

About Media Space



Media Space is a bold and exciting new photography and art gallery on the second floor of the Science Museum in London offering a programme of exhibitions and events drawing on our world-class National Photography Collection and the broader Science Museum collections. Bringing together photographers, artists, curators and the creative industries, Media Space explores relationships between, and lesser-known histories of, photography, science, art and technology. Media Space is a collaboration between the Science Museum and the National Media Museum in Bradford, home of the National Photography Collection.

**MEDIA  
SPACE**  
**SCIENCE  
MUSEUM**

**National  
Media  
Museum**

ONLY IN  
ENGLAND



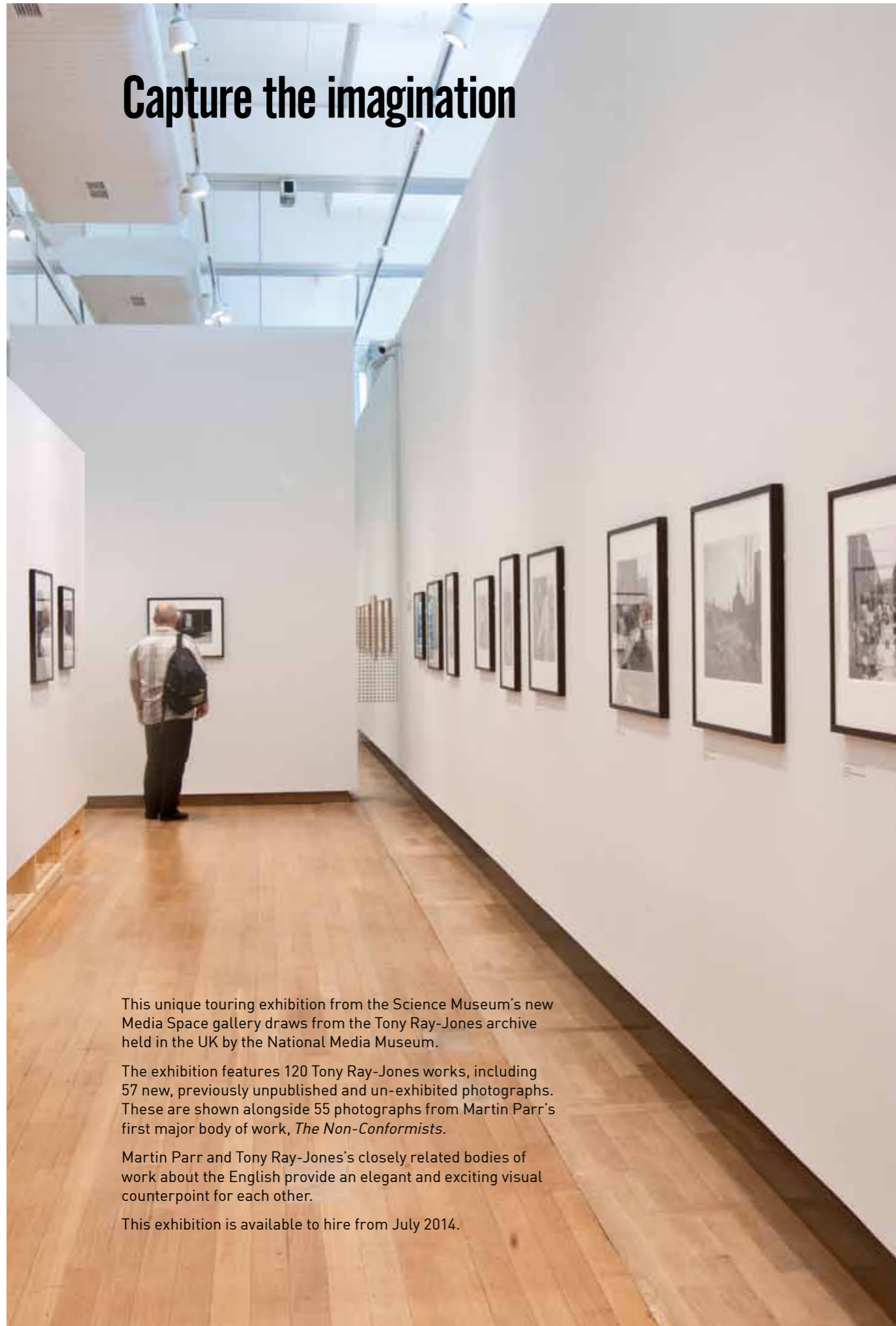
Brighton Beach, 1966 by Tony Ray-Jones. © National Media Museum

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY RAY-JONES  
AND MARTIN PARR

Available to hire from July 2014

**SCIENCE  
MUSEUM**  
TOURING

## Capture the imagination



This unique touring exhibition from the Science Museum's new Media Space gallery draws from the Tony Ray-Jones archive held in the UK by the National Media Museum.

The exhibition features 120 Tony Ray-Jones works, including 57 new, previously unpublished and un-exhibited photographs. These are shown alongside 55 photographs from Martin Parr's first major body of work, *The Non-Conformists*.

Martin Parr and Tony Ray-Jones's closely related bodies of work about the English provide an elegant and exciting visual counterpoint for each other.

This exhibition is available to hire from July 2014.

## Explore the history of the collection



Media Space gallery. © Science Museum



Contact sheet, Tony Ray-Jones. © National Media Museum

Between 1966 and 1969, Tony Ray-Jones created a body of photographic work documenting English customs and identity. Humorous yet melancholy, these photographs were a departure from anything else being produced at the time. Tragically, in 1972, Ray-Jones died from leukaemia, aged just 30. However, his short but prolific career had a lasting influence on the development of British photography from the 1970s through to the present.

In 1970, Martin Parr, a photography student at Manchester Polytechnic, had been introduced to Ray-Jones work. Inspired by him, Parr produced *The Non-Conformists*, shot in black and white in Hebden Bridge and the surrounding Calder Valley. This project started within two years of Ray-Jones's death and demonstrates his legacy and influence. To create the *Only in England* exhibition, Martin Parr was invited to select 50 unprinted works from the 2700 contact sheets and negatives in the Ray-Jones archive.

Both photographers are considered to be among the most significant and respected observers of English customs and eccentricities.

# Learn about the photographers



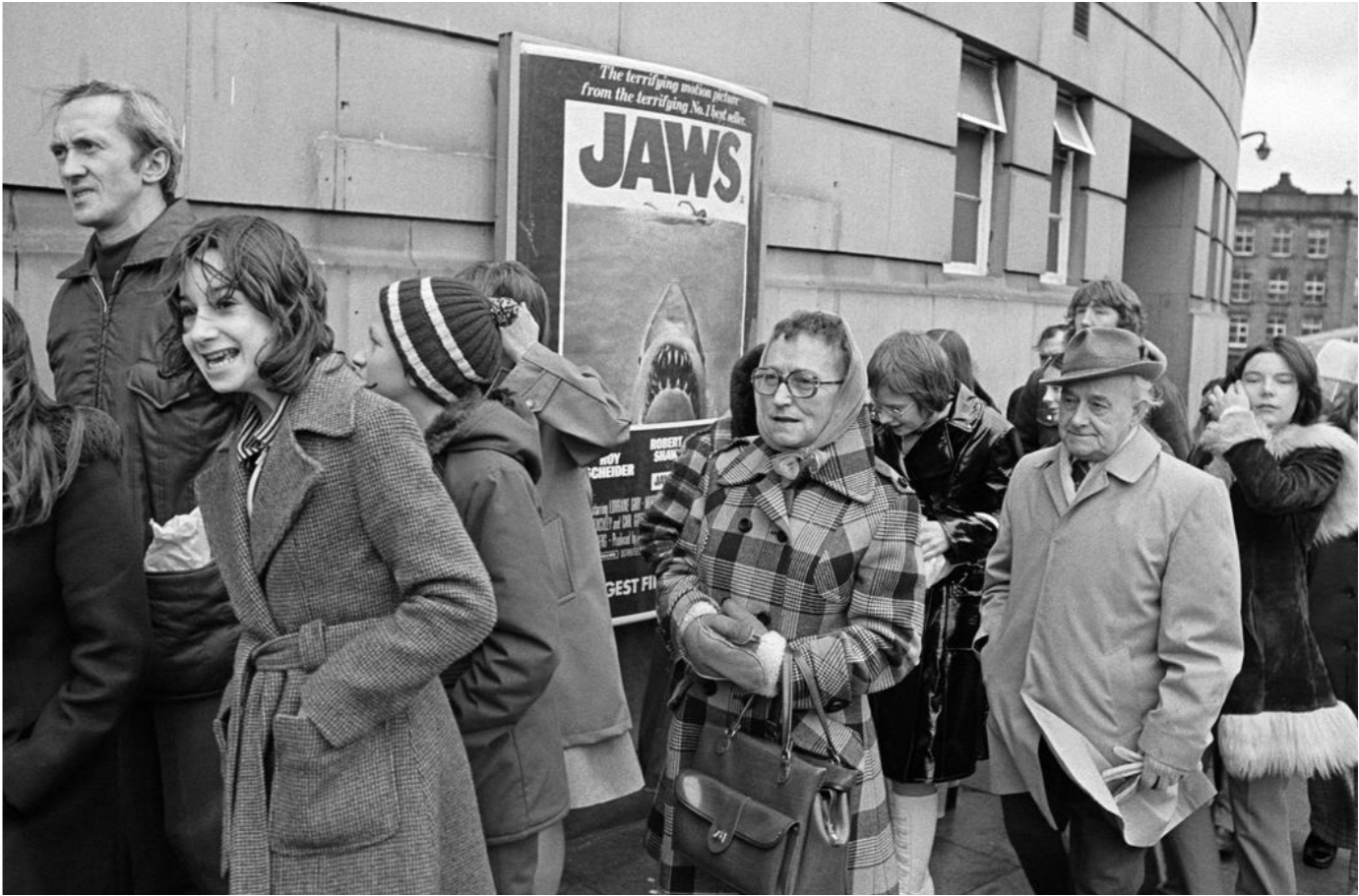
Brighton Beach, c. 1967 by Tony Ray-Jones. © National Media Museum

## TONY RAY-JONES



Tony Ray-Jones in a New York café, 1968 by Bill Jay.

Tony Ray-Jones was born in Somerset in 1941. He studied graphic design at the London School of Printing before leaving the UK in 1961 to study on a scholarship at Yale University in Connecticut, USA. He took a year out from his studies for a year-long stay in New York, during which he attended classes by the influential art director Alexey Brodovitch, and became friends with photographers Joel Meyerowitz and Garry Winogrand. In 1965 he returned to Britain to find a country still divided by class and wedded to tradition, and between 1966-1970 he embarked on a thorough photographic investigation of the English character – which he saw embodied in leisure activities. The work was published posthumously as *A Day Off – An English Journal* in 1974, which is now regarded as a seminal photography book.



Odeon Cinema, Halifax, 1977 by Martin Parr. © Martin Parr/Magnum Photos

## MARTIN PARR



Portrait of Martin Parr taken by a member of the Hebden Bridge Camera Club, 1976.

Martin Parr was born in Epsom, Surrey in 1952. He graduated from Manchester Polytechnic in 1974 and moved to Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire, where he established the Albert Street Workshop, a hub for artistic activity in the town. Fascinated by the variety of of Methodist and Baptist chapels and the communities he encountered in the town, he produced *The Non-Conformists*. In 1984, Parr began to work in colour, and his breakthrough publication, *The Last Resort*, was published in 1986. A Magnum photographer, Parr is now an internationally renowned photographer, film-maker, collector and curator, best known for his highly saturated colour photographs critiquing modern life.

# Experience the exhibition



Media Space gallery. © Kate Elliott

## THE EXHIBITION IS PRESENTED IN THREE SECTIONS

### Tony Ray-Jones: vintage prints

On entering the exhibition visitors are introduced to Tony Ray-Jones, who he was and his motivations. Ray-Jones's return to the UK where – inspired by the ideas and attitudes he absorbed in the US – he embarked on his work about the English. It draws attention to the life events that shaped Ray-Jones's feelings of dislocation and his will to succeed. Finally, it explores his methods and his growing importance.

### Martin Parr: *The Non-Conformists*

The final section of the exhibition features the first major body of work by Martin Parr, produced in Hebden Bridge between 1974 and 1979. It communicates Parr's motivations for making the work, including the influence of Tony Ray-Jones's approach and photographic style. Not only does this body of work highlight the photographer's stylistic inspirations, but the collection also draws from the important transition that Hebden Bridge was going through at the time, allowing Parr a unique perspective on a disappearing community.

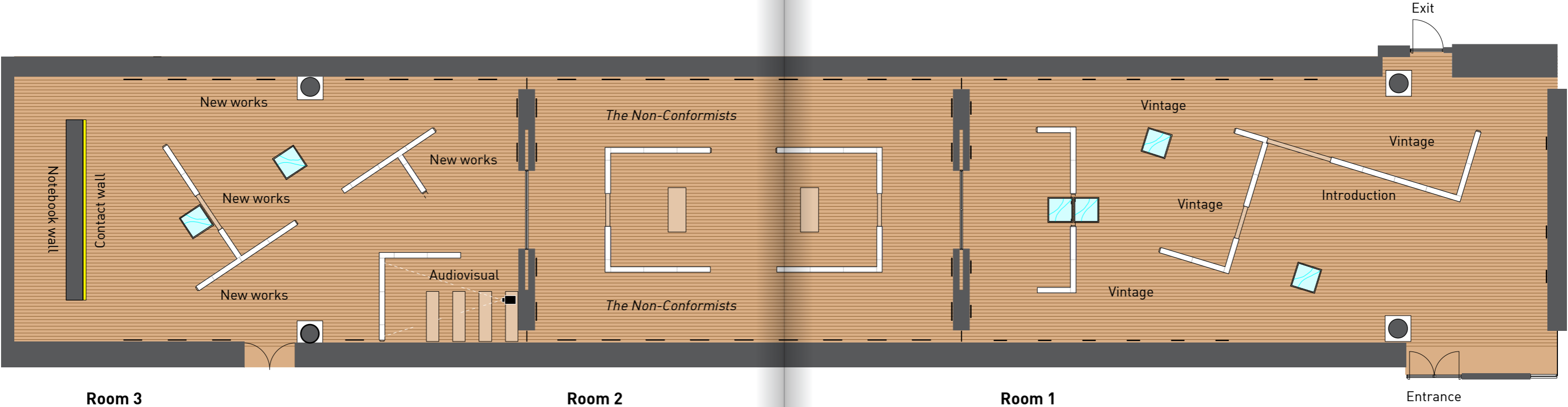


Media Space gallery. © Kate Elliott

### Tony Ray-Jones: new works

Following the stunning vintage prints, the second section of the exhibition showcases newly selected and printed photographs from Tony Ray-Jones's English work. Chosen from the original contact sheets by Martin Parr, these works are incredibly strong, showing that Ray-Jones was a consistently good photographer. Here links to the vintage prints are demonstrated through innovative use of the contact sheets, referencing both the published and unpublished works.

# Floor plan



## THE EXHIBITION FEATURES:

- 120 Tony Ray-Jones framed images
- 55 Martin Parr framed images
- Display cases of archive material
- Video and audio station
- Supporting short essays by Greg Hobson, Martin Parr and Mick Jackson
- Graphic files for printing captions and title treatments
- Toolkits for installation, collections care and press and marketing materials

# Exhibition credentials



*Bournemouth, 1969* by Tony Ray-Jones. © National Media Museum

*Only in England* is the first of a new series of exhibitions from the Science Museum's new Media Space gallery.

The exhibition is curated by Greg Hobson, Curator of Photographs at the National Media Museum, and Martin Parr, who was invited to select works from the Tony Ray-Jones archive.

Greg Hobson, Curator of Photographs at the National Media Museum, says, 'The combination of Martin Parr and Tony Ray-Jones's work will allow the viewer to trace an important trajectory through the history of British photography, and presents new ways of thinking about photographic histories through the creative use of our collections.'

Martin Parr says, 'Tony Ray-Jones's pictures were about England. They had that contrast, that seedy eccentricity, but they showed it in a very subtle way. They have an ambiguity, a visual anarchy. They showed me what was possible.'

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Suitable for venues able to provide:**

- Approximately 500 square metres of indoor gallery space (size can be variable)
- Staff to assist with installation and deinstallation of the exhibition
- Storage space for transport crates
- Insurance
- Transport
- Translations and production of graphics (where applicable)
- Press and marketing

## CONTACT

For more information on this exhibition please contact:

**Gemma Levett, Exhibitions Tour Manager**

Science Museum

Exhibition Road

London SW7 2DD

+44 20 7942 4011

[gemma.levett@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.levett@sciencemuseum.ac.uk)

[sciencemuseum.org.uk/touringexhibitions](http://sciencemuseum.org.uk/touringexhibitions)

