
CULTURAL WEDNESDAY WISHES: WHAT TO SEE IN LONDON THIS WEEK

Welcome to Wednesday Wishes, my pick of what to see in London this week and a book to read on the way.



Catherine's Cultural Wednesdays

Arts, Culture, London Life and Empty Nest Travel

By Catherine Boardman

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing was Sir John Soane's country home, approached from the park it is still possible to think of it as a rural idyl. This week two exhibitions open at the house. Alice Irwin: Chinwag a selection of her colourful people like sculptures and drawings in the art gallery and over in the main house Sinta Tantra has her beautiful graphic paintings and sculptures displayed. Both are included in admission to the Pitzhanger Manor (<https://www.pitzhanger.org.uk>).

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Read my Guide to Pitzhanger Manor (<https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/pitzhanger-manor-john-soane-2/>)

CUTE OF THE WEEK

Are rainbow coloured unicorns your thing? How about and Hello Kitty? All things cute seem to be taking over the world. Somerset House has a new exhibition that looks at how and why and art associated with cute. It sounds like a pink, fluffy, heart filled extravaganza. As you are opening this week's Wednesday Wishes I will be heading to the Cute (<https://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/whats-on/cute>) press view ... keep an eye on my Instagram to see what I see (<https://www.instagram.com/culturalwednesday/>).

GLASS OF THE WEEK

Another stunning building with an exhibition. Two Temple Place was built by William Astor, then the world's richest man, as his London house. Every year you can glimpse inside when it throws open its doors with an exhibition. This year it is The Glass Heart: Art Industry and Collaboration (<https://twotempleplace.org>) which celebrates glass. Beautiful objects from museum collections around the country will show just what a versatile medium glass is.

Take a look inside Two Temple Place (<https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/inside-two-temple-place/>)

LIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Banish the blues brought on by loong winter nights with the Battersea Power Station Light festival (<https://batterseapowerstation.co.uk/events/light-festival-2024/>) with starts on Thursday and runs until February 25th. It is free to visit. Make sure you wrap up warm because the wind really does whip in from the river, even on the calmest of days!

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Back in 1983 somebody gave me a copy of Granta 7: Best Young British Novelists. In it were short stories from the 20 novelists who were judged to be the next best thing. I went on to buy several of their novels and many of them have become life long companions. I get excited when I see that they have a new book coming out. One of them is Rose Tremain, every book she writes is very different but always excellent. Absolutely and Forever is her latest novel. It is a slim but satisfying volume. We meet Marianne in the late 50s aged 15 about to lose her virginity in the back of a Morris Minor to Simon. They go back to their respective boarding schools declaring undying love. Simon flunks his Oxford entrance exam and goes to France and never writes again. Marianne continues to love him, but marries Hugo. I rather liked Hugo. Now you need to read the book to discover just how and if love is Absolutely and Forever (<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Rose-Tremain/Absolutely-and-Forever--An-electrifying-love-story-from-t/28413985>).

Thank you to Chatto and Windus and Netgalley for sending me a review copy of Absolutely and Forever

For more cultural inspiration take a look at [Best London Exhibitions \(https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/best-london-exhibitions-2/\)](https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/best-london-exhibitions-2/) or for ideas for Cultural Travels how about my [European Exhibitions Worth Travelling for 2024 \(https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/exhibitions-worth-travelling-for/\)](https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/exhibitions-worth-travelling-for/) or some [Inspiring UK Cultural Destinations \(https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/uk-cultural-travel-destinations/\)](https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/uk-cultural-travel-destinations/). For reading inspiration take a look at my [best books of 2023 \(https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/cultural-wednesdays-best-books-2/\)](https://www.culturalwednesday.co.uk/cultural-wednesdays-best-books-2/) https://www.mayfairartweekend.com/whatson/autumn-west-end-gallery-hop/?mc_cid=24a02fe9a6&mc_eid=9390b55877)

Where will you wander with Cultural Wednesday Wishes this week?