

Sixth Form Colleges Association

Cloud Land

National Arts Exhibition, 2019

A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the arts and recognise excellence in sixth form colleges

Supported by Alexandra Palace, Haringey Council and Haringey Sixth Form College

Context

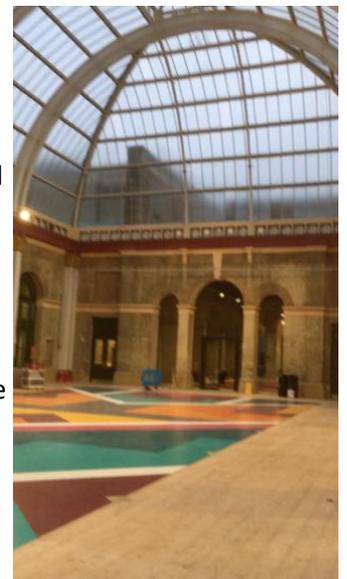
Sixth form colleges represent a vital supply pipeline of talented artists of the future. In order to advance the arts in education, to recognise and celebrate excellence in sixth form colleges, and to stimulate our thinking, SFCA will be holding a National Arts Exhibition in the Summer of 2019.

It is imperative that we keep the arts in education secure and flourishing. If young people are to make a truly valuable contribution to society, even if they are to be successful scientists, engineers, doctors and technicians, they need to develop their creative skills, their artistic sensitivities and their ability to interact with others.

Alexandra Palace

The exhibition will be held in the stunning East Court of Alexandra Palace in London, an inspiring and prestigious location, which will reflect the quality of the work, as well as the importance of the project. It is anticipated that there will be significant public and media interest, and that colleges will make a noise at a local and regional level to ensure the widest impact.

The exhibition will take place over three days. Although anyone can attend at any time, and the Hall is a public space attracting large numbers of visitors throughout the day and evening, each day will have a particular focus.



Dates

Thursday 27 th June	General public and VIP reception
Friday 28 th June	College and school student's day
Saturday 29 th June	Artists and families day

Art departments will recognise that time is very tight, but this is the inaugural year and I expect to be able to give a longer lead-in time in the future. This is a valuable opportunity to showcase your students' work, and I hope that you will be able to find flexible ways to accommodate the timeframe.

Submissions

1. Students may submit entries in painting, photography, graphics or installation.
2. Film, or other media requiring hardware or electricity supply, cannot be accepted.
3. Each college will select a maximum of three of its students' entries to represent the college in the national exhibition and will be responsible for delivering the pieces on time and collecting them afterwards. We would be very grateful if colleges in the region could deploy some of their art teachers and technicians to help with setting up and taking down the exhibition.
4. All pieces will be delivered to Alexandra Palace by noon on Friday 21st June.
5. Colleges will register and indicate their participation [here](#). The deadline for registration is **20th March 2019**.
6. All work will respond to the theme, which reflects our partnership with Alexandra Palace and the educational priorities of the team there.

Theme

Cloud Land

This Summer, Alexandra Palace will be celebrating the launch of the East Court and Theatre and, as well as working with its local community on an aeronautics display, has set the theme for the sixth form colleges exhibition. Students should consider the ways in which Art, Science and Technology came together in the exploits and experiments of early pioneers of aeronautics, and how this is still relevant today. Further guidance can be found in the Appendix below.

Entry fee

SFCA

There will be an entry fee of £300+VAT per participating college, payable in advance, to contribute to the costs associated with the exhibition. To enter, please register [here](#).

BALLOONING AT ALEXANDRA PALACE

AERIAL PIONEERS

Alexandra Palace has a legacy of presenting spectacular entertainment and attracting the latest innovation. Combining the two were popular aeronautic displays amongst the programme of performances, circus, exhibits and sideshows. Professor Baldwin and Mr August Gaudron were early daredevils who took to the sky over Alexandra Palace.

Holding a trapeze bar, with a parachute attached to the side of a balloon they would ascend above the park, before jumping much to the delight of the audiences below. Less to the delight of Mrs Gaudron, who commented after an attempt gone wrong: "The people will not be satisfied with proper balloon ascents; they must have sensations, and people in our business must provide them. It is a pity the Government do not put a stop to this sort of thing altogether."

Celebrating technical prowess as much as spectacle, Prof. Baldwin was advertised his new invention in 1888 as:

CLOUD LAND.
At 6 o'clock.
Professor BALDWIN'S 1,000 ft. drop from the Clouds.
The most graceful and daring act ever performed, and the greatest scientific sensation of the age. Professor BALDWIN has succeeded in making an Umbrella with sufficient surface resistance to land Passengers from an aerial-strip at any height. Aerial navigation is thus a certainty in the near future.
Professor BALDWIN will prove the possibility of his Invention by **JUMPING OUT** of a Balloon 1,000 ft. from the ground, and will drop 800 ft. through the Clouds before opening his Umbrella.



Picking up the pioneering spirit after the turn of the century was Dr. Barton. In 1901 Barton was contracted by the War Office Ballooning Section to create an operational airship. From a purpose built hangar in the Park, Barton built a large balloon that used dangerous hydrogen to lift a bamboo frame. The balloon finally launched on 22 July 1905, flying successfully over the Palace. However, its maiden flight was also its last as it was damaged on landing.



THE COWBOY AND THE WAITRESS

Showman Sam Cody brought his popular wild west show to Alexandra Palace, presenting The Klondike Nugget at the Alexandra Palace Theatre. A friend of Gaudron's, Cody was a keen inventor, experimenting with his self-designed kites. The two filled the former ballroom, the Blandford Hall in the Park, with aerial equipment.

Cody's kites were trialled in the Park, and the 1903 pantomime replaced Aladdin's flying carpet with a Cody Kite, which flew across the Theatre stage.



Cecil Shadbolt took the earliest aerial photograph in the UK from Alexandra Palace in 1882, using a hinged camera attached to the balloon basket.



Dolly Shepherd was a waitress at Alexandra Palace. When Sam Cody grazed his wife's head during a rifle trick shot, she volunteered herself as a stand in. Undaunted by the dangerous activity she was drawn to aeronautics. After minimal training she mounted a trapeze and jumped from Gaudron's balloon over Alexandra Palace aged only 17. It launched her successful career as an aerial stuntwoman and popular attraction at the Palace.

During a tandem jump with another performer, Miss Louie May, in Staffordshire, Dolly had to rescue her partner when May's parachute failed to open. Both women fell with Dolly's parachute but miraculously survived. Dolly retained her daredevil spirit, going on to serve as an ambulance driver during the First World War and riding with the Red Devils at age 96!