of the Second World War. Duxford Flying Evening will also be back and there will be an extra special Flying Finale on the same date that the first ever Air Show took place in 1973. A series of themed Flying Days will also be announced shortly completing the jam-packed 2023 Flying Season programme of events.

Summer 2023

Windrush 75
IWM London, June 2023
On 22 June 1948, over 800 men and women from the Caribbean disembarked from the HMT Empire Windrush after it docked at Tilbury, Essex. They came to find work and to start new lives
in Britain. For many, it was not just an arrival, but a return. They had served in the UK during the Second World War, in the armed forces or as civilian workers. Marking 75 years since the arrival of the Empire Windrush, IWM will explore this foundational moment in British history, highlighting the wartime service made by people from the Caribbean, many of whom went on to help rebuild a Britain scarred by war and shape the British society and culture we share today.

**Korean War: 70th anniversary of the Armistice**
**HMS Belfast, July 2023**

July 2023 will mark 70 years since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953, an armistice which ended direct hostilities between North Korea and South Korea. The three-year Korean War was both a struggle for Korea and a major escalation of the Cold War, with the United Nations led by the USA intervening to defend South Korea and China and the USSR supporting North Korea. To this day, the two Koreas still exist side by side in an uneasy and hostile peace. This summer, IWM will mark the Armistice by highlighting the prominent role played by HMS Belfast which served off Korea between 1950 and 1952, firing more shells than during the Second World War and seeing three members of its ship’s company die during the conflict.

**Autumn 2023**

**Spies, Lies and Deception (working title)**
**IWM London, September 2023**

Deception has always been used in wartime to gain an advantage over the enemy and protect our secrets. But in the grey area between war and peace, is deceit acceptable? And should we spy on our friends as well as our enemies? This major exhibition at IWM London will look at the tricks, lures and espionage that make up the secret world of deception. Visitors will explore some of the most audacious deceptions of the last hundred years to reveal how these real-life fictions have changed the course of conflict and the lives of the people who created them.

**Blavatnik Art, Film and Photography Galleries**
**IWM London**

From its inception in 1917, artists, photographers and filmmakers have been at the heart of IWM’s work. Their experiences fundamentally shape our understanding and perceptions of war, as they work to capture the visceral, sensory and psychological, the everyday and the extraordinary. Covering 1000m² of IWM London’s third floor spaces, these striking new galleries will offer visitors an opportunity to connect with IWM’s rich and diverse visual media collections. For the first time, the art collection will be brought into meaningful dialogue with IWM’s extensive film and photography collections, which include over 23,000 hours of moving images and over 11 million photographs.

**Continuing from 2022**

In addition to new programming, visitors still have time to explore exhibitions and events which continue from 2022. Delving into the relationship between conflict and video games, **War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment** remains open at IWM London until 28 May 2023 and a new spotlight exhibition **Hurricane: Unsung Hero** opens at IWM Duxford from 27 December 2022 until 19 February 2023. **Activities** for all the family continue every weekend and throughout the school holidays at IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford and HMS Belfast, and programming from the **IWM Institute** will bring unique insights and uncover new connections between conflicts past, present and future.

**ENDS**

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Notes to editors

Images
L to R: © IWM (E AUS 4938) Engineers carrying a dummy MK I tank in the First World War; © IWM (Art.IWM ART 1460) John Singer Sargent, Gassed, 1919; View of a hastily constructed barbed wire fence that runs across a terraced street to mark a peace line or dividing line between republican and neighbouring loyalist areas of Belfast, Northern Ireland during The Troubles in April 1972. (Photo by Rolls Press/Popperfoto via Getty Images/Getty Images).

IWM
www.iwm.org.uk

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 2.5 million visitors each year are IWM London, IWM’s flagship branch that has recently transformed with new, permanent and free Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries; 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.