

Back to College for an Art Education

Introduction.



Time: 2.5 hours

Start: Fitzwilliam Museum

Finish: Kettles Yard

Distance: 2.4 Miles

This fascinating walk winds through the historic university city of Cambridge and reveals a surprisingly rich streak of modernity in medieval college quads. This city has embraced modern art in all its forms and you will discover Antony Gormley's feet unexpectedly buried in pavement slabs, roaming metal dinosaurs and works by Picasso and Matisse.

N.B. It is important that when planning to visit art works held within college boundaries you call ahead, as there are times - for example during final exams - when the colleges may be shut.

You can access this walk via your mobile phone on, www.bbc.co.uk/modernmasters

Or text the code ART WALK to 81010, and you'll receive a link to the Modern Masters mobile site. Texts cost between 12 -15p.

Download the audio version at www.bbc.co.uk/bbccone/modernmasters/art-walks/birmingham/

This is where the art works resided at the time of writing but if you want to double check that a specific art work will be there when you undertake your walk then phone ahead to the Museums and institutions involved. You'll find links on each of the pages.

1. Fitzwilliam Museum



The Fitzwilliam Museum is the main depository for Cambridge University's art collection and has a number of works by Matisse and Picasso. These are mostly works on paper which means they are more delicate than paintings and only go on display for short periods. Look out for Picasso's *Blind Minotaur Guided by Marie Therese*, a print from his celebrated Vollard suite. The newly opened French gallery also has a collection of works by Matisse.

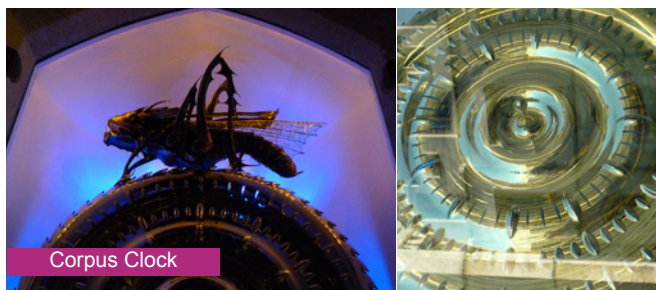
In the other galleries you will find the influence that our Modern Masters have had on subsequent artists. In the contemporary rooms 11 and 12 you will find works by Dame Barbara Hepworth, who visited Picasso in his studio and was highly influenced by him. In the same room are works by Howard Hodgkin who credits Matisse as having a huge influence in his work that can clearly be seen in the bright colours of his paintings.

2. Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology



Turn left out of the Fitzwilliam and walk along **Trumpington Street**. Turn right into **Pembroke Street**, which soon turns into **Downing Street**, and before you reach the Crown Plaza hotel, turn right into the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Go under the arch and towards the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Look carefully and you will see two bronze footprints on the ground. The footprints belong to sculptor Anthony Gormley, famous for using casts of his own body. Here he's buried a full scale model of himself upside down in the ground so only the soles of his feet are on show. Called *Earthbound: Plant*, it provokes ideas of what is hidden beneath the earth, waiting to be discovered. Like Matisse and Picasso before him, Gormley is credited with transforming and reinvigorating sculpture of the human body, particularly with his public works which challenge preconceptions and provoke new responses.

3. Kings Parade



Corpus Clock

Now head across the road to **Corn Exchange Street**, turning left at the end of the road into **Wheeler Street**. Follow the road all the way to the corner of **Kings Parade**.

On the corner you will see a giant mechanical clock, driven by a mechanism in the shape of a large metallic creature that looks to be part lizard, part grasshopper. Called *The Corpus Clock*, the time is shown by blue LED lights moving round the clock face, while the teeth of the beastly sculpture drive the clock mechanism. The creature was created by Matthew Lane Sanderson, a contemporary sculptor fascinated by craftsmanship and whose work is produced in intricate detail. The "Time Eater", as the creature has been called, is seen to represent decay and the unstoppable passage of time, both concepts that often feature in Salvador Dali's work. His art is littered with grasshoppers, ants and other insects which he feared and he used them to symbolise his own preoccupation with death and decay, just take a look at *The Persistence of Memory* as one example. It is also in this painting that you will find Dali's depiction of time in his instantly recognisable melting clocks.

4. Memorial Court



DNA Double Helix

Fallen Warrior

Carry on down **Kings Parade** and turn left down **Senate Passage**. Follow this all the way along and bear left at the sign for Kings College Chapel. You will soon reach the gates to the chapel itself, turn right and you will enter Clare College. Walk all the way through the college, over the bridge and through the gardens. Cross **Queen's Road** and go through the main entrance to the Memorial Court.

On your left you will see a large abstract looking sculpture called *DNA Double Helix*. It was made in 2005 by Charles Jencks and celebrates the discovery of the structure of DNA by Francis Crick and James Watson here at the University in 1953. In the 1950s Salvador Dali became fascinated by the developments of the new atomic age. He was inspired by the discovery of the building blocks of life, even incorporating it into one of his paintings called *Galacidalacidesoxyribonucleic acid (1963)*. Watson asked to meet Dali in New York, sending him a rather humble note saying 'the second most intelligent man in the world wants to meet the most intelligent!' They spent an evening out, quite surreally, with Mia Farrow.

Continue up the path and through the gateway, in the next court you will find a bronze by Henry Moore from 1956. Titled *Falling Warrior*, the sculpture manages to capture the act of falling - look at how few points the bronze actually touches the plinth - while still being hugely solid and heavy, like a real body hitting the ground. Moore was influenced by the radical innovations in Picasso's Cubist paintings and sculpture, creating work where there is no fixed point of perspective, simplifying the human figure to make it look abstract and challenging the viewer to make sense of what he is seeing.

5. Christ's College Chapel



Young Charles Darwin

Jerwood Library

To continue, cross back over **Queens Road** and go down **Garrett Hostel Lane**, passing over the modernist bridge and looking at the Jerwood Library, built in 1996-1998. Both are examples of how modern building can stand apart from, but not clash with, historic architecture, something essential to a city like Cambridge. At the end of the road turn left into **Trinity Lane** and follow it round to the right. Go down **Rose Crescent**, turning left into **Market St** and then right into **Sidney St**. Near the corner of St Andrews St and Hobsons St is the entrance to Christ's College. Go past the entrance to the porters lodge, turn left and follow the path round until you see a black door on your left - this is Christ's College Chapel. As you open the door you will see Anthony Caro's *The Deposition*. Inspired by Rembrandt's painting *Deposition from the Cross*, Caro has taken a traditional subject matter and transformed it into a series of abstract steel shapes, to radical and modern effect. He uses the technique pioneered by Picasso in which found objects are assembled into a 3D collage that makes up the sculpture. Caro cited Picasso as a major influence on his work.

Come out of the Chapel and bear left, following the path round to left at the archway. Follow the path straight on and then turn left until you get to a courtyard garden. Here you will find another modern sculpture *A Pattern Of Life* by Tim Harrisson, which recalls the simplified natural forms beloved of Matisse. Round the corner in the Darwin garden you can also see a brand new sculpture of Charles Darwin as a young man, unveiled in 2009 by sculptor Anthony Smith.

6. Jesus College



Daedalus on Wheels

Empress

Head back to the entrance of Christ's College and turn right up **Hobson St**, at the end of the road bear right into **King St** and take your first left into **Malcolm Street**. Turn right at the end of the road into **Jesus Lane** and cross the road at the traffic lights. The entrance to Jesus College is just a few paces up the road.

Stop by at the porter's lodge to pick up a plan of the college and the locations of many excellent modern sculptures on view. The permanent collection includes William Turnbull's *Head*, which recalls the interest in so-called primitive art and African masks so crucial in Picasso's work. The influence of Picasso is also present in Eduardo Paolozzi's *Daedalus on Wheels*, where the impact of Cubism is clear to see - the human figure is transformed into a series of disjointed geometric blocks, so that it almost looks like a machine. Danny Lane's glass sculpture, *Empress*, is a bold and monumental work - an abstract shape of seemingly twisted coloured glass. This use of reflected light, shape and colour to create an emotional response in the viewer is something Matisse worked hard to perfect and achieved in his designs for Vence chapel in the South of France.

Every summer the college presents Sculpture in the Close, which showcases work from today's leading sculptors. At the time of writing, Jake and Dinos Chapman's giant dinosaur sculptures *The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth (but not the Mineral Rights)* was still on display and it's definitely worth a look.

7. Kettle's Yard



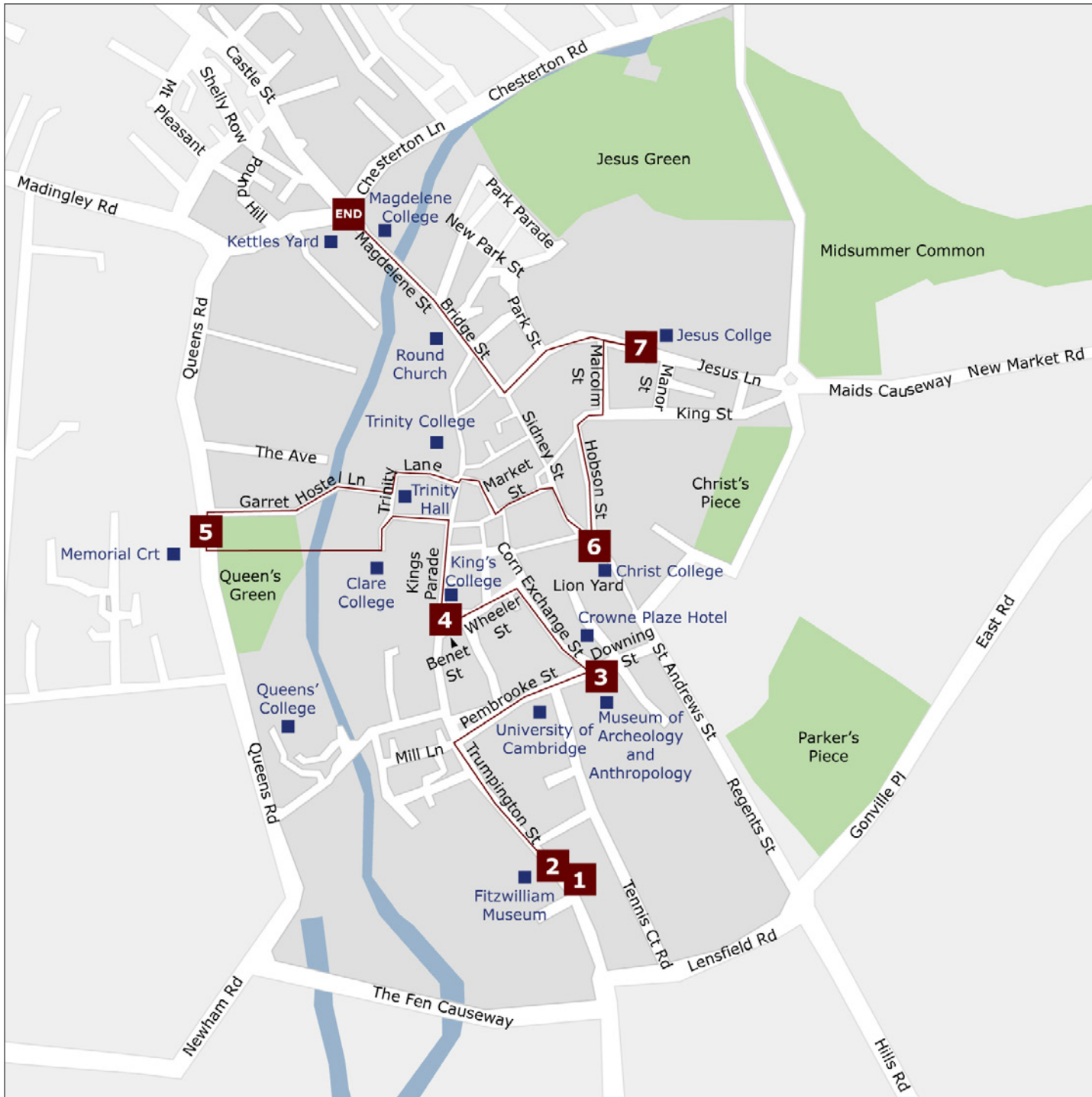
Kettles Yard

As you leave Jesus College turn right onto **Jesus Lane** and walk to the end of the road. Turn right onto **Bridge Street**. As you continue up, you will see the famous round church on your right, one of Cambridge's oldest buildings. Cross the bridge, go past Magdalene College and cross the road onto **Castle Street**. You will see the sign for Kettle's Yard on the left hand side of the road.

Kettle's Yard was founded by Jim Ede, a former curator of the Tate gallery, and his wife, in 1956-1957 when they began to turn their home into a gallery. Treasures at Kettle's Yard include works by sculptors Anthony Caro, Naum Gabo, Henri Moore and Barbara Hepworth, painters Ben Nicholson, Joan Miro, Max Ernst and Bridget Riley.

Here you will find an extraordinary collection of art that illustrates the explosion of influence our Modern Masters have had on subsequent artists creating after them.

If you've enjoyed this walk then try one of our other Art Walks around the UK.



Cambridge [Map](#)

Route:

Time: 2.5 hours
 Start: Fitzwilliam Museum
 Finish: Kettle's Yard
 Distance: 2.4 Miles

Key:

- : Walk
- : Step
- : Landmark

Steps:

- 1 Fitzwilliam Museum
- 2 Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
- 3 Kings Parade
- 4 Memorial Court
- 5 Christ's College Chapel
- 6 Jesus College
- 7 Kettle's Yard