

Starting from Scratch at the Castle

A new exciting exhibition of modern painting opens to the public on Saturday 18 February 2012 at Colchester Castle.

The paintings, by the well-regarded artist Brian Graham, pay homage to the courage and determination of our earliest ancestors and to the landscape of the British Isles.

Brian produces paintings based on his experiences of visiting famous Palaeolithic sites, which are also informed by current archaeological research. His latest work, 'Starting from Scratch', comprises of 33 paintings accompanied by text extracted with permission from Chris Stringer's book 'Homo Britannicus' that are displayed in perfect context within the historic walls of Colchester Castle.

Brian's evocative paintings capture the spirit of those sites in Britain where evidence of early humans have been found. A surprising number of these are in Essex and Suffolk and finds from these very ancient sites are also on loan from some of the regions Museum collections, as well as one significant piece from the Natural History Museum in London. Finds from Old Stone Age sites in Essex and Suffolk, from the collections of Colchester and Ipswich Museums, also form part of the exhibition and accompany the paintings contextually.

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service formed a relationship with Brian whilst helping him research sites in Essex and Suffolk and provided access to museum resources. Brian was keen to exhibit in museums (as opposed to his 'home' at the Hart Gallery in London) as he felt it was an opportunity to engage with actual material and new audiences.

This exhibition breaks with tradition and means that contemporary art, which takes inspiration from history, can be seen in the Castle along-side internationally important archaeological collections that showcase the best of British History.

We are also giving visitors added-value to their Castle experience by giving access to this additional new exhibition for no extra cost, other than the normal Castle admission fee.

Colchester Castle

Open Mon – Sat 10am to 5pm. Sun 11am to 5pm.

www.cimuseums.org.uk

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